

SPORTS

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March 11, 2020

Selkirk boys knocked
out in overtime

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ONE LAST HUG



Photos by Taylor Newquist

Kettle Falls seniors Matt Thompson and Carter Matney console each other after the Bulldogs lost to Brewster in the opening round of the Hardwood Classic last Wednesday. The Kettle Falls boys shared a number of emotional hugs and celebrations on their way to the Spokane Arena, but the end had a different tone—both of pride in their accomplishments and the somber realization the run had come to a close.

Kettle Falls boys outmatched by Brewster in first round of Hardwood Classic tournament

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

we'd have to play our best basketball of all of our lives to beat them tonight."

Meeting the eventual state champion in the first round is always a recipe for disaster.

That was the case for the Kettle Falls boys, who lost 74-48 to the 2020 2B State Champions—Brewster. The Bears were loaded on all fronts, with Connor Ashworth's 6-foot-7-inch frame scoring at will throughout the tournament and a number of 6-foot-2-inch or taller sharpshooters on the perimeter. It was no surprise they averaged 84 points a game this season.

"We're proud," Kettle Falls head coach Cameron Stewart said. "It's over now and it's sad. But that Brewster team is one of the best teams here and we knew

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Kettle Falls senior Cade McKern exits the court for the last time. The Bulldog seniors were subbed out one-by-one with about two minutes left in their Hardwood Classic loss to Brewster.

Bulldog boys' run was emotional and nothing short of inspiring

As time dwindled in the Kettle Falls boys loss to Brewster, each senior starter was subbed off one-by-one, stopping for hugs all the way down the bench. Their eyes glistened under the bright arena lights they dreamed of playing under. It was hard to hold back tears of my own.

Me and other reporters are taught to distance themselves from what they're covering, but in my short time with small town high school sports I find it impossible not to grow a connection. This group in particular moved me.



Just a bit outside

Taylor Newquist - Sports Editor

Five days earlier, I saw those same teary eyes elated and filled with pride after defeating Darrington in the regional round. It wasn't the only time. Again and again they found themselves with their backs against the wall, and never flinched in the face of adversity, winning four straight road-outs to get to the Spokane Arena.

Every time I talked to them, I could feel how badly they wanted to have this moment—shining bright on the big stage. They got it. They deserved every second. While it was short and bitter-sweet, their mark on the program and community will live on forever.

Head coach Cameron Stewart put it better than I ever could.

"They turned us into winners," he said. "I took over when they were sophomores and they had seen a lot of losing, but you could see on their faces they wouldn't put up with it much longer."

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All-County team



The Chewelah Independent and Statesman-Examiner have teamed up to create the first All-Stevens County basketball teams, including neighboring schools from the NE1B North league.

See Page B3 to read about the selections.

Photo by Taylor Newquist



Photo by Taylor Newquist

(Left) Kettle Falls senior Matt Thompson makes a pass while driving down the baseline against Brewster at the State B tournament in the Spokane Arena last Wednesday. The Bulldogs lost to the 2020 2B Champion Bears 74-48. (Right) Kettle Falls senior Morgan Keller makes a move and scores against Brewster's 6-foot-7-inch Connor Ashworth. 6-foot-5-inch Keller was rarely out-sized this year and battled against Ashworth all night, turning in one of his most gutsy efforts of the season.



Bulldogs

Continued from Front Page

Bulldogs closed the gap to 10 points again to start the third quarter, after trailing 33-19 at half. That was as close as they'd get.

"Like we have all season, we fought hard every minute of the game," Stewart said. "That's who we are.

We're a tough team, we're scrappers and that's how we got here. A lot of folks didn't think we would be coming this far, but we just kept on fighting."

The Bulldogs run to state was historic. It was their first appearance since 2003 and they won their first district tournament game since 2006. The streak of four straight loser-out wins over Reardan, Davenport,

Lind-Ritzville/Sprague and then Darrington will be a story told for many years to come. While the loss stung, it was clear how much the experience meant to Kettle Falls' seniors.

"Unreal," Thompson said. "I mean I just tried to enjoy the experience. It's hard for our careers to end, but I had fun out there."

With about two minutes remaining, each of Kettle

Falls' starters were subbed out to applause by the large home crowd of Bulldogs fans. A wave of emotion reverberated down the bench and throughout the arena.

"I just saw all the work and everything we've done since we were little," senior Cade McKern said. "I just saw it all flash before my eyes. You're there and it's over, it just happened so fast."

Despite the loss, the two senior co-captains were proud and said it was the best experience of their lives. The Bulldogs finished the season with a 17-10 record, ranked No.11 in 2B RPI. Thompson ends with 18.6 points a game, McKern with 13.3 ppg, senior Morgan Keller with 7.7 ppg and senior Carter Matney with 6.6 ppg.

Kettle Falls will have

to regroup from losing its seven seniors: Thompson, McKern, Keller, Matney, Eli Furgison, Pheonyx Dodson and Taylor Feist. The Bulldog's promising sophomore class will step into the starting role next year with Braylen Pfeffer, Issac Bair, Gunner Graves and Eli Armstrong. We'll all have to wait and see if the youngsters can capture the momentum left by the seniors.

"I know one thing—this isn't the end for the Kettle Falls boys. If they take their passion and commitment for the game with them off of the court, they won't have any trouble finding success in life. Keep dreaming big Bulldogs."

— Taylor Newquist | S-E Sports Editor



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Kettle Falls head coach Cameron Stewart walks with senior Matt Thompson, after Thompson exited the game for the last time in the Bulldogs' loss to Brewster. Of the senior class that got them so far, Stewart said, "They turned us into winners ... they had seen a lot of losing, but you could see on their faces they wouldn't put up with it much longer."

Newquist

Continued from Front Page

I saw exactly what Stewart did the first time I met this group back in November. The first thing I asked the two senior co-captains, Cade McKern and Matt Thompson, was simple: "How do

you guys feel heading into your senior year?"

Their message in return was simple; they felt like they could make it to state. A bold claim for a team that finished 9-13, ranked No.35 statewide in 2B the year before. The goal wasn't to win their first district game in their careers, or for any Kettle Falls team since

2006. No, their eyes were set on something few people expected them to do. They wanted to be one of the top 12 2B teams in Washington. That first district win would just be a happy stop on the way to the Spokane Arena.

I watched idly each step on their way to the Hardwood Classic. Their passion was unmatched, and their

success was inspiring. Then, I saw how quickly their moment in the spotlight passed them by.

I asked myself, "How am I not supposed to feel for these guys." Truthfully, I'd resent myself for hiding it. Sports are about emotion, and there's no greater passion for them than in high school.

Listening back to my first talk with Cade and Matt, something stood out to me.

"I'm not really excited to be a senior," Thompson said. "I want to keep playing, but..."

He didn't finish the sentence. The end is always scary, and that was clear on the faces of the boys Wednesday night, as they walked off the high school

court for the last time. If you can't feel for that, then I don't know what to tell you.

I know one thing—this isn't the end for the Kettle Falls boys. If they take their passion and commitment for the game with them off of the court, they won't have any trouble finding success in life. Keep dreaming big Bulldogs.

Copper Bowl scores from March 1-5

Men/Women Leagues high scratch games & series

March 1: Earlybirds

High Scratch Game:

223 Guy Fiola

207 Mo Moser

206 Tom Hart

194 Sheri Marsh

182 Vonnlie Carrigan

177 Angela Rigdon

177 Cathy Hart

High Scratch Series:

561 Guy Fiola

544 Sheri Marsh

531 Roger Bair

531 Mo Moser

505 Cathy Hart

479 Lisa Robinson

March 3:

Merry Oldsters

High Scratch Game:

203 Leroy Day

189 Laura McNamee

175 Darrell Hanvold

167 Kathleen Carrigan

162 Tom Hart

158 Judy Moore

High Scratch Series:

578 Sheri Marsh

533 Ray Nevin

488 Judy Gentry

471 Karen McQuarrie

464 Bob Carrigan

460 Jeff Manzanares

Low Ball

High Scratch Game:

246 Ken Marsh

183 Christopher Sim

178 Rick Horton

162 Tammy Hinton

142 Charity McKenna

141 Monica Spence

High Scratch Series:

224 Bill Bitton

200 Ken Marsh

194 Kristy Benson

555 Jeff Manzanares

511 Leroy Day

471 Sheri Marsh

385 Laura McNamee

382 Marinda Ryser

March 5:
CFK

High Scratch Game:

224 Bill Bitton

200 Ken Marsh

194 Kristy Benson

190 Jeff Manzanares

157 Shelley Lawrence

143 Kim Anderson

High Scratch Series:

615 Steve McGee

553 Sheri Marsh

526 Ryan Hawk

519 Rick Horton

450 Sharon Day

410 Karen McQuarrie

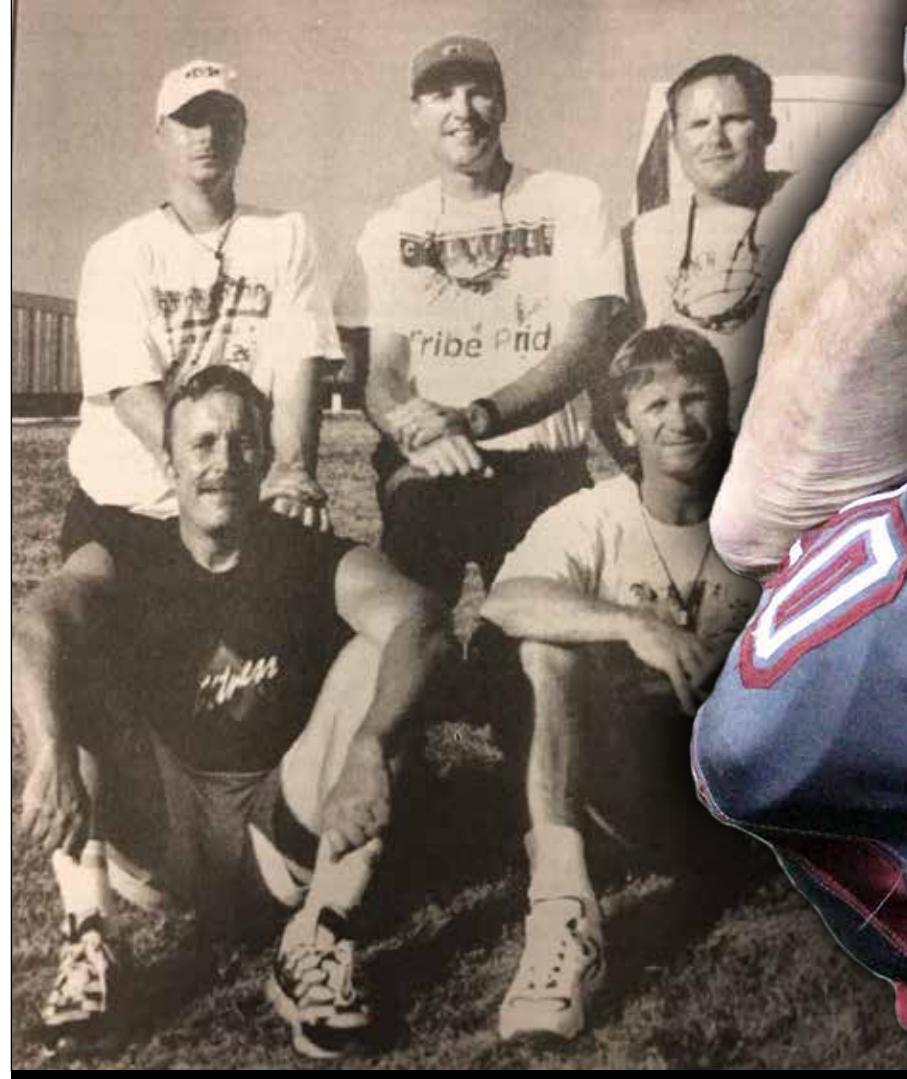
Feb. 5, 2020

SPORTS

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Photos by Chris Rader / Statesman-Examiner Archives

(Right): Colville head football coach Randy Cornwell hugs Jakob Larson following the Indians' win in the 2018 State Championship. (Left): A photo of Colville's coaching staff ahead of the 1998 season. From top left: Bill Carpenter, Tom Bassett, Todd Spear, Mike Jutila and Cornwell.



CORNWELL'S FAREWELL

"I LOVE THESE KIDS. I'M GOING TO BE AN INDIAN FOR LIFE, TRIBE PRIDE FOREVER."

Colville head football coach retires after 23 years in position, a change of culture and a championship

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Colville football's head coach of 23 years, Randy Cornwell, announced his retirement today, after a career that built the Indians from the bottom of the now-disbanded Frontier League to perennial contenders and the 2018 1A State Champions.

He was never a stranger to success.

The Spokane native lived a life surrounded by football, quar-

terbacking Central Valley High School to an unbeaten season in 1973, before going under center for the University of Montana Western. After he graduated, Cornwell took a job as assistant football and head boys basketball coach in Ennis, Montana. He worked under Bob Cleverley and won two state titles.

Cornwell went on to Troy, Montana, for another eight years as assistant football and head boys basketball coach. While he was there, Troy won the state champi-

onship in 1991 with a future NFL player, Blaine McElmurry, on the roster. Then, he found himself in Colville — again as an assistant, but this time only for four years, when he was announced as the new head coach on March 19, 1997.

Colville wasn't like the places Cornwell had been previously. The Indians combined for a 12-21 record in his four years as an assistant. Then once he took over, there was another four year stretch with a combined 8-28 re-

cord.

"I remember telling people this was the worst football program I'd ever seen," Cornwell said. "It took four years before we finally broke through and made a playoff."

The Indians broke through in 2001 with a 6-4 record and the first state playoff appearance in school history. From there, they never looked back. Since 2001, Cornwell has led the Indians to a 141-60 record with 17 state playoff birth in 19 years. In 2018, he won his first state title as a head

coach and the first since he'd left Montana decades earlier.

"We had to change an attitude and build a culture," Cornwell said. "But once we got it going, it's been a great ride."

"The experience of playing and coaching under other great coaches really prepared me to build a program. When you're the head guy it's a total investment, the buck stops with you."

Cornwell credited his long time

See CORNWELL on Page B2

Colville football's wins through Cornwell's tenure

Year	Wins	Losses	Record	Notes
1993	2	3	2-3	
1994	3	4	3-4	
1995	3	3	3-3	
1996	1	1	1-1	
1997	6	6	6-6	
1998	4	7	4-7	
1999	1	6	1-6	
2000	*	1	0-1	
2001*	6	6	6-6	
2002*	4	7	4-7	
2003	*	6	0-6	
2004*	11	6	11-6	
2005*	9	6	9-6	
2006*	7	6	7-6	
2007*	10	5	10-5	
2008*	5	10	5-10	
2009*	3	12	3-12	
2010*	7	12	7-12	
2011*	9	7	9-7	
2012	7	10	7-10	
2013*	12	9	12-9	
2014*	7	10	7-10	
2015*	7	9	7-9	
2016*	10	7	10-7	
2017*	9	7	9-7	
2018*	7	10	7-10	
2019*	7	10	7-10	

* = State birth



Colville senior Grant Michaliszyn signs his letter of intent to play linebacker at the University of Montana Western. Michaliszyn was first team all NEA running back and linebacker last season.

Bulldog girls have perfect week, jump into third place

Chris Rader
For The Statesman-Examiner

A perfect week for Kettle Falls girls' basketball looks to get the Bulldogs rolling heading into the postseason.

Wins over Odessa (48-41), Chewelah (46-29), and Wilbur-Creston (55-40) gives Kettle Falls seven wins in their last nine games. The current hot streak has the Bulldogs at 12-7 on the season and 5-4 in league play, tied for third place, a game looming on Thursday against Northwest Christian (5-4, 12-7) that will decide the No. 3 and No. 4 seeds from the Northeast 2B North going into the district tournament.

Head Coach Tyler Edwards is impressed with the growth of the Bulldogs this season.

"We've grown, we're getting better and becoming more efficient," He said. "The kids are making better decisions, rebounding better and playing better defense. It's incremental growth because when you're a pretty good player getting better is harder."

On Tuesday, the Bulldogs traveled to Odessa (12-2, 14-5) and rode a strong first half to a seven-point victory. Kettle Falls came out fast and held a 28-15 lead at halftime before holding off the Tigers in the second half for the 48-

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Photo by Chris Rader

Kettle Falls junior Joslyn Meusy reaches for a loose ball against Wilbur-Creston last Saturday. The Bulldogs won all three of their games last week and jumped Northwest Christian in the NE2B standings.



Long-time Colville head football coach Randy Cornwell awaits the Indians' season opener against Cheney last year. The Indians finished second place in the NEA league with a 7-3 overall record in Cornwell's last season, before losing to Omak in the opening round of the state tournament.

Photo by Taylor Newquist

Cornwell

Continued from Front Page

assistants a big reason Colville was able to maintain success over the past two decades.

"Most high school coaches aren't there very long," he said. "I've had Bill Carpenter and Tom Bassett right by my side for 26 years."

Cornwell had been considering retirement for several years, and said that his wife started to nudge him in that direction after the Indians lost to Cascade Christian in a failed 2pt conversion in overtime of the 2014 1A State Championship. He said he used to think that he was never going to retire, but now the time was right.

He plans on moving to move back to his home town of Spokane to spend more time with his grandchildren and take up coaching their youth teams. Still, that decision didn't come easy, as Cornwell said the program and the people in it are incredibly important to him.

"Outside of my family, it's been my greatest joy," Cornwell said. "Incredibly rewarding. Watching kids grow into great adults, to see their kids and coach their kids ... it's just rewarding. The whole level of pride around our kids and our football program."

Cornwell wasn't sure about a successor to step in and immediately fill his role. He said that Greg Mace, may apply to the position from in-house. The school's administration may also open the position up to outside candidates.

Cornwell said that his last message to the team is simply going to be to keep it going.

"We have great kids here," he said. "They know how to work hard, they have class, they know how to play this game and I'm just going to tell them to keep going."

"Keep representing Colville High School as you always have — with class. You'll be tough competitors on the field, be tough to beat and do things right. I love these kids ... love these kids. I'm going to be an Indian for life, tribe pride forever."

Then & Now

Sports column

Colville football stuck through tough times to see success with Cornwell

Colville head coach Randy Cornwell announced his retirement last week, with admiration from players, the community and football fans from around the state pouring in over social media postings from *The Statesman-Examiner*.

That kind of respect and appreciation doesn't come easy, and shows how far Colville football has come since Cornwell took over in 1997. Piecing together that 23-year career from an outsider perspective (your's truly) was a fun, but not easy process, especially as someone who was born less than four months before Cornwell started as Indians' head coach.

Luckily for me—I might be the only Millennial-Gen Z tweener that knows what a newspaper is. I dug through bindings of old *Statesman-Examiners* from each year through 1993-2010 (the internet keeps track after that) to try and figure out



Cornwell's overall record and see if I couldn't find anything interesting. I found a couple of things.

First, the fantastic front cover photo of the 1998 Colville football coaching staff—which has 1990s football written all over it. Second, the column below by long-time *Statesman* Sports Editor Chris Cowbrough, that encapsulates some of the struggles the Indians' football team had been going through right before the team made their break through with Cornwell.

Now, going into my deep dive, I had my eye out for a column that Cornwell had mentioned to me in his most recent interview about his retirement. I'm not sure if this is it, but the tone fits.

"Cowbrough wrote about how we should cancel football it was so embarrassing," Cornwell said about the state of Colville football around the time of him

taking the head coaching job. "That was in 96 or 97."

I scoured through newspapers from those years and couldn't find exactly what Cornwell was talking about, but this next clue makes me think the column below may have had an impact on the Colville football program.

"My son cut the article out and taped it to the ceiling," Cornwell said. "He was a senior on the team that was the first to make the state playoff."

The Indians broke through to their first playoff in 2001—making 17-of-19 in succeeding years. Today, I publish Cowbrough's column again as a reminder of how hard it is in high school sports to buck years of losing. But more-so, the right person may take time to turn a program around. Try not to jump on new coaches; it took Cornwell four years of continued losses, before he could fill the next 19 with wins.

(schools are 3A in enrollment if there are from 601 to 1,200 in the top three grades.) The Colville head count as of Oct. 1 was about 650. West Valley's was at 577, minus those pesky alternative school numbers you have to count.

While there is (pick one) disappointment, disgust, disillusionment or just general fear and loathing on the far-flug Border League Football trail after the defections of these two old Frontier League foes, I think the move is best for Colville.

Colville has never been competitive in the Border football league. Just check the record. I was never any good at numbers, so I'll let you do the math. But those numbers are abysmal in Colville's nearly two-year cycle in the Border football circuit.

Frankly, a check through the record books bears evidence that Colville's football history in the past 25 to 30 years is mostly sad-sack pathetic. If Colville has a football tradition over the years, it's a losing one. Aside from the occasional Colville team that crept over the .500 mark for a

season here and there, Colville football, if not an exercise in futility, has established some forgettable benchmarks in the last 30 years.

Colville football is like what Oregon State football was from 1970 to 1999. That is, until the Beavers found one of the best college grid coaches to ever pace the sidelines—Dennis Erickson—unemployed. Now look. The road to the Rose Bowl may go straight through Corvallis next month.

That program was turned around in a hurry (talented Juco recruits help) by Erickson.

Unfortunately for Colville, wholesale recruiting is out of the question. What you've got is what you use. If they'll turn out.

Colville's woeful football fortunes can be turned around. Just don't ask me about that timetable. I've been in Colville for the better part of 26 years. And I'm still waiting forever hopeful.

Sure, Colville doesn't have

the numbers. Colville is more Class 2A than it is Class 3A. And fewer student/athletes want to play football when the team has a history of losing.

It's human nature. Show that the program is a success, and some of these kids who are successful in other sports and eschew the football field...will turn out. Everybody loves a winner.

Over the years and mounting losses, you've had athletes who could have helped the CHS football program. They chose not to. You can't blame them.

But Colville does have the athletes to compete successfully in football. CHS is successful in other sports. It can translate to the gridiron.

Lake City High football coach Van Troxel took over a new football program at Lake City. He didn't win a game for nearly two years. Now look. Troxel didn't have the numbers either. But Lake City is now an Idaho 3A power. Troxel, who might be genetically pre-disposed to football success, given the fact that the Troxel name is well-known and Washington state football coaching circles, isn't too happy about the defections of Colville and West Valley from the Border.

How are you going to get better if you aren't going to play the top teams?" Troxel grumbled last week. "We've all been down before. You need to play the best to get better."

Colville has played some of the best over the years. It hasn't worked.

Colville has turned being down in football into something of an art form.

Sure. There is more to athletics than the 'W' and 'L' columns. Isn't there? But I'm sorry. Losing gets old. For everybody. It's no damn fun.

Winning may not be everything. But it's in the ballpark. Success breeds success. And we haven't had much of it on the football fields of old Colville High.

If Colville has to take their

football land come home, so be it. For whatever reasons, numbers being part of it (but not all of it), we haven't been able to compete successfully. In any league.

Hopefully, Colville can fill their football schedule with Class 2A Great Northern League teams. That's where Colville belongs anyway—across the board.

There are infinitely fewer post-game, fast-food opportunities for Colville teams in places like Deer Park and Chewelah than there are in Coeur d' Alene and even Sandpoint, but the less time you have to spend on a big yellow school bus, the better.

Of course, during Colville's two-year run in the fast-food, take-out window-challenged GNL, before student counts dictated a move to 3A, the CHS football team wasn't successful either. But at least the road trips were mostly shorter. Less time to brood about another loss.

That's not a bad thing.

2B League meet sets stage ahead of districts

Chris Rader
For The Statesman-Examiner

District 7 1B and 2B wrestlers competed at Kettle Falls High School on Saturday in preparation for the district tournament starting next Thursday in Chewelah.

Kettle Falls, Chewelah, Mary Walker (Springdale), Selkirk, Almira/Coulee-Hartline and Republic High Schools all brought wrestlers to compete in a round-robin style match with two rounds of wrestling. No team scores were kept, but wrestlers cemented their final rankings heading into the postseason.

Kettle Falls' wrestling team will send nine members on to their respective district tournaments that are being held at Jenkins High School on Thursday at 5 p.m. In the boys' tournament: Ryley Jones, and Nate Drake will enter the tournament ranked second in their weight class, Ivan Richart, Talon Olson, Aaron Olson, and Ryder Fealy will be ranked third, Guy Fealy will be ranked fourth and Bryce McDaneld will be ranked fifth. Mary Suvola will wrestle at the girls' district tournament being held at Liberty High School on Friday.



Chewelah's defending state champion Kaden Krouse wrestles Selkirk's Sven Rasmussen at Kettle Falls High School last Saturday.

SPORTS

March 25, 2020

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Senior Spotlight

"It's countless hours and countless days ... I love doing it, so that's all I do. I think about running and I train, I train and train. I hate to see all the work kind of being flushed." — Alaina Stone-Boggs



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville senior Alaina Stone-Boggs sits on the Indians' track last week. Stone-Boggs was the 1A girls state XC champion in the fall, but with school closures due to COVID-19, may not get the chance to pursue another championship this spring.

STUCK ON THE STARTING BLOCKS

Colville's Alaina Stone-Boggs was poised to continue her success from fall, now she can only sit and wait

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Colville senior Alaina Stone-Boggs is a champion, but still she wants more.

Years of work and thousands of miles paced her road to the top of the 1A girls cross country podium last fall. She wasn't satisfied, eyeing a state title in the 1,600-meters this spring. Instead, school closures due to the COVID-19 virus have her final high school season hanging in the balance.

On March 13, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced all K-12 schools in the state would be closed from March 17 until at least April 24. The spring sports season was shrouded in uncertainty.

"I immediately thought state was going to be canceled," Stone-Boggs said. "I tried to keep it together all day. I was cleaning out my gym locker, got to my spikes and as I started to take them out I just started crying."

Stone-Boggs' success was far from easy. A fellow senior from across the Cascades, King's Naomi Smith,

topped her in 2017 and 2018. At the time, the gap between them was only growing. As sophomores, Smith edged Stone-Boggs by 4.4 seconds at the cross country state meet with a 18:42.20 minute time. They placed seventh and eighth, but Stone-Boggs got a taste for the title, as the leading cog of Colville's first girls team championship. As juniors, the two placed first and second, with Smith widening her margin to 10.6 seconds over Stone-Boggs at a 18:16.70 minute time.

Meanwhile, the two were also

competing in the 1,600 and 3,200-meters in track. As sophomores, Stone-Boggs placed fifth in the 1,600 with a time of 5:09.17 minutes—2.22 seconds ahead of Smith. It would be her only track victory over the King's runner.

In the 3,200, Smith was fifth with a time of 11:11.03 minutes—5.83 seconds ahead of Stone-Boggs. As juniors, Smith was the 1,600 and 3,200 1A girls state champion, with times of 5:00.04 minutes and 10:35.37 minutes. Stone-Boggs was third in the 1,600, 7.24 seconds behind

Smith and fourth in the 3,200, 43.75 seconds behind Smith.

Stone-Boggs was disappointed in her junior track season; she had all summer to prepare for cross country, with her mind fixed on one race—the 2019 1A State Championship.

Stone-Boggs and Smith torched their competition through the 2019 cross country season, Stone-Boggs winning every 5K she entered and Smith winning all but one.

When they finally met again at

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Senior Spotlight



CADE MCKERN

CARTER MATNEY

MATT THOMPSON

MIKE CRUMPLER

Bulldogs baseball brace for state run

Seniors' confidence turned to uncertainty in light of spring sport closures

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Kettle Falls baseball's aspirations leading into the 2020 season couldn't have been higher.

The Bulldogs' confidence was at an all time high from their underdog state run in basketball just a few days prior to starting practice. Three of the seniors from the basketball team: Cade McKern, Matt Thompson and Carter Matney were sure their success would carry over to the diamond. They all knew deep down they were better at baseball anyway.

The Bulldogs' fourth senior—Mikey Crumpler—saw the hunger in his teammates. Their run in basketball raised



his own, but now it was time for the baseball team to make the same run, if not push it further. The four had made the state baseball tournament as freshman, but just missed out on their sophomore and junior years.

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Statesman-Examiner archives
Matt Thompson (right) and Carter Matney (left) are sent off to state baseball as freshman. Kettle Falls' baseball seniors have played together since they were in little league and had high confidence in making their first return to state since their freshman year, before recent school closures.

WIAA holds true to its original spring championship dates

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

State championships for spring sports are to remain scheduled for May 27-30, as long as schools reopen after April 24, when the mandatory closure is planned to end.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association announced the updated plan in a press release on March 17, four days after Washington Gov. Jay Inslee suspended all K-12 schools in the state.

The release started as follows:

"In this time of uncertainty, we at the WIAA wanted to do our best to keep you informed of our intentions and expectations regarding the spring sports season. What's important to keep in mind is that, at the end of the day, the mission of the WIAA has always been to provide opportunities for students around the state to engage in a safe and enjoyable environment. That mission has never been more important than it is right now."

WIAA staff conferred with district directors, the WIAA Student Leadership Committee and said it received, "countless emails from students and parents urging the WIAA to preserve the state championship experience."

The WIAA put in place a waiver to practice restrictions that will make it easier to achieve 10 practices before any contest, as a shortened season will be required if spring sports are to be played. The WIAA also recommended that schools and leagues organize a continuation of the regular season for teams that do not advance to the state championships through May 30.

If the schools continued to remain closed after April 24, then the season will likely be canceled. Schools cannot remain open more than a week after the end of the academic calendar under the current deal with the Washington Teachers' Union.

All organized contests and practices remain discontinued for the time being.



Photos by Taylor Newquist

Colville senior Alaina Stone-Boggs dashes for the finish line at the 1A girls state cross country championships last Fall at Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco. Stone-Boggs' winning time of 17:39.60 minutes is the second best in girls 1A state history.



Colville senior Alaina Stone-Boggs receives her 2019 1A girls cross country state championship medal. Stone-Boggs surpassed King's Naomi Smith (left), who was the 2018 champion.

Blocks

Continued from Front Page

Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco, Stone-Boggs showed she deserved a turn on top, with one of the best individual times in the history of the state. Both girls entered their final lap well out ahead of the pack, but Stone-Boggs was alone coming down the final stretch.

Her time of 17:39.60 minutes was the second best in 1A state history, since the race changed from a 3-mile to a 5K in 1997. It was the 18th best girls time for any classification in the state championships.

"I can't imagine my life without athletics, because it's taught me so much," Stone-Boggs said. "I would be a different person without it. It's taught me humbleness, it's taught me gratitude and it's taught me more than anything I could learn from a desk. It's taught me about life."

Stone-Boggs and Smith are the top two returning runners in both the 1,600 and 3,200 in the state for 1A girls. Stone-Boggs said as running grew more important to her, the more she worked at it. The time she spent on achieving her goal was countless, but she wasn't finished yet. Even if she doesn't get a chance to run again as an Indian, her career will continue at Washington State University, where she has earned a near-full ride scholarship.

"I just love doing it," Stone-Boggs said. "That's all that I do. I think about running and I train, I train and train. I just

hate to see all the work kind of being flushed. Everything I've done up to this point has worked up to where I'll be in the end, so it's not gone, but it was supposed to be showcased at state."

For Stone-Boggs, it was always more than about winning. She never knew a time without sports in her life and played soccer and softball up until the sixth grade, when she found her true passion for track. With practices and spring sports suspended, that hasn't changed. She remains as committed as ever, yet her heart aches for her senior classmates.

"It would break my heart if I was in any of their shoes," Stone-Boggs said. "If I wasn't going on to WSU I would still [run] and I would still put in all my effort into everything I did with it. It hurts for student athletes, because this is something we love to do and now it's just gone."

Hope is not lost. Last Tuesday, the WIAA announced an updated plan to keep its original spring championship dates for May 27-30. There is still a chance for the spring season to be played on a shortened schedule, but Stone-Boggs and all other spring athletes will have to wait to find out.

"I'm going to keep it up like it never ended," Stone-Boggs said. "Keep going with the same goals that I have. I'm just going to plug along like I would any other time."

On Monday afternoon before the WIAA announcement, Stone-Boggs was out on the Colville High School track. She was quietly continuing to do what she loves—run.

Sports vault

Northeast sports through the years



From the March 27, 1975 Statesman-Examiner:

CHARLIE DOES IT AGAIN!

For the second week in a row Medical Lake basketball standout Charlie Yankus, was selected Inland Empire sportswriters and Broadcasters Athlete of the Week.

Yankus won the honors for his performance in the state "AA" basketball tournament. He scored 120 points in four games, 39 points in one of those contests which ties a state playoff scoring record

for a single game.

Yankus' biggest accomplishment was setting a state "AA" playoff record for rebounds. He totaled 74 in four games plus set another record for single game honors in rebounding, grabbing off 26 against Mark Morris. Yankus, who transferred to Medical Lake after Colville lost their athletic program at the beginning of the school year, was also named to the state's first team all-state squad.

Medical Lake finished sixth in the state tournament.

MORE ON THIS STORY:

Charlie Yankus went on to play basketball at the University of Montana from 1975-79, where he was a four year letterman, coming off the bench for the majority of his collegiate career.

His best season came as a junior, when he averaged 6.5 points and 4.2 rebounds a game as a sixth man.

That season, the Grizzlies were led by senior guard Micheal Ray Richardson, who went on to be selected fourth in the NBA draft and played eight years in the league with the New York Knicks, Golden State Warriors and New Jersey Nets.

In 1986, Richardson was banned for life by NBA commissioner David Stern for a third violation of the league's drug policy.

Yankus was forced to transfer to Medical Lake his senior year in Colville, after a levy failure cut school hours and the entire year's athletic schedule.

In his last season with Colville, the Indians finished fourth in the Frontier League with a 5-7 record, as Pullman (11-2) and Cheney (10-2) dominated the league.

Yankus was the league's second leading scorer with an unofficial 18 points a game as a sixth man.



Colville team captains Don Hoffman (left) and Charlie Yankus (right) pose with head coach Joe Karp after winning the Northport Christmas tournament in December 1973.

Statesman-Examiner archives

SPORTS At A STANDSTILL



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville baseball's home, Hoffstetter Field, is empty Friday afternoon at the time of practice. Colville athletics had planned on continuing on with the spring sports season on Thursday, but along with the rest of the state had to suspend programs through at least April 24, after Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced a six-week closure of all K-12 schools.

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Early last week, spring sports practices were in full swing. By Friday everything changed.

In an effort to thwart the COVID-19 virus, professional leagues and the NCAA suspended all of their events to reduce the number of large gatherings of people in the country and "flatten the curve" of the Coronavirus that had started to grow exponentially in places around the world. First, college bas-

ketball conferences and the NCAA were going to play behind closed doors without an audience. But then, Utah Jazz forward Rudy Gobert tested positive for the virus. He was shamed nationally as a viral video of Gobert making a point to touch each and every microphone at a press conference. His attempt at lighthearted humor quickly turned dark. The NBA quickly suspended its season.

Thursday, the NCAA had canceled all its winter and spring championships. The Masters and PGA tour were

postponed. The MLS was postponed and the MLB delayed the start of its season.

The WIAA postponed its drama festival, along with the state drill/dance championships. Despite that, it would keep the spring sports state championships scheduled for the original May 27-30 dates.

The WIAA only has control of the state championship events and has no say over an individual school or district continuing its spring sports as scheduled. As of Thursday, Colville athletics had planned to move forward with the

season. Practices went on as planned. It'd be the last time—for now.

Friday morning, Deer Park athletics had made the decision to suspend all extracurricular activities indefinitely. Not long after, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced the closure of all K-12 schools in the state from March 17 until at least April 24.

High school sports closed with the schools. At the time of publishing, Colville school district still has hopes of playing a shortened spring season

which will be contingent on several factors: the WIAA's ability to host state tournaments, fellow league and statewide teams continuing with their seasons and the ability to reshape the season into the shortened time frame that is yet to be determined.

With Inslee requiring the closure of bars, restaurants and gatherings of over 50 people on Sunday, things aren't going in the right direction for a spring sports season to be played.

In addition, there was a confirmed case of a worker

who had been diagnosed with COVID-19 at the 3A and 4A State Basketball tournament in Tacoma earlier this month. The further spread of the virus at future WIAA events is something that won't be taken lightly.

Editors note: With the loss of sports for at least the next six weeks, the Statesman-Examiner will be shifting its sports coverage to highlight the careers of high school seniors, who may never get to put their uniform back on. Email sports@statesmanexaminer.com with suggestions of players and contact information.

Sports column

Lets take a step back for the seniors

Put down your shopping carts, stop elbowing your neighbor over the newest shipment of toilet paper and just take a deep breath for a second. Okay, actually don't take a deep breath.

The sentiment still rings true. While we all need to hunker down to protect our vulnerable loved ones, there's another group paying a bigger price than just sitting at home for a couple weeks. Those are the high school senior athletes. While NCAA spring athletes are granted another year of eligibility, the same isn't true for the high schoolers. They have one chance at a senior season and it's looking like it will pass them by.

Many of you know and have lived through that experience. Think of every practice, all work, sweat and tears that go into a young athlete's life. All of those hours cultivate into one last triumphant run as the top dogs their senior year. Parents know well the commitment that their kids give to the games they love.

For most, the story ends with a gracious walk to center stage with their parents or guardians on senior night. For few, a brief taste of glory. By the look of things, the spring athletes in the class of 2020 will get neither.

For me, things suck right now. If you're wondering how I'm handling a life without sports, I had finished my third ESPN college basketball 30 for 30 of Saturday by noon. March is my favorite time of the year. My dad and I have a annual tradition of stopping whatever we're doing the first Thursday and Friday of the NCAA mens tournament to do nothing but share each other's company and the beautiful game of basketball. We can't do that this year, which is a bummer, but there will always be another season. There won't be another season for the majority of this year's high school seniors.

Scott Van Pelt is highlighting seniors from around the country on his 9 p.m. Sports Center to give them one last send off over the coming months. While it isn't the same, it's something. These athletes deserve to be celebrated for all the work they've put in over the years. Some have been playing their sport for over half the time they've been alive. I'd like to do the same, with the platform available to me. I'll be reaching out to Northeast Washington seniors in the coming weeks to tell their stories and all the work they put in to get to their senior season, even if they don't get to play it. If you have suggestions or contact information email sports@statesmanexaminer.com



Just a bit outside
Taylor Newquist - Sports Editor



FALLS IN THE FAMILY

(Left) Jim Potestio, (middle) Cade McKern and (right) Greg Mace play during their time with Kettle Falls boys basketball. All three share a uncle to nephew connection and were key features on four of the Bulldogs' seven runs to a state basketball tournament.

Uncle to nephew connection runs deep through Kettle Falls' state basketball appearances

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Jim Potestio rode over 300 miles to Tacoma, crammed into the back of a 1967 Firebird as a senior guard on Kettle Falls' 1969 basketball team—the second to make state in school history.

The Bulldogs would make state two of the next three years in 1970 and 1972. After that, they would have to wait 30 years to return. Potestio's nephew, Greg Mace, would lead the team to do it.

Another 17 stateless years passed for Kettle Falls basketball. It was only fitting Mace's nephew, Cade McKern, brought the Bulldogs back with the go-ahead 3-pointer to lift Kettle Falls over Lind-Ritzville/Sprague and clinch the regional round of the state tournament.

While Kettle Falls' leagues, styles of play and state venues have changed over the years—this family was constant. You couldn't tell the story of Bulldogs' basketball



Greg Mace, Cade McKern and Jim Potestio pose after Kettle Falls defeated Darrington in the regional round of the state 2B tournament.

without them.

Jim Potestio - Class of 69'

Potestio was a spot-up corner specialist, before the time of the 3-point line. In 1969 he was the senior sixth man and knocked down free throws at a 85% clip.

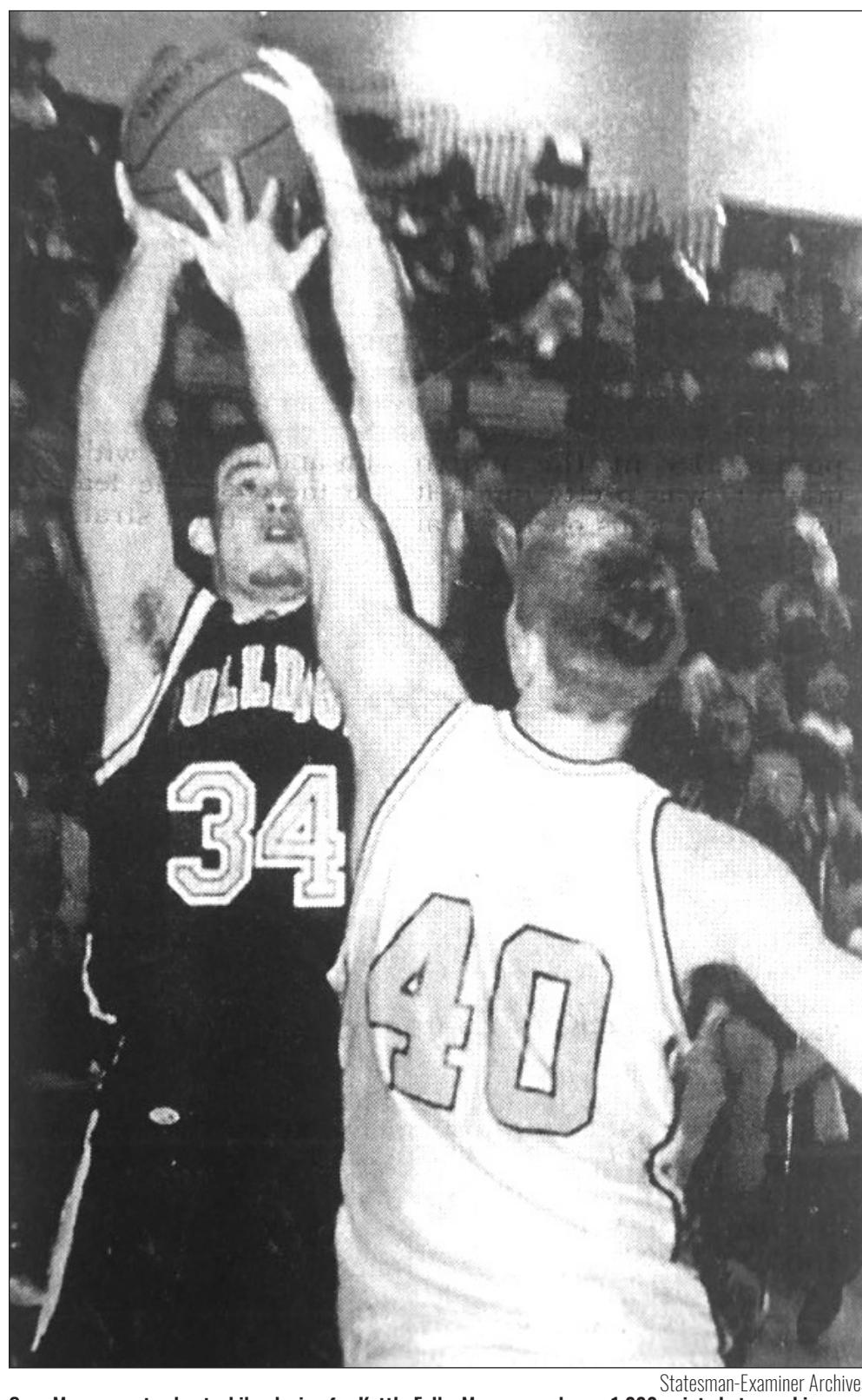
That year, the Bulldogs defeated West Valley in the district tournament. Potestio said from that point things started getting serious. The

coaches had to call a meeting in town hall. Puget Sound University. The tournament program boasted, "nearly 40,000 fans will watch the 16 best Class A teams in the state perform in four days of exciting action." Ticket prices were \$1 for students and \$1.50 to the public. The teams were: Castle Rock, Deer Park, Elma, Forks, Granger, Highland, Kettle Falls, Lynden Christian, Nooksack Valley, Omak, Onalaska, Port Townsend, Raymond, Tonasket, Waitsburg and White Pass.

Kettle Falls drew Nooksack Valley in the opening round of the tournament and lost 71-56. The Bulldogs went on to roll past Port Townsend 75-44 in the consolation round, followed by beating Tonasket 86-69. In the 5th place game, Waitsburg defeated Kettle Falls 79-67, giving the Bulldogs 8th—tied for the best finish in school history.

"We were a scoring machine," Potestio said. "Without being too humble, I was one heck of a shooter. They

See FALLS on Page B2



Statesman-Examiner Archives

Greg Mace goes to shoot while playing for Kettle Falls. Mace scored over 1,000 points between his junior and senior seasons, earning the 2003 NEA League MVP.

Falls

Continued from Front Page

had an offense built for me called 'man in the corner.'

Kettle Falls went on to make the state tournament in 1970 and 1972, losing all four of its games. While the Bulldogs were shaping up to be a small town basketball power, the run wouldn't last. It'd be 30 years before they returned, and it'd take a special team to get there.

Greg Mace - Class of 03' -

Mace played differently than his uncle Potestio; Mace played with the ball in his hands. As a junior and senior in the 2002 and 2003 seasons, he scored over 1,000 points.

But it wasn't just Mace that shared a connection to the state teams in the past. Mace's partner guard, Brad Fredrickson, had his dad and uncle had both made state. Sixth man Rodney Graves' dad had also been on a state team.

"We had all these dads that had been to state and they started molding us really early," Mace said. "We started playing AAU in the fourth grade and there were four of us at the time: Myself, Fredrickson, Cameron LeBret and Cody Slater. We were a pretty good group. We had a lot of hype around us."

Mace and his teammates were three sport athletes and traveled around to varying basketball tournaments. When they got into high school, Mace and Slater started seeing varsity time their freshman year. By their sophomore season, most of the class was on varsity. Kettle Falls made the regional round in 2001, losing to Brewster, which has become a theme in Bulldogs basketball.

Kettle Falls played in the A State tournament in the Yakima SunDome Mace's junior and senior seasons.

"What I remember about going to state, is how the whole town of Kettle Falls was so awesome," Mace said. "The support we got, people came out, we had parades and it was really cool. I remember Chris Cowbrough put in the paper that 'nobody was left in Kettle Falls'."

The 2002 State A tournament was played from Feb. 27, to March 2. Kettle Falls drew Granger in the first round and dominated the Spartans with a 49-22

win that stood as the fewest points allowed in the A tournament for a number of years. The next game, the Bulldogs lost to Zillah 48-37 and then dropped the next consolation game to Orcas Island 66-54.

Kettle Falls returned in 2003 with 12 seniors. Mace suffered a sprained ankle in the first minute of the Bulldogs' first league game. Freeman went on to win the league title, and edged the Bulldogs with league MVP Mace in double overtime of the district tournament championship.

"A lot of people at the time said it was one of the best high school basketball games they'd ever seen," Mace said. "They had a guard Pat Love, who a lot of Freeman people thought should've been league MVP. We had some bad relations with Freeman at the time."

Mace scored 34 points in the district championship, but it wasn't enough, as Love nailed a deep 3-pointer at the buzzer to take the win.

"It was ruckus," Potestio said. "I remember you [Mace] gave him a lot of room, because there was no way anyone was making that shot."

The loss forced Kettle Falls into a play-in to make the state tournament, against Lake Roosevelt, who they easily defeated.

The problem came in the regional round, where Kettle Falls' seeding that took a hit with a loss to Brewster, who went on to be crowned tournament champions.

In the opening round of state, the Bulldogs lost to Seattle Christian 63-48, who went on to beat Freeman 56-41 in the next round, and finished in second place after a 69-44 loss Brewster.

Kettle Falls defeated La Conner 53-50 and Orcas Island 67-39 in the consolation bracket, before losing to Bellevue Christian 61-48 to take 8th place.

Four of the five starters from the 2003 Bulldogs went on to play college basketball. Mace went to Walla Walla Community College, Fredrickson and Slater to Skagit Valley Community College, and Gabe Aubertin to Peninsula Community College.

"It was so awesome to be with my teammates and to make it to that point," Mace said.

Another stretch of 17 years without a state appearance hung a cloud of perennial losing over the heads of the

Bulldogs. It'd take another special senior class to bring them back to the state tournament. That brings us to Kettle Falls' 2019-20 season.

Cade McKern - Class of 20' -

The Bulldogs entered the year with seven seniors, led by two co-captains, Mace's nephew McKern and Matt Thompson. McKern grew up with the game, being used as demonstration at Kettle Falls practices, when Mace was the boys head coach in the late 2000s.

McKern and Thompson started seeing varsity action by their freshman year. By their sophomore season, classmates Carter Matney and Morgan Keller entered into the rotation. Their first three seasons combined for a 21-45 overall and 11-32 league record, never finishing in the top half of the league standings. Despite their losing history, the senior Bulldogs were poised to return to state.

"When I started playing and was young Kettle was in a bad spot," McKern said. "But hearing about Greg and Jim's team being able to go to state made me want to be able to get there someday. It made me work to do what they did and follow in their footsteps."

Kettle Falls opened the season with a 4-4 record, dropping its first two league games to Davenport and St. George's. The Bulldogs went on to win all but one of their remaining league games, finishing second place in the



Cade McKern goes to shoot against Davenport in the NE2B district tournament. McKern averaged 18.3 points a game in the Bulldogs' three loser-out wins during the district tournament.

excitement. They all could see what was on the horizon. Just one game stood in their way.

Kettle Falls hadn't won a game in the district tournament since 2006. The Bulldogs dropped their first tournament game to Colfax 73-57. Things looked bleak. Kettle Falls would have to win its next three district tournament loser-outs to make the 2B State tournament at the Spokane Arena.

The first of those games was against Reardan, who the Bulldogs hadn't played previously. Kettle Falls stormed out to a 32-21 lead at half-time, that was erased with a 20-2 run by the Indians in the third quarter. The Bulldogs were backed against the wall, trailing by seven at the start of the fourth quarter.

Kettle Falls dominated the fourth with a 23-9 run that gave the Bulldogs a 57-50 win. They did as the great, late North Carolina State head coach Jimmy Valvano once said, "survive and advance."

Thompson scored 22 points and McKern was right behind him with 18. Potestio said it was the most excited he'd seen McKern after a win.

"It just turned into this one game at a time mentality," McKern said. "Then we ended up at state and it was just unreal."

Kettle Falls played Davenport in next, cruising in the second half to a 66-44 win. With each successive basket down the stretch, the Bulldogs bench, players and stands roared with increasing

Photo by Taylor Newquist

always joked that he was a lot like me," Mace said. "We compete in everything, all of the time."

"Even when he was really little, he was always clutch. All the time. He's hard to beat at anything, so it wasn't surprising to me."

Potestio said he was a little more worried, to the sound of laughter from his nephews.

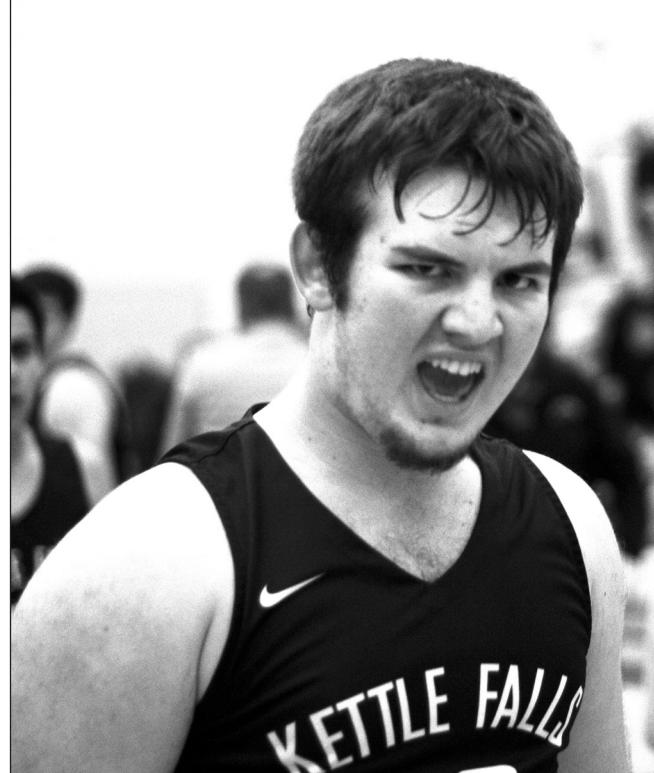
"Actually I was," Potestio said. "To be down nine points with five minutes left ... you know, he made one, then he made two ... then he made two back-to-backs and I'm thinking, 'holy cow.'"

Kettle Falls went on to lose to Colfax in the district third place game 69-57. In the regional round of the state tournament, the Bulldogs defeated Darrington 47-35 to make it to the Spokane Arena.

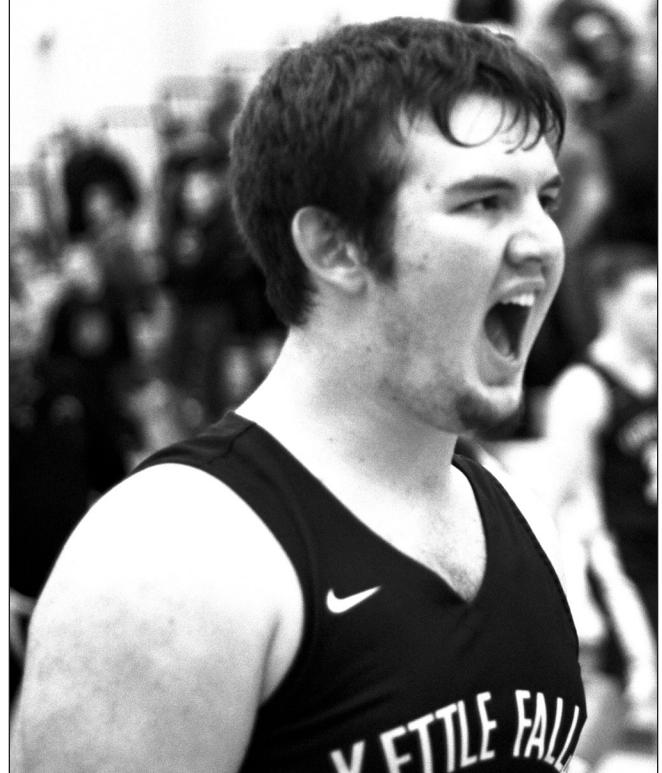
Like Mace's team had in the past, Kettle Falls drew the eventual champion Brewster, this time in a loser-out. They lost to the Bears 74-48. The last two minutes, all four of the Bulldogs' senior starters were subbed off in an emotional fashion to the sound of cheers from a loud home crowd. While bitter-sweet, it was the moment McKern and all his teammates had dreamed of and fought so hard to achieve.

"It's something you think about, but don't really feel until you're there," McKern said of walking off the court for the last time. "Everything you've done, your run is over. But you're going to remember that for the rest of your life."

Growing up the family

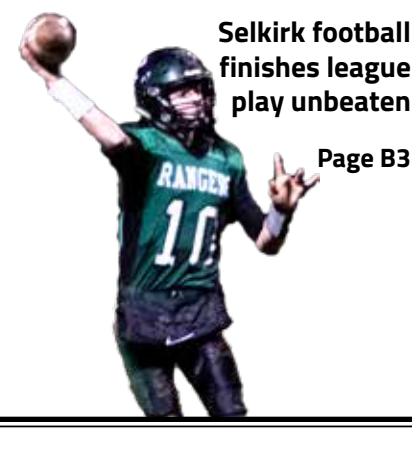


Cade McKern celebrates after defeating Lind-Ritzville/Sprague, which clinched the Bulldogs their first state berth in 17 years.



Photos by Taylor Newquist

SPORTS



Selkirk football finishes league play unbeaten

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Nov. 13, 2019

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Mix-matched mismatch

Colville seniors share shoes, bulk of offensive workload

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Colville receiver Paul Skirk and running back Grant Michaliszyn have shared a bulk of the Indians' offensive production this year, with one through the air and the other on the ground, creating an attack that has been proven difficult to stop.

The pairs' impact to their offense is well represented in their game day tradition of swapping one black and one white cleat. The style is as yin-yang on their feet

as their contributions are to the Indian offense – with an emphasis on balance.

"We realized we had the same exact cleats just opposite colors," Michaliszyn said. "I was just like, 'hey Paul what size are those?' and he said '13', which so am I."

The two started trading their cleats before the first game against Cheney and have been doing it the rest of the year as their good luck charm. The combination stands out on the field almost as much as their routinely highlight reel

plays, that saw both Michaliszyn and Skirk receive first-team all-league honors this year.

"I've never seen it before," Skirk joked. "We're starting a trend."

Whether or not their game day fashion catches on, what has already been an established trend is the two finding the end zone. At the end of the regular season, Michaliszyn and Skirk have combined for 1,571 rushing yards with 21 touchdowns and 967 receiv-

See MISMATCH on page B8

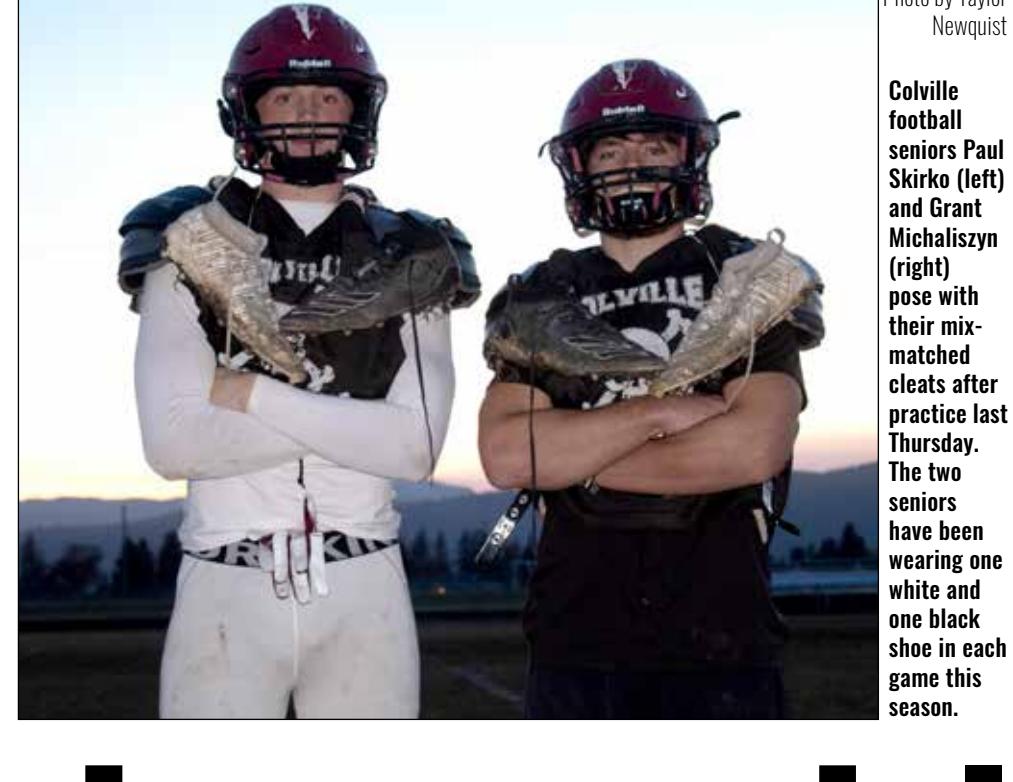


Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville football seniors Paul Skirk (left) and Grant Michaliszyn (right) pose with their mix-matched cleats after practice last Thursday. The two seniors have been wearing one white and one black shoe in each game this season.

Stone rocks winner medal

Colville senior secures 1A State Championship

Taylor Newquist
Statesman-Examiner

Coming around the second mile of the 2019 1A State Championship cross country race, Colville's Alaina Stone and Kings' Naomi Smith were running step-for-step, but after the final hill Stone was all by herself.

She crossed the finish line alone, with her arms extended victoriously to the sky. Stone achieved her long-time goal of becoming state champion with a time of 17:39.60 minutes. It was a moment she said she's pictured so many times before.

"I've wanted it for so long, so bad," Stone said. "I've taken second to (Smith) so many times I was like, 'I have to take her, I have to do it.' Naomi has been the one for me, ever since I got second, I had eyes on her every day."

Smith was the defending 1A state champion, beating Stone by just under 11 seconds at the same course a year ago. It was the only 5K race that Stone has lost in the last two years, and this time around she wasn't going to be second. Stone improved on her 2018 state championship time of 18:27.30 minutes significantly, while Smith came in eight seconds slower than her 2018 run.

The competition between the two runners (who consistently were ranked in the top five girls statewide despite their 1A classification) is fierce, but after the race is settled their mutual respect and appreciation for one-another shines through. Stone's commanding lead on the final mile came after Smith fell down. The two were pushing each other so hard that Stone said she wanted to stop and help her up.

"It made me so sad I wanted to stop," Stone said. "I didn't speed up because I wanted her to be up there again, but I was really proud of her when she got back up."

Despite the fall, Smith still finished second place with a time of 18:24.0.

"It's been fun to have competition on the other side of the mountains," Smith said about her battles with Stone. "We snapchat each other and stuff, so definitely we have a good relationship and it's been fun."

Stone was a member of the Colville girls' first team state championship in 2017, where she placed eighth as a sophomore. Now, she is the only Indian in school history to win an individual cross country championship.

Stone's 2019 championship race goes down as the 16th fastest 5K girls time recorded at Sun Willows Golf Course, and was only beat by North Central's Allie Janke (17:26.80) and Issaquah's Julia David Smith (17:26.20) on Saturday.

Stone has all winter to soak up her win, and will hope to make a similar stride in track and field in the spring, improving on a third place 1,600-meters and fourth place 3,200-meters at state a year ago.



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville cross country senior Alaina Stone receives her first place medal, after winning the 2019 1A State Championship at Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco last Saturday. Stone finished with a time of 17:39.60 minutes, the third fastest time by any girl runner across all classifications.

Newport stuns Colville in district first round

Prep volleyball

**Taylor Newquist**
Statesman-Examiner

Everything was going to plan for Colville volleyball in the opening round of the Northeast A League District Tournament – until it didn't.

The No. 3 seed Indians jumped out to a 2-0 lead over No. 6 seed Newport at Freeman High School, winning the first two sets with scores 25-17 and 25-23. The Grizzlies answered

back with a 25-21 win in the third set and a 27-25 win in the fourth set. Colville seemed confident and comfortable for a majority of the match, but as the end of the fourth set came, Newport had captured all the momentum and belief its players needed to pull off the upset.

The Grizzlies won the fifth set 15-11. It took a couple of minutes for the shock and disbelief to wash away from the Indians' faces, to be replaced with the realization their season was over.

"I feel like I'm at a loss for words," Colville head coach Jacquie Bassett said. "Just because the team that performed tonight is not the team that I

saw throughout the season, or even saw practicing yesterday. My heart is broken for the girls, because they worked so hard the whole season and had that goal set that they were going to make it to state."

A similar result ended the Indians 2017 season, as they lost in the first round to No. 6 seed Deer Park 3-1. The difference came in that the NEA league had eight teams at the time instead of seven as it does now. That year the Stags finished (6-8, 7-10), while this year's Newport team finished (2-10, 5-12). Colville also swept the Grizzlies twice in the regular

See UPSET on page B2



Photo by Taylor Newquist

Colville senior Molly Schauls looks to the scoreboard after the Indians scored a point against Newport in the opening round of the NEA District Tournament last Wednesday.