

B1 • Wednesday, February 14, 2018 • Will Denner, Sports Editor • wdenner@madraspioneer.com



Madras senior Kyle Hartman earned an automatic state berth in the boys 50-yard freestyle after winning the event last Saturday at the 4A/3A/2A/1A district meet, hosted at the Madras Aquatic Center. He will also team up with Karson Hartman, Grayson Dominguez and Teague Schierling for the boys' 200 medley relay.

WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER

Home sweet home

Kyle Hartman wins 50 free; boys' 200 medley relay earns at-large bid to state

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

When the personal bests didn't improve during the season, Kyle Hartman grew slightly concerned his chance of reaching state was fading.

As the only senior on the White Buffalos' swimming roster, boys and girls, Hartman had been to the 4A/3A/2A/1A Swimming

State Championships once before with a boys relay team. But in his last season, Hartman's best chance to be in his individual events, particularly the 50-yard freestyle.

So, when the preliminary heats of the Special District 2 meet kicked off last Friday at the Madras Aquatic Center, Hartman made noise in his home pool. He set a personal best in the 50 free, clocking a time of 24.46, which was first in the boys' field. The following afternoon, he needed a repeat in order to earn an automatic qualification to state, and got it. Hartman proceeded to drop to 24.11, a half second better than second-place

Caden Ricker of La Grande (24.62).

"It feels good, just to finish out strong senior year and go on to state," Hartman said.

Rather than aiming for a certain time, Hartman said his strategy in the final was simply to outrace the other five swimmers in his heat. He, along with his coach, Tim Nelson, believe it is conceivable for him to drop below 24 seconds in the Mt. Hood Community College pool, where the state meet is held.

"He hadn't gotten a best time all year, and he blew through that in prelims, then lowered it again in finals,"

See HOME/ Page B2

Manu, LeClaire will represent MHS at state

Two seniors lead Buffs at districts; several others come up just short in close matches

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

For the Madras wrestling team, advancing two of its own to the 4A State Wrestling Tournament is an improvement from the last two seasons.

That, and a few near wins gave the White Buffalos a positive feeling by the end of last weekend's 4A Special District 1 Tournament in Molalla.

Harrison Manu placed second in the 195-pound bracket,

and Thomas LeClaire finished third at 170 to qualify for the 16-man brackets at the state tournament Feb. 16-17 in Portland. A few other Buffs reached the podium in Catalino LeClaire (fifth at 160), Kody Zemke (sixth at 182) and Erik Boynton (sixth at 126).

For the Buffs' two state qualifiers, both seniors, reaching state felt good for different reasons.

Manu will return to state

See STATE/ Page B8



LON AUSTIN/FOR THE PIONEER

Harrison Manu (above left) placed second and Thomas LeClaire (right) third at districts last Saturday in Molalla to reach the 4A state tournament.



In search of his third state title, and Culver's 11th as a team in 12 seasons, at this weekend's 2A/1A State Wrestling Tournament, Jorge Olivera (right) has pushed his younger teammates this season in hopes of teaching them what it takes to be a champion.

A leader by example

Jorge Olivera's captain role in Culver's wrestling room was years in the making

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

Whether he truly wanted to be there or not, Jorge Olivera rarely missed a morning run as a freshman.

Early as 6 a.m., during the middle of the 2015 wrestling season, Clay McClure, then a senior at Culver, sought out Olivera to join him on the almost daily workouts before first period began. Olivera's house was along McClure's route to school,

about a quarter mile down the road. So, on his way, McClure picked up Olivera and dragged him to morning runs.

Aside from the end of the season, when others trickled in to train before the state tournament, McClure and Olivera were often the only two who showed up on those mornings, with Bulldogs head coach J.D. Alley there to meet them.

That might seem an unlikely truth now, but at the time, Culver's wrestling program found itself at a bit of a crossroads. In 2013, the

team's streak of state championships was stopped at six, as it finished second place to archrival Lowell. A blemish in the Bulldogs' dynasty was exposed, and while some were up for the challenge of correcting it, others shied away.

"Everybody wanted to be the man, but nobody knew how to be the man," McClure said.

Added Alley, "That was a strange time for us. We had just lost our streak. We were kind of looking for

See LEADER/ Page B3

Madras aims to wrap up TVC title

Two road games remain for Lady Buffs

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

From the opening tip, the Madras girls basketball team was ready to run.

A certain buzz overcame the Buffalo Dome Friday evening when Madras played host to Estacada. Part of that energy built up before tipoff,

when Madras celebrated its four seniors — Kaliyah Iverson, Lynden Harry, Alesha Freeman and Ellise David — playing their last home regular season game.

But once the pregame festivities had finished, and the game began, the Lady Buffs'

See TITLE/ Page B8



WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER

Alesha Freeman goes up for a layup during Friday's senior night game.



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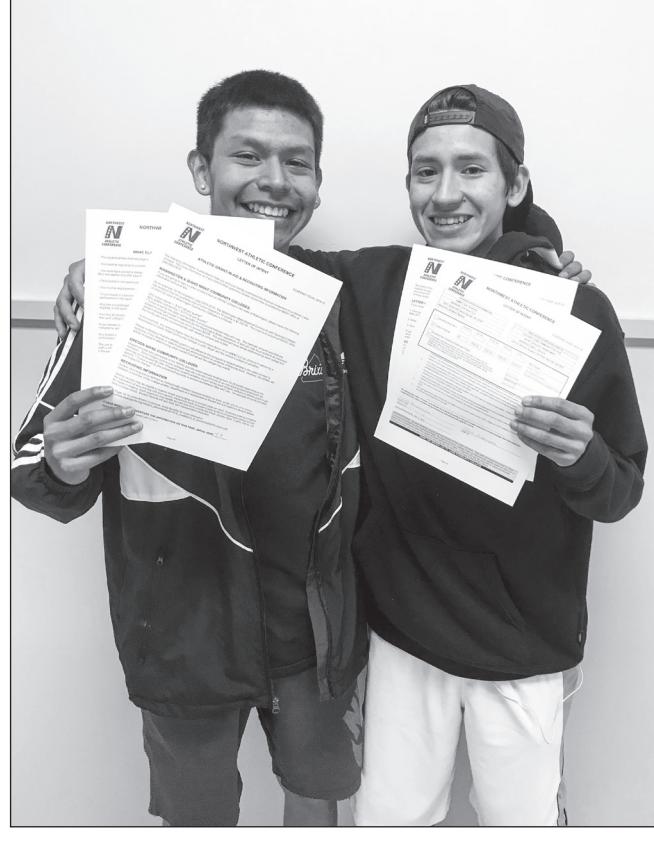


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW JENSEN
Madras seniors Israel Tapia (left) and Tyler Anderson committed last week to Lane Community College in Eugene, where they will compete in cross country and track. Both ran on the Buffs' cross country team last fall, with Anderson placing sixth at the 4A state meet.

Home: Boys' relay team seeded ninth

■ From Page B1

Madras head coach Tim Nelson said. "Our pool gets pretty wavy down at the shallow end, so it's really tough to post super-fast times. I think he can go under 24 (seconds) at state in 10 feet of water."

And in a somewhat unexpected turn, the boys' 200 medley relay team of Kyle Hartman, Karson Hartman, Teague Schierling and Grayson Dominguez that finished second at districts, with a time of 1:54.05, snuck into the state meet as an at-large qualifier.

Karson Hartman will swim backstroke, Kyle Hartman breaststroke, Schierling butterfly and Dominguez free.

They are seeded ninth out of 12 teams. Less than a second separates Madras from 12th seed Klamath Union (1:54.75).

"They beat a lot of teams that are just right there; 1:54 was probably the difference between ninth and 15th," Nelson said.

On the girls' side, Madras junior Gabi Smith was right on the cusp of clocking state-qualifying times in the 50 and 100 free, but came up just short on Saturday.

Smith held the second fastest 100 free time (59.82) and third-best 50 free mark (27.39) after Friday's prelims, but neither of those times dropped the following afternoon, as she placed third in the 50 free and fifth in the 100 free. Coaches have no doubt she'll come back strong and motivated next year as a senior.

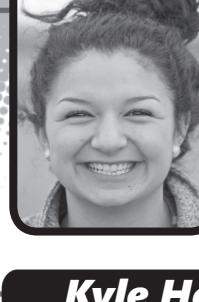
"She's a great kid; she'll bounce back," Nelson said. "She's got a great family, great support system."

On Friday, the preliminary heats of the 4A state meet begin at 1:45 p.m.



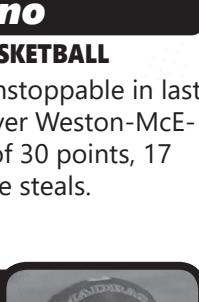
WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER
Although Madras junior Gabi Smith (above) came up just short of qualifying for state, Buffs' head coach Tim Nelson expects her to come back strong next season in her senior year.

PREP ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Irma Retano
CULVER GIRLS BASKETBALL

The junior was unstoppable in last Saturday's win over Weston-McEwen, with a line of 30 points, 17 rebounds and five steals.



Kyle Hartman
MADRAS SWIMMING

Hartman won the boys' 50 freestyle at last weekend's district swim meet, and also qualified for state on the boys' 200 medley relay team.

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Buff's grab pair of road wins

Game against Gladstone pivotal for TVC standings

BY CONNER WILLIAMS
Pampin Media Group

Despite a strong first quarter performance from the Molalla boys' basketball team, they couldn't keep up with Madras's size and eventually fell 80-52 in their home matchup last Tuesday.

The White Buffalos took an 8-0 lead early on 3-pointers from junior Byron Patt and senior Chad Thurbey, followed by a layup from junior Chapin Grote.

Molalla eventually connected to stop the bleeding, but Madras hit another three to make it 11-2 halfway through the quarter.

Molalla's main shooter from beyond the arc, junior Jeff Larsen, finally connected at 2:45 to shorten the Madras lead to seven, and then he hit again 30 seconds later to make it a four-point game after being down 8-0.

After an acrobatic layup from Molalla senior Marcus Simpson, Madras hit another 3-pointer with a minute left in the quarter to take a 19-12 lead, which held until the buzzer.

Madras started off the second quarter with a pair of free throws from sophomore Julian Badoni to take a nine-point lead as it began to run a heavy press defense, forcing a number of Molalla turnovers.

But Madras couldn't take full advantage of those Molalla turnovers and hit a bit of a dry streak until Thurbey connected for three halfway through the quarter. The teams exchanged out-of-



CONNER WILLIAMS/FOR THE PIONEER
Madras kept plugging away last week, with two road wins at Molalla Feb. 6 and Estacada Feb. 9. The Buffs overwhelmed both teams with their trapping and offense that resulted from turnovers.

bounds passes the next three turnovers as Molalla had yet to score five minutes into the quarter.

After Simpson missed on his layup attempt, Madras junior Cash Reese hit for three to take a 27-12 lead.

Simpson then hit a layup on the next Molalla possession to finally get the Indians on the scoreboard, but Thurbey again hit for three at 1:50 to take a 30-15 lead as Madras called a timeout.

Molalla junior Colin Carpenter hit a pair of free throws with less than a minute left to make it 32-19. Madras senior Tyler Lockey did the same shortly after as Madras took a 35-19 lead at the half, holding the Indians to just seven points in the second quarter.

Both teams came out firing

in the second half as Madras won the third quarter 21-18.

Simpson hit a layup assisted by sophomore Derek Pederson to shorten the Madras lead to 15 points three minutes into the quarter, but shortly after, Patt was fouled on his three-point attempt and hit two free throws. Then, Lockey secured a rebound and putback for a four-point swing, taking a 42-26 lead halfway through the quarter.

Lockey kept it going as he earned two steals to fast break layups for a quick four points, but Larsen did his part to slow the Madras onslaught as he made all three free throws after being fouled on his attempt with three minutes left in the quarter. Simpson then hit a fast break layup with 1:35

left to make it 51-35, but Madras sophomore Donnie Bagley grabbed a steal and converted on the layup with 15 seconds left to take a 56-37 lead as the quarter expired.

It was more of the same in the fourth quarter as Madras kept their commanding lead, eventually winning by nearly 30 points.

With the win over Molalla and their 85-61 win over Estacada Feb. 9, Madras sits at 6-1 in Tri-Valley play, just one game back from 7-0 Gladstone.

The White Buffalos got another shot, when they faced Gladstone on Tuesday at home. The results of that game weren't final at press time.

Molalla needs to win out to have any shot at the playoffs.

Exercise may improve memory, says Madras Physical Therapist

Five to six times per week can slow down cognitive impairment

Orthopedic professionals such as physicians and physical therapists often refer to the human body's kinetic chain — the notion that all bones, joints and "links" are connected, and that movement in one area can affect function in all areas.

While not officially part of the kinetic chain, it turns out the human brain is affected by (and can benefit from) bodily movement and exercise, as well, says Madras physical therapist Brock Monger.

Medical research has long supported the concept that movement is medicine when it comes to aging well and living a long and active

life," said Monger, co-owner of Apex Physical Therapy in Madras. "This goes with keeping the brain healthy and alert, too, as studies continue to show."

The evidence connecting the body and the mind was so strong, in fact, that in late December of 2017, the American Academy of Neurology issued new guidelines suggesting that exercising twice a week may improve thinking and memory in people with mild cognitive impairment.

It may also slow down the rate at which a person progresses from mild cognitive impairment to more serious conditions, such as dementia, said authors of the new guidelines.

Across the world, about 6 percent of people in their 60s experience mild cognitive impairment, or mental impairment that exceeds that of

normal aging. The number jumps to above 37 percent for people 85 and older.

"It's been generally accepted in the medical community that one of the most important things you can do to improve memory and protect yourself from memory loss is to make physical activity a part of your life," said Monger. "These guidelines simply reinforce the many ways exercise can promote healthy aging."

According to the Mayo Clinic, adults who regularly engage in moderate aerobic exercise five to six times each week can reduce their risk of mild cognitive impairments (memory loss and comprehension) by up to 32 percent. They attribute these benefits to increased blood flow to the brain.

In addition to a boost in memory, physical exercise also improves mental func-

tion by boosting mood, helping with sleep, and reducing stress and anxiety.

"And let's not forget," Monger added, "regular exercise comes with a seemingly endless amount of physical benefits — a strong heart and immune system, for instance, and stronger muscles, bones and joints — that contribute toward optimal health and long-term quality of life."

A physical therapist is professionally trained to assess and treat people who are dealing with pain, injury, physical deficiencies and other issues that make it difficult for them move or exercise regularly. If a physical roadblock is keeping you from striving toward both a sound body and mind, says Monger, a physical therapist can help put you on path toward improved health and happiness.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Register online for Jefferson County Little League now; document days on Feb. 27 and March 1

Jefferson County Little League signups are open online at www.jeffcolittleleague.org until March 5.

Once signed up, forms will be available to fill out that you will need to bring to one of the document days.

Document days are mandatory to provide a child's birth certificate, school registration form, parent code of conduct, and medical release form. The medical release form is only to be filled out by a child's parent, not a doctor. The days will be held at Washington Federal in Madras on Feb. 27, and Culver Fire Hall on March 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Tryouts will be held March 11 at Juniper Hills Park, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Jefferson County Little League at 541-325-1315, or jeffcolittleleague@gmail.com.

COBOA/COSOA looking for interested officials

The Central Oregon Baseball/Softball Officials Association is hosting an orientation for interested umpires as well as first-, second- and third-year returning umpires. The meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mountain View High School Library.

All umpires should also plan on attending The OSAA/National Federation rules interpretation meeting in the same location Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. All baseball and softball coaches at Central Oregon high schools are also encouraged to attend.

No experience is required to become an umpire. Contact Commissioner Bob Reichert at 541-382-3180, or email coba@msn.com with questions.

Madras to host Big Sky basketball tournament Friday and Saturday

Madras High School will be the site of the 1A Big Sky Conference basketball tournament Feb. 16-17.

Teams competing include Condon/Wheeler, Ione, Sherman and South Wasco County.

The top boys and girls teams from the tournament will advance to the 1A state tournament in Baker City, Feb. 28 to March 5.

Madras Runners gather for monthly run

On the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., Madras Runners is hosting a group run that begins at Eagle Bakery, 123 SW H St.

Running routes usually consist of three miles and seven miles. People can do all or part of a given route.

Free cinnamon rolls and coffee are provided afterwards.

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Culver earns share of CBC title

Victory against Weston-McEwen puts both teams in a tie for first place

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

Culver was in a unique position last Saturday afternoon against Weston-McEwen.

The Bulldogs had already lost once to the TigerScots, by a 13-point margin. They believed they needed to not only beat their opponent, but by a bigger margin than the previous meeting.

Once the final buzzer sounded, Culver had defeated Weston-McEwen 62-49, matching, but not topping the 13-point margin. The Bulldogs were one point short of winning a league title outright.

Or so they thought.

Culver head coach Scott Fritz and the team learned hours after the game that the margin of victory wasn't actually a determining factor for a league title. Culver simply needed to win, and tie Weston-McEwen's 6-2 Columbia Basin Conference mark.

The Bulldogs succeeded in doing that, and as a result, forced a league playoff game against the TigerScots with not only the league title, but also a berth into the 2A playoffs on the line.

The game was played Tuesday evening at a neutral site — Riverside High in Boardman. The result of the game wasn't final at the Pioneer's press deadline.

The winner of the game moved on to the CBC District Tournament Championship on Saturday in Pendleton, and the loser will face Hepner on Friday, with the winner sealing its playoff fate.

During Saturday's game,

however, Culver already appeared to have a win wrapped up in the fourth quarter, but kept the pressure on Weston-McEwen.

In a race against the clock to top the 13-point spread, the Bulldogs provided some late-game theater, and their near-capacity home crowd was attuned to every move they made. Fritz and the team appreciated the energy they brought to the game.

"It helps us get ourselves up," senior Elly Bautista said. "I love the crowd getting crazy and loud. It makes us feel good."

Bautista's steal led to an Irma Retano layup with 41 seconds left, giving Culver a 59-46 lead.

Weston-McEwen's Katie Vescio went 1 of 4 from the foul line on the TigerScots' next two possessions. Retano rebounded a missed free throw and threw an outlet pass to Rosi Oliviera, who found Bautista for a wide

open layup with seven seconds left. Culver led 62-47, but Vescio drew a foul, and calmly sank two free throws.

Culver trailed by two points at halftime, but scored 20 points in the third and held a 42-32 advantage heading into the final period.

The Bulldogs' 62 points scored were a season high, and wouldn't have been possible without a huge effort from Retano, who scored 30 points in addition to pulling down 17 rebounds.

Mia Gamboa added 12 points for the Bulldogs.

"I'd be scared of us right now," Fritz said.

With the Bulldogs now on a four-game winning streak, they are confident in their ability to take care of business this weekend at the district tournament and be a threat in the playoffs.

"We know we can do it, so we have to keep it up," Bautista said. "We can't let down anymore."



WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER
Irma Retano (center) scored 30 points for Culver in Saturday's game.

CULVER STATE QUALIFIERS

106 POUNDS: Brody Piercy, fr. Record: 17-14. This year: No. 3 seed. First-round opponent: Christian Solomon, fr., Reedsport, 10-8 (unseeded).

106: Jordan Piercy, fr. Record: 9-14. This year: Unseeded.

First-round opponent: Carson Keith, jr., Reedsport, 18-4 (No. 3 seed).

113: Anthony Hood, fr. Record: 18-9. This year: Unseeded.

First-round opponent: Cuter Tanaka, fr., Pine Eagle, 23-14 (No. 3 seed).

120: Lorenzo Vasquez, jr. Record: 40-2. Third state appearance. Last year: Won state at 113. This year: No. 1 seed. First-round opponent: Zeb Ramsden, fr., Joseph/Wallowa, 20-11 (unseeded).

126: Orlando Torres, so. Record: 20-9. Second state appearance. Last year: Placed second at 120. This year: No. 2 seed. First-round opponent: Clifford Johnson, jr., Myrtle Point, 8-6 (unseeded).

132: Lane Downing, so. Record: 30-11. First state appearance. This year: No. 4 seed. First-round opponent: Logan Butcher, jr., Imbler, 7-5 (unseeded).

132: Cooper Becker, sr. Record: 24-12. Third state appearance. Last year: At 5A Sandy, did not qualify for state. This year: unseeded. First-round opponent: Trace Evans, fr., Enterprise, 28-10 (No. 2 seed).

145: Jorge Olivera, sr. Record: 33-5. Fourth state appearance. Last year: Won state at 145. This year: No. 1 seed. First-round opponent: Isaac Ruef, jr.,

Leader: 'Dogs dreaming of No. 11

■ From Page B1

some leaders."

At the time, McClure was one such leader the team needed. But they had the future in mind, too. Sizing up the freshman class, McClure looked at Oliviera and saw a hint of himself. McClure believed Oliviera would be the one pushing his teammates by the time he was a senior, and he was right.

Three years later, Oliviera is now winding down his senior year, with two state titles already to his name, and is looking for a third. Gone are the leaders in Culver's wrestling room who once pushed Oliviera and his fellow younger teammates. That responsibility now falls squarely on Oliviera's shoulders, and thanks in large part to McClure's guidance during his freshman season, he's carried it with aplomb.

"I could not ask for a better captain, I could not ask for a better person to be one of the faces of our program," Alley said.

Oliviera acknowledges that his role, which involves making teammates do things they don't necessarily want to, doesn't make him the most popular guy on the team. But, in his words, "You gotta do what you gotta do to make people champions."

And in recent memory,

nearly every individual champion to come through Culver has been a regular participant in those morning runs, Alley said.

With Alley's permission, Oliviera regularly sends out messages to teammates about run and workout times using the Remind app, in an effort to hold people more accountable for showing up.

"Now we have probably eight to 14 guys every day, and it's more of a team effort," Oliviera said. "I know Clay didn't like that about my freshman team, because no one wanted to come to morning runs except for me and him. I wanted to kind of fix that for us."

There are times when Oliviera feels the need to push teammates, whether that means getting in someone's face during practice if they're messing around, or pulling teammates aside individually at tournaments to talk about a match.

However, his ability to lead by example has been of equal value to the team. He and junior Lorenzo Vasquez, who frequently rib each other as competitors and friends, are the only two returning state champions on this year's team. They have been counted on to score lots of points at tournaments, and will be expected to do the same at the 2A/1A State Wrestling Tour-

nament in Portland Feb. 16-17, when the Bulldogs hope to capture their 11th title in 12 seasons.

Oliviera's senior year has had a couple bumps in the road, though nothing significant enough to alter his end goal of winning a third straight state title.

He injured his knee during late December's Sierra Nevada Classic in Reno, which kept him off the podium there and the following weekend at the Rollie Lane Invitational in Nampa, Idaho.

He also had the goal of winning the Reser's Tournament of Champions in January, but had to settle for third, while cheering on Vasquez for becoming Culver's first champ at the tournament. Oliviera felt frustrated in the results, but chose not to express those thoughts to the rest of the team.

"If you hit a wall, that's not going to help you, so I just wanted to move forward," Oliviera said. "Get better conditioning, get better in practice, and show those freshmen and sophomores that it's alright to lose; you can't win all of them."

Oliviera would like nothing more than to finish his high school career with a third state championship. The list of three-time state champs at Culver is a short one. In addition to Miguel Baltazar and

Jared Kasch each winning four titles apiece, the only Bulldogs with three titles are Marco Retano, McClure (two at Culver, one at Central Linn) and Alley, who completed the feat in 1985.

Both Vasquez and Oliviera could join that list this season. For Oliviera, the stakes of this one are a little higher — a thought that crosses his mind often. He's seen several state champs return to the tournament as seniors, only to be denied the chance of walking off as top dog.

And, regardless of the final outcome, Oliviera is fairly certain his wrestling career will conclude with his last high school match.

Alley and Culver Athletic Director Shea Little encouraged Oliviera to look into schools where he could wrestle and be a placekicker on the football team. But, he wants to stay in Oregon, and needs a school with a quality civil engineering program. He's looking strongly at Oregon State to pursue that education, and joining a Division I athletic program seems like a long shot.

"I'm just going to leave it all out there," Oliviera said of the upcoming weekend. "Wrestling's been a big part of my life and I'm probably not going to wrestle again."

"I just want to make sure I come out on top."

At season's end, Culver aims to build on culture

BY WILL DENNER
Sports Editor

Knowing for certain Saturday's game against Weston-McEwen would be the last of their high school careers, regardless of the outcome, Culver's five seniors simply wanted to have fun and enjoy the moment.

Even though the end result was a 59-43 win for the TigerScots, the Bulldogs felt they achieved what they wanted.

"I think the biggest thing was just to have fun," said Edwin Gutierrez, who started alongside fellow seniors Weston Basl, Matt Krueger and David Gutierrez. "We always look for that, but tonight being our last game, we all were looking forward to just having fun. I think we accomplished that, regardless of what the scoreboard said."

Weston-McEwen started off the game with eight quick points in the first minute and a half of action. Culver never gained a lead in the game, but kept within striking distance for three-and-a-half quarters.

Edwin Gutierrez got Culver on the board with a layup, and proceeded to score nine points in the first quar-

ter. Basl, who led Culver with 15 points, chipped in five, including a deep 3-pointer, to help the Bulldogs stay within five, 19-14.

The TigerScots pushed their lead to double digits early in the second quarter, when Gavin Smith converted a layup attempt. By halftime, Culver faced a 35-19 deficit.

But the Bulldogs looked to come back on several occasions in the third quarter. The only problem was, just when they appeared to be sparking a scoring run, the Bulldogs halted their own momentum. Culver twice trimmed the lead to 12 points from 15 or more down, only to turn the ball over and see Weston-McEwen score on its ensuing possession.

"Ultimately what cost us a real opportunity to get back in it was taking care of the ball," head coach Johnny Wilson said. "We would cut it to 10, 11, then end up with a silly turnover or two ... We did a good job of stopping their runs and having a run of our own, but then we didn't always ride that."

In the fourth quarter, Wilson subbed in Cruz Rico, giving all five Culver seniors the

chance to share the floor for a brief period of time. Rico got on the board in that stretch, then retreated to the bench with the four other seniors with a couple minutes remaining.

Culver saw its four-year run in the Columbia Basin Conference end without a win, but it looks forward to a change of scenery in the Tri-River Conference next year. With nine teams slated to be part of it, Culver will nearly double its league schedule from eight to somewhere between 15 and 16 league games.

The Bulldogs will make the move with a lot of new faces next season, and will need new leaders to emerge in the absence of five graduated seniors. Those departing seniors have taken pride in gradually building up the program. This season's 5-20 mark was a significant improvement from the 2016-17 team that finished 1-18.

"Ultimately what cost us a real opportunity to get back in it was taking care of the ball," head coach Johnny Wilson said. "We would cut it to 10, 11, then end up with a silly turnover or two ... We did a good job of stopping their runs and having a run of our own, but then we didn't always ride that."

In the fourth quarter, Wilson subbed in Cruz Rico, giving all five Culver seniors the

"We've definitely seen some improvements," Edwin Gutierrez said. "We definitely established something, too. We've been trying as a group of seniors to bring up our lower classes and get them excited to play the game."

Culver's record might not indicate a successful season results-wise, but the team feels that it has finally developed a culture to run with moving forward. Among the most important qualities of that culture, Wilson said, is everyone's selfless attitudes, putting the team before individual successes.

"This is my third year here, and we finally built the culture, and it's because of this class of 2018 that we achieved that," Wilson said.

"They play for their teammates, and there is no substitute for that. Any team who can play like that is playing better than the sum of their parts."

Culver seniors, from left to right, Edwin Gutierrez, Cruz Rico, Weston Basl, David Gutierrez and Matt Krueger check out during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Weston-McEwen.

WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER

Culver seniors, from left to right, Edwin Gutierrez, Cruz Rico, Weston Basl, David Gutierrez and Matt Krueger check out during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Weston-McEwen.

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SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

Feb. 15
Boys basketball
Madras at Corbett, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Madras at Corbett, 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 16
Girls basketball
Culver at CBC District Tournament, Pendleton, TBD.

Swimming
Madras at 4A/3A/2A/1A State Championships, Gresham, 1:45 p.m.

Wrestling
Culver, Madras at State Wrestling Tournament, Portland, 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 17
Girls basketball
Culver at CBC District Tournament, Pendleton, TBD.

Swimming
Madras at 4A/3A/2A/1A State Championships, Gresham, 2 p.m.

Wrestling
Culver, Madras at State Wrestling Tournament, Portland, 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 20
Boys basketball
Madras vs. Crook County, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Madras at Crook County, 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Tri-Valley Conference

Boys standings

Team League Overall PS PA
Gladstone 7-0 10-11 1052 1029
Madras 6-1 10-10 1472 1455
Crook Co. 5-2 8-12 928 1032
Estacada 2-5 4-16 851 1148
Corbett 1-6 6-13 984 1091
Molalla 0-7 3-17 963 1309

Last week's league results:

Feb. 6: Madras 80, Molalla 52; Crook Co. 53, Estacada 44; Gladstone 54, Corbett 35.

Feb. 9: Madras 85, Estacada, 61; Crook Co. 58, Corbett 43; Gladstone 51, Molalla 35.

Tri-Valley Conference

Girls standings

Team League Overall PS PA
Madras 7-0 18-2 1169 771
Gladstone 5-2 9-12 837 845
Molalla 4-3 10-11 1115 1047
Estacada 3-4 6-14 670 1020
Crook Co. 1-6 5-16 716 1019
Corbett 1-6 4-15 690 1025

Last week's league results:

Feb. 6: Madras 71, Molalla 59; Estacada 44, Crook Co. 40; Gladstone 50, Corbett 31.

Feb. 9: Madras 59, Estacada 16; Crook Co. 69, Corbett 42; Gladstone 61, Molalla 55 (OT).

Columbia Basin Conference

Boys standings

Team League Overall PS PA
Pilot Rock 8-0 17-6 1328 1047
Heppner 6-2 11-8 975 937
Stanfield 3-5 10-14 1131 1378
Weston-Mc. 3-5 8-15 1191 1297
Culver 0-8 5-20 1038 1341

Last week's league results:

Feb. 6: Culver 48, South Wasco County 30.

Feb. 9: Pilot Rock 55, Heppner 44; Stanfield 53, Weston-Mc. 50.

Feb. 10: Weston-Mc. 59, Culver 43; Pilot Rock 68, Stanfield 39.

Columbia Basin Conference

Girls standings

Team League Overall PS PA
Culver 6-2 15-8 945 829
Weston-Mc. 6-2 15-8 1206 1043
Heppner 5-3 13-6 928 814
Pilot Rock 3-5 13-10 1029 844
Stanfield 0-8 2-21 687 1163

Last week's league results:

Feb. 9: Heppner 43, Pilot Rock 40; Weston-Mc. 50, Stanfield 32.

Feb. 10: Culver 62, Weston Mc. 49; Pilot Rock 63, Stanfield 16.

BOWLING

Results of Feb. 6 - 9 week

Madras Bowl

Tuesday Night Twisters

Team standings

Alley Rats	28-12
Dufur Taxidermy	26-14
Schytz-N-Gygle	25-15
Madras Sanitary	21-19
Purple Sage Spa Pirates	21-19
Quartz Creek Ranch	21-19
Spare-ly Made It	20-20
Freeloaders	19-21
The Elite	16-24
Dancing Beans	15-25
Team Toto	15-25
Got Sand	13-27

Individual scores

Men
High game: Jim Lantz 290, Alfred Estimo 215, Dustin Williams 196
High series: Lonny Macy 574, Ray Shike 570, Woody Williams 552
High handicap game: Michael Henson 293, Joe Tuckta 275, Delvis Heath 269
High handicap series: Brion Hanks 752, Daniel Powers 734, Rongo Gooding 701

Women

High game: Jean McCloskey 197, Cindy Dubisar 197, Annie Hausinger 173
High series: Lori Urbach 514, Angie Spino 506, Stretch Light 439
High handicap game: Dawna O'Brien 284, Jodene Boise 245, Chey Wahnetah 238
High handicap series: Deb Jorgensen 728, Jean Stanton 694, Jami Carroll 670

Thursday Night Keglers

Team standings

OK Bowlers	33-7
Dig-A-Dee's	26-14
D&D Reality	25-15
Middleton's	21.5-18.5
Bulldog Septic	21.5-18.5
Berg Air	21-19
Perfect Storm	19-21
Hometown Drug	18-22
Liquid Aloha	16-24
Erickson's	16-24
Thoze Guyz	15-25
Warm Spring Composite	8-32

Individual scores

Men
High game: Mychel VanPelt 227, Kenny VanPelt 224, Jesse Flores 218
High series: Jesse Flores 592, Kalani Kepaa 591, Brad Donahue 566
High handicap game: Kenny VanPelt 279, Jesse Flores 276, Mychel VanPelt 269

Women

High game: Jinnell Lewis 170, Tammy Clark 168, Deean Jaca 165
High series: Tammy Clark 455, Jinnell Lewis 450, Terrie Barnhardt 449
High handicap game: Stephanie Dobbs 263, Loretta Quant 261, Tammy Clark 259
High handicap series: Loretta Quant 744, Tammy Clark 728, Stephanie Dobbs 728

SWIMMING

Jan. 13

White Buffalo Classic

Madras Aquatic Center

Boys finals

200 medley relay — 1, La Grande, 1:45.32. 2, **Madras (Karson Hartman, Kyle Hartman, Teague Schierling, Grayson Dominguez)**, 1:54:05.3, Catlin Gabel, 2:04:43.
50 freestyle — 1, Kyle Hartman, **Madras**, 24.11. 2, Caden Ricker, La Grande, 24.62. 3, Makhail Trichka, La Grande, 24.75.
100 freestyle — 1, Garren Dutto, La Grande, 48.12. 2, Lance Denny, La Grande, 53.59. 3, Daden Ricker La Grande, 53.79. 6, **Teague Schierling, Madras**, 57.60. 9, **Grayson Dominguez, Madras**, 1:02.03. 12, **Buddy Smith, Madras**, 1:11.79.
200 freestyle relay — 1, La Grande, 1:38.62. 2, Baker 1:41.05. 3, Madras, 1:43.32.
100 backstroke — 1, Garren Dutto, La Grande, 55.66. 2, TJ Clay, La Grande, 1:04.69. 3, **Karson Hartman, Madras**, 1:07.33.
100 breaststroke — Lance Denny, La Grande, 1:01.73. 2, **Kyle Hartman**,

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100 breaststroke — Lance Denny, La Grande, 1:01.73. 2, **Kyle Hartman**,

Team standings

Madras	1:09.30. 3, Teague Schierling, Madras , 1:10.87.
50 freestyle	— 1, Kristal Jensen, La Grande, 26.11. 2, Hollie Mays, Baker, 26.31. 3, Gabi Smith, Madras , 27.91.
100 freestyle	— 1, Romayne Ricker, La Grande, 57.01. 2, Hollie Mays, Baker, 58.65. 3, Avery Marshall, Gladstone, 58.70. 5, Gabi Smith, Madras , 1:01.39.

WRESTLING

Feb. 9-10
4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 1
Molalla High School

Madras High School results

126
Erik Boynton (19-21) placed 6th and scored 7.50 team points.
Champ. Round 1 - Sam Connelly (Tillamook) 25-22 won by decision over Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 (Dec 7-6).
Cons. Round 1 - Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 received a bye.
Cons. Round 2 - Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 won by tech fall over Reagan Schleicher (Estacada) 1-11 (TF 1.5:46 (16-1)).
Cons. Round 3 - Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 won by decision over Alexander Rodriguez (Crook County) 9-9 (Dec 7-3).
Cons. Semi - Justice Davidson (Molalla) 27-18 won by fall over Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 (Fall 2:17).
5th Place Match - Jarrett Graff (Corbett) 15-6 won by fall over Erik Boynton (Madras) 19-21 (Fall 3:28).

152

Tyrell Reynoso (23-16) placed 8th and scored 8.00 team points.
Champ. Round 1 - Tyrell Reynoso (Madras) 23-16 won by fall over Colby Smith (Banks) 3-9 (Fall 1:51).
Quarterfinal - Austin Weeks (Tillamook) 22-3 won by fall over Tyrell Reynoso (Madras) 23-16 (Fall 1:35).
Cons. Round 2 - Tyrell Reynoso (Madras) 23-16 won by fall over Cole Simmons (Estacada) 6-19 (Fall 2:01).
Cons. Round 3 - Jesse Gore (Crock County) 6-9 won by decision over Tyrell Reynoso (Madras) 23-16 (Dec 16-12).

Title: Lady Buffs set sights on perfect league mark

■ From Page B1

energy fed the crowd and vice versa.

Madras led 9-3 through the first two minutes, and pushed the lead to 15-3 over the next minute. Jiana Smith-Francis grabbed a steal and cruised to the hoop, then Lynden Harry stole another ball and passed ahead to Jayden Davis, who scored an uncontested layup.

Following another Davis layup at the 3:37 mark, which pushed the Madras lead to 19-5, the Buffs closed the quarter strong. Davis hit a 3-pointer with 1:07 remaining, and 30 seconds later, Jalaney Suppah swished another long-range shot. Madras owned a 25-5 lead after the first quarter.

By the game's end, Madras held Estacada under 20 points in a 59-16 victory, which marked the fewest points the Lady Buffs had allowed in a game this season, and was also Estacada's lowest scoring output of the season.

"We had a goal to keep them under 20 (last time we played), and this time we actually kept to that goal," Iverson said. "I think our intensity stayed equal the whole, entire game."

The Buffs' scoring pace slowed down from then on, in part because they backed off their full-court press. But their defensive presence remained, as Estacada didn't score in the second quarter, and only managed 11 points in final two quarters.

"I think we were very excited for senior night," Freeman said. "The energy was there from the whole day. We were just excited to play, and (it was) just another game."

Harry led Madras with 14 points, and Iverson also reached double figures. Chloe Porter led Estacada with six points.

Madras comes back from early deficit Feb. 6 against second-place Molalla

Molalla got the better of Madras in the early going Tuesday, but even when it faced a double-digit deficit, Madras wasn't the least bit



WILL DENNER/MADRAS PIONEER
Madras players huddle around head coach Zach Lillebo (center) during Friday's game against Estacada.

worried.

The Lady Buffs had been in a similar situation earlier this season, when they dug themselves a hole in the first half at Molalla on Jan. 16., only to come back and win.

The rematch was much of the same, as Molalla jumped out to a 15-11 lead after one quarter, and led by as many as 14 points in the second quarter. But the Lady Buffs closed the period on a 14-3 run, and used a 25-point third quarter to pull away from the Indians. With a 71-59 win, Madras remained undefeated in the Tri-Valley Conference, while Molalla was dealt its second loss in TVC play.

Early in the second quarter, Molalla scored nine straight points. Sierra Cox grabbed a

steal and layup, Alicia Schultz hit a jumper, then Mattie Myers connected on a 3-pointer.

Following a Lynden Harry 3-pointer, assisted by Jiana Smith-Francis, Schultz hit two more deep balls, giving Molalla its largest lead, 28-14, and prompting Madras head coach Zach Lillebo to call timeout with 4 minutes, 2 seconds remaining in the half.

"We played, I thought, very good defense in the first half," Molalla head coach Phil Wiesner said. "We did get a few run outs because of that, and it created some offense for us. Even when we didn't get the run outs, in the halfcourt, I thought we were patient, looked for good stuff and played pretty confident."

The Madras timeout was a turning point,

however, because as soon as play resumed, the Buffs began cooking on offense.

Jalaney Suppah opened the scoring run with a 3-pointer on the Buffs' next possession, and Jackie Zamora followed with a layup, thanks to a deep pass from Harry over the Molalla defense. Then, Harry hit another 3-pointer, and Kaliyah Iverson converted a three-point play with a layup and made free throw.

Harry put two more points on the board from the foul line with eight seconds left in the half. Harry led all scorers with 34 points, and Schultz had 24 points for Molalla.

"When we were at Molalla we ended up being down 10-2, and then came back in the end of the first quarter, so it was kind of the same thing," Harry said. "They like to drive and kick, they like to give it to Schultz — I don't blame them, because she's a good ballplayer."

"We have to be mentally tough at this point in the season, in order to beat the better teams and play through all the tough situations we have," Harry added.

Madras pulled ahead for good midway through the third quarter, when Harry scored near the rim, giving the Buffs a 44-42 lead at the 3:02 mark. They capped off another strong end to the quarter, extending their lead to 54-45 entering the fourth quarter.

With the loss, Molalla almost certainly denied itself the chance to repeat as TVC champions. However, the Indians' only losses in league have come against Madras, and they appear to be in solid shape for the postseason, provided they close the regular season strong, Wiesner said.

"We've got to take care of business," he said. "We're in second now, and we hope to keep it."

The Buffs haven't yet clinched the TVC title officially, however, they're raising the bar above a title; they want to sweep the league and complete a perfect, 10-0 record.

"Our girls don't want to clinch it; our girls want to go 10-0, and that's the mindset they've had since day one," Lillebo said.

State: First appearance at tournament for LeClaire

■ From Page B1

for a third straight season, aiming to improve on his fifth-place finish last season.

At districts, after pinning his first two opponents in the first round, he was dealt just his third loss of the season in the finals against James Ellis of Banks. Ellis pinned Manu in 4 minutes, 47 seconds, and earned the top seed at 170 for the state tournament.

Manu drew the No. 7 seed and will face Mazama's Jacob Healy in Friday morning's opening round.

"We had never wrestled him before; we

didn't match anybody up with him last year," Madras head coach Cameron Mitchem said. "We knew he liked to ride legs ... We were ahead, dominating the match and he got us in a little scramble."

Thomas LeClaire was at the state tournament last year, but only as a spectator, and helped Manu warm up for matches. This year, he will be making his first appearance competing at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

LeClaire dominated his opening match, a technical fall against Christopher Avery of Seaside, and in the decisive third-place match, he pinned Tillamook's Alex Werner in 3:25.

He will face the No. 8 seed, Kolby Lavin-Wiliams of Douglas to open the tournament.

"It means a lot to get to state," LeClaire said on Saturday at the conclusion of the district tournament. "I put in a lot of time in the off-season conditioning and stuff. I'll just try to work my way up to the top (at state) and see what I can do."

Elsewhere, Catalino LeClaire lost his opening match in a tight, 6-5 decision to Astoria's Trey Hageman, in which LeClaire scored a takedown at the buzzer. That result was key later, as Hageman won by rule over LeClaire to claim the fourth and final state spot.

Similarly, Boynton lost a 7-6 decision in his first match, when his opponent, Tillamook's Sam Connelly reversed Boynton as time expired.

At 220, William Lemos had a shot to move on to day two, but lost a 2-1 decision to Seaside's Luke Nelson in a consolation round.

Tyrell Reynoso placed eighth at 152, though it wasn't for a lack of effort. Mitchem praised Reynoso for being among the hardest workers on the team as a junior and senior.

"That kid has worked his tail off," Mitchem said. "In the two years I've been here, I've seen nothing but hard work out of him."

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