

# Dawgs Romero and Elliott to play in All-Star Classic

By ANNIE FOWLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Basketball season may be over for most, but for two Hermiston players, there is one more game to go.

Senior Jazlyn Romero and sophomore Chase Elliott were selected to play in the SWX All-Star Classic on Sunday at Kamiakin High School in Kennewick.

"It will be exciting, there is a lot of talent in the Mid-Columbia Conference," said Romero, who is playing in her first Classic. "I didn't really expect it. Obviously, I'm not too happy with how my career ended. This is a redemption game. It will be fun."

Elliott is one of two sophomores on the roster.

"I was definitely surprised with there being so many good kids in the league," Elliott said of the invite. "I didn't even play the whole season."

Elliott, who broke his left leg in football, missed all of the Bulldogs' December games before returning Jan. 3 against Southridge.

The Classic, in its 25th year, pits the Tri-City area schools against those from Yakima. The Tri-City girls hold a 20-8 advantage, and have won the past 10 games. The Yakima boys lead the series 22-6.

In the early years of the event, there were separate games for the large and small schools. Now they are combined.

## SWX ALL-STAR CLASSIC

### Tri-City Boys

**Coach:** Bryan Edwards, Columbia Basin College  
**Roster:** Chase Elliott, so., Hermiston; Steven Westermeyer, jr., Kamiakin; Dylan Ashbeck, sr., Walla Walla; Ayoni Benavidez, sr., Kennewick; Cooper DeWitt, sr., Chiawana; Messiah Jones, jr., Kamiakin; Michael Cornia, jr., Walla Walla; Taylor Perez, jr., Chiawana; Tristan Smith, sr., Southridge; Andrew Albrecht, jr., Richland; William Bailey III, sr., River View; Grant McClure, jr., Liberty Christian; Jayden Martinez, jr., Chiawana; Connor Mendez, so., Chiawana; Kyson Rose, sr., Kamiakin.

### Tri-City Girls

**Coach:** Roosevelt Smith, Columbia Basin College  
**Roster:** Alyssa Agundis, sr., Chiawana; Iliana Moran, so., Hanford; Jayda Clark, jr., Richland; Rian Clear, sr., Walla Walla; Nikole Thomas, fr., Kamiakin; Delaney Pink, jr., Chiawana; Aislin Flander, sr., Kennewick; Madison Smith, jr., Connell; MeiLani McBee, sr., Kennewick; Madeline Gebers, jr., Kennewick; Jazlyn Romero, sr., Hermiston; Amani Davis, jr., Kamiakin; Talia von Oelhoffen, jr., Chiawana; Jadyn Johnson, sr., Columbia-Burbank; A'nyiah Heavens, so., Pasco.

Elliott, who led the Bulldogs in scoring with 12.15 points a game, said he went on YouTube to watch some of the past games to get a feel for what he is in for.

"I have to not play scared," he said. "It's an all-star game — it's flashy and the best players in the league are out there. It will be extremely nice to play with the kids who dominated us all season."

Elliott will get to play with, instead of against, Kamiakin's 6-foot-9 Kyson Rose, and Chiawana's 6-6 Cooper DeWitt.

"I've never had a center that big," Elliott said of Rose.

Romero, who has signed

to throw the javelin at Oregon State University, will lace up her sneakers one last time.

"I was in weight room and I got a text from the SWX guy," said Romero, who averaged 11.75 points a game. "I showed it to coach (Emilee) Strot, and she said, 'You get one more game, that's awesome.' It's my last game ever. I'm just going to go out and have some fun."

The girls game will tip off at 4 p.m., with the boys game to follow. The event also will feature a 3-point shooting contest between the boys and the girls.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

# Hermiston Sparks win state basketball title



Contributed photo

The Hermiston Sparks won the Oregon Middle School State Championship seventh grade title Sunday in Redmond. Team members include: front row (from left) Camryn Hagel, Madeline Jared, Shayla Stewart and Addison Garberg. Back row, coach Aaron Heideman, Ellie Heideman, Madison Wicks, Piper Roberts, Amy Armstrong, Avonlea Edwards, Italy Daltoso, Izzy Simmons, and assistant coaches Josh Hagel and MaryJane Heideman.

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The Hermiston Sparks went 5-0 at the Oregon Middle School State Basketball Championship this past weekend in Redmond, winning the seventh grade girls title in the Gold Division.

The Sparks opened the competition with a 47-10 win over Newberg, then followed with a 50-20 victory over Sherwood.

In the quarterfinals, Hermiston topped the Cleveland Warriors 47-24, then earned a spot in the finals with a 63-55 win over the Crescent Valley Future Raiders in the semifinals.

In the championship game, the Sparks held off Clackamas Rogue 54-47. Hermiston led 32-28 at the half, but the game was tied at 45-45 with 4:28 to play. Key defensive stops and timely baskets helped Hermiston to the win.

The Sparks finished their season with a 37-5 record.

There were 23 teams in the Gold Division, with each team having to qualify through a state qualifying tournament. Teams must place first or second to get an invite to state.

The Sparks qualified with a first-place finish at the Hermiston Holiday Hoops Classic in December, and again at the Herm-

iston for the Love of the Game in February, where they also placed first.

The Sparks also won the fifth grade title in 2018, and qualified for state in 2019 as sixth graders, but because of inclement weather the tournament was canceled.

Team members include Camryn Hagel, Madeline Jared, Shayla Stewart, Addison Garberg, Ellie Heideman, Madison Wicks, Piper Roberts, Amy Armstrong, Avonlea Edwards, Italy Daltoso and Izzy Simmons.

The team is coached by Aaron Heideman, with assistants Josh Hagel and MaryJane Heideman.

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