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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTY HIATT

The Hermiston High School trap shooting team poses with its awards at the inaugural Oregon State High School Clay Target League State Tournament on Saturday in Hillsboro. Hermiston won the team title.

Hermiston wins clay target state title

Bulldogs capture inaugural Oregon clay target league state championship; Echo finishes third

Hermiston Herald

The Hermiston High School athletic department will need to update its record books.

On Saturday, June 25, Hermiston's clay target league team captured the first-ever Oregon state championship at the Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club. Hermiston finished the tournament with 476 points, defeating second place Oregon City (451 points) and third place Echo (430 points).

In the first year of competition, the regular season

was dominated by Hermiston as well, as the team finished in first place in the five-week season with 384 points and held a 100 point lead over Echo in the standings.

Hermiston freshman Case Hiatt earned overall High Gun honors of the tournament with a 99, holding off Oregon City's Dylan Nelson and Hermiston's Devon Brittner — both of whom scored 98s. Hiatt finished the spring season fourth with a season average score of 23, while Brittner was the best in the state with a 24.2.

Other varsity competitors for Hermiston included Dylan Hunter (96), Tanner Meads (89), Mitchell Pimentel (84), and Kaden Smith (94).

Johnson bids adieu to Stanfield

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

Wednesday, June 29, was a bittersweet day for Bryan Johnson.

After 10 years of serving as an educator and baseball coach at Stanfield Secondary School, Johnson spent his final day at the school packing the remaining items from his office. He is moving back to his hometown of Ephrata, Washington to serve as the athletic director at Ephrata High School — the alma mater for he and his wife Katie — and his final day at Stanfield capped what has been a long several months.

"It's been an emotional spring," Johnson said. "I'm happy about getting a new job and having success with baseball, but we're sad to be leaving because we've established a lot of great relationships with great students, staff and community members."

It was a very tough decision to leave the Stanfield school and the Eastern Ore-



Bryan Johnson

gon community, Johnson said, but the pull to head back home with a job he called a dream was too good to pass up.

"It wasn't a snap decision by any means," Johnson said. "Ultimately, Ephrata was a place we wanted to get back to, and having both sets of parents there and a job that's the best fit possible for (myself) was what sold it."

"I wish I could have waited a year (with the players we have coming back) but the timing was bad."

The 35-year-old Johnson served as the athletic director at Stanfield from 2007-2012 before moving into his position as secondary school principal. He developed a passion for the position over that period of time, and he knew it was something he wanted to pursue full-time.

He will have to put a hold

on his high school coaching career as his administrative contract bars him from coaching at that level in Ephrata. But Johnson said he's happy to have a break from the everyday grind of coaching.

"I'm looking forward to a little more narrow focus," he said.

Baseball has been in Johnson's life for as long as he can remember. He played in college at the University of Washington and then spent two years as a minor leaguer in the Arizona Diamondbacks organization.

After calling it quits on playing, he knew he completed his teaching degree and become a baseball coach.

He developed experience. Johnson compiled a 201-81 career record (.713 win percentage) in his 10 seasons as the Tigers baseball coach and led his teams to nine playoff appearances, five league titles, five district titles, four state Final Four appearanc-

es, and two state championships.

He broke the news of his impending departure to the Tigers team before the season began, but insisted that the focus not be on his final games but instead be on working hard, playing as a team and reaching their goal of a state championship.

Stanfield set a school record with 29 wins on the year as the team dominated their competition. The Tigers had the highest-scoring offense of any team in the state in 2016, and won those 29 games by an average score of 12-2.

The icing on the cake was their 10-inning, 5-4 victory over Santiam Christian to claim the Class 3A state championship.

"It was a fairytale finish and I couldn't ask for anything better," Johnson said. "It was a great year with a great team and they have a lot coming back, which made it hard to walk away from."

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Hermiston holds on for district title

Hermiston Herald

The Hermiston all-stars bounced back from their first defeat of the week and never trailed in the championship game of the 9/10-year-old Little League District 3 tournament on Friday, July 1, in Burns.

Hermiston was undefeated entering the double elimination championship round where it met Baker, which emerged from the consolation bracket after losing to Hermiston in the semifinals.

Baker scored twice in the seventh inning to beat Hermiston, 8-7, and force a second game, but JR Starr's sacrifice groundout in the first inning of Game 2 gave Hermiston a 3-0 lead on its way to a 11-7 win.

Baker answered with two

runs in the bottom of the first, but four more Hermiston runs in the second and one in the third made it 8-2 before Baker's next run.

Brian Davison pitched 4 1/3 innings for the win and struck out nine. He allowed four runs (two earned) on five hits, and Kaiden Dammeyer pitched the final 1 2/3 innings. Dammeyer struck out four and allowed three runs (two earned) on three hits.

Hermiston only had five hits in the game, but Davison finished with four RBI. He hit a sacrifice fly in the first inning that scored Dammeyer for the game's first run, a two-RBI double in the second, and an RBI groundout in Hermiston's three-run sixth.

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