

Rodriguez, Arstein hired to lead Bulldog basketball

By ERIC SINGER
Staff writer

When November rolls around, the Hermiston boys and girls varsity basketball teams will have a little bit of a different look.

After longtime girls head coach Steve Hoffert resigned in March after eight years on the job and boys coach Dave Ego relinquished his position as interim coach, it left two holes at the top of two successful programs. But after a wide search put forth by the school, Hermiston stayed within the district limits to select the next program leaders, as girls assistant coach Juan Rodriguez replaces Hoffert and Casey Arstein, a former boys assistant coach, was hired to replace Ego.

Rodriguez knows the Bulldogs program very well, as he graduated from Hermiston in 2005 and has spent the last four years as the lead assistant coach under Hoffert. He said that he is excited for the opportunity to lead the program now.

"When Steve (Hoffert) told me he'd retire, it was a no-brainer for me," Rodriguez said. "It's been a goal

of mine ever since I stopped playing basketball to become a head coach and something I've been working towards for a while now."

As an assistant, Rodriguez was heavily involved in day-to-day operations for the team, such as game plans, running practices, and film study. That experience gave Rodriguez a glimpse into what it takes to be the head coach, and says that a lot of the things he learned under Hoffert will stay with him during his tenure.

"He was really successful and I really focused on how he dealt with players," Rodriguez said. "There are a lot of details in running a program, and he did it very well."

So what can the Bulldog fans expect from the Rodriguez-lead Bulldogs?

"The casual fan won't see a lot of change, we're still going to be a fast-paced team that uses our athleticism to get up and down the court," he said. "Our goal is to be a great defensive team, and we've been good in the past, but we can do better. We want to get on the brink of being state champions, not just making

the tournament."

On the boys side, Arstein is a Hermiston alumnus after graduating in 2001 and spent six years as a coach under Larry Usher during Usher's tenure as boys head coach in the late 2000s. Arstein coached both the freshman and junior varsity teams before spending his final year as a varsity assistant, but decided to step away from high school coaching for the past few years to spend some time coaching at the middle school level.

But during this past season, Arstein developed the itch to get back into the prep sports scene and jumped at the chance to apply for the Bulldogs opening.

He was officially approved by the school board earlier this spring and since that time he has gotten well-acclimated to the team and to the position, and currently has the program busy with summer workouts and tournaments.

Arstein said his Bulldog teams will "play a solid half-court defense with a good motion offense. We're going to be an athletic group that can get to the rim a lot."

Pederson leads Intermountain qualifiers to National High School Finals Rodeo

Hermiston Herald

Preston Pederson, Trent Sorey and Calgary Smith added state titles to their seasons on Sunday after the final round at the Oregon High School Rodeo Association Finals Rodeo at Crook County Fairgrounds in Prineville.

The cowboys were three of six Intermountain Rodeo team members to qualify for the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) in 12 events.

Pederson, a recent Hermiston High graduate, was the boys' Reserve All-Around Champion (and the top all-around cowboy in Oregon when the title went to Brush Prairie, Washington's Zachary Raley), and was also named Tesky's Top Hand after he finished the season in the top 10 of four events.

Pederson won titles in tie-down roping and boys' cutting. He was fifth in steer wrestling

More online

Longer version of these stories, including final results from the State Finals Rodeo can be found online at www.HermistonHerald.com/hh/sports

and ninth in team roping. Kolby Currin of Hepner also qualified for nationals by finishing second in steer wrestling, third in boys cutting and second in rifle shooting.

Minnesota Twins draft Quin Grogan in 30th round

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

It has been quite a week for Quin Grogan.

On June 3, Grogan and his Lewis-Clark State Warriors baseball team held off Faulkner, 12-11, to capture their 18th NAIA national championship, with Grogan pitching four innings in relief to get the win.

Then on Saturday, Grogan had one of his childhood dreams become reality.

He was drafted into Major League Baseball.

Grogan, a senior pitcher

for the Warriors, was selected in the 30th round (903rd overall pick) by the Minnesota Twins in the 2016 MLB First-Year Player Draft. He turned in a dependable season for the Warriors, starting 12 games on the season and adding two relief appearances as he finished 5-1 with a 1.91 ERA with 83 strikeouts in 75.1 innings to help the Warriors to a 52-8 overall record.

"It was thrilling and exciting," Grogan said of being drafted. "It was definitely something you always

dream of as a kid and something I've been working towards for a long, long time." Grogan was spending the day with some friends when he received a call from the Twins' Pacific Northwest Scout Trevor Brown to give him the news of his selection, which led to plenty of celebration.

Dylan Grogan, Quin's younger brother who just finished his junior year at Stanfield High, said seeing his brother get drafted was one of the coolest things of his lifetime.

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