



Utti named player of the week

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

The Fresno State women's basketball team had a good week last week, and so did senior forward Maddi Utti.

For the fourth time in her career, Utti was named the Mountain West Conference's women's basketball Player of the Week.

Despite dealing with shoulder problems this season, the former Seaside Seagull is having another outstanding season, averaging 16.0 points, 6.5 rebounds and six assists per game in early February.

Following a 91-69 win over New Mexico Jan. 30, Fresno State posted two victories in three days at Utah State, 90-62 and 93-85.

Utti scored 16 points in both games, shooting a team-high 60.9% from the field (14-of-23). She



Fresno State

For her performance in two wins over Utah State, Maddi Utti earned the Mountain West Player of the Week for the fourth time in her career at Fresno State.

recorded her second- and fourth-highest single-game field goal percentages this year (63.6%, 58.3%).

The defending Mountain West Player of the Year, Utti set the pace for the Bulldogs, who had 51 assists in

the two-game series. She was one assist shy of tying her career high in the first game with five, then set a new career high in Game 2 with seven, also the most by any post player in the conference in a single game this season.

In the second game, Utti scored or assisted on 15 of the team's first 20 points, as the Bulldogs jumped out to a 20-8 lead. Fresno State went on to record its third 90-point game in a row, becoming the first team in program history to post three straight games of 90 points or more.

The very same day she was named conference Player of the Week, Utti was selected as one of 30 women's basketball players across the country named as a candidate for the 2020-21 senior CLASS Award (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School).

The award recognizes student-athletes who excel both on and off the court. To be eligible, the player must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition. It encourages student-athletes to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Candidates will be narrowed to two fields of 10 finalists later this month, and those names will be placed on the official ballot, which will be distributed nationwide to media, coaches and fans, who will then select one male and one female candidate.

Winners will be announced during the 2021 NCAA men's and women's Final Four games this spring.

Surfing: Camp created a 'sistership of women'

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rental partner for wetsuits and boards, temporarily shut down.

"Suddenly, I didn't know if we could offer anything," she said. "I thought, 'I better take the foot off the gas here.'"

Throughout March and April, she waited to see what would happen with the evolving public health crisis. When it became clear Clatsop County was unlikely to get to Phase III of the state's reopening plan — when Hallahan's programs could run at full capacity — she started exploring what it would take to operate safely within phase II coronavirus restrictions. That meant going down to groups of eight students and two coaches, instead of 12 to 16 campers and three to four coaches.

Ultimately, she decided it was better to run an altered version of her program "than

to go a whole year without it and lose momentum."

"I'm so glad I did," Hallahan said. "It panned out."

In addition to smaller camp sizes, she also implemented protocol for screening participants, wearing masks and social distancing. Normally, she works up close with campers when in the water, but she adapted her teaching style to instruct from several feet away and was pleased with the results.

"It really is more empowering," she said, adding several campers mentioned feeling more capable of going out alone in the future.

She also tends to host a weeklong women's surf retreat, which was canceled last summer and won't be back this year. However, the two-day weekend camps provide a similar opportunity for participants to immerse themselves in the practice and also bond with one another.

After the camp, Hallahan



Northwest Women's Surf Camps

Northwest Women's Surf Camps is heading into its 17th season of offering a variety of surfing camps and programs on the North Coast.

said, "We've created this new sistership of women that they can connect with in the future."

Hallahan also used this winter, and the downtime necessitated by COVID, to try something new for her business, which is going into its 17th season. She developed a 12-part video series covering numerous topics, from basic information to "all those insights you

kind of need when you're on your path of surfing," she said. In a way, the video series, which is available via Vimeo, encompasses much of the knowledge participants would normally get if they could spend an entire week at the camp.

"I think it will be a really good addition for women that come," Hallahan said. "They want to have more knowledge."



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