

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MARCH 13

State Basketball Special Edition

WHITMAN COUNTY

GAZETTE

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Vikings finish 3rd, Wildcats take 5th See Page A3

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Second in state

Warden Cougars too tough to handle in title game



BY JIM STINSON
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

SPOKANE — If a school's tournament experience has anything to do with results, the Warden Cougars would have been in terrible trouble against the Colfax Bulldogs in the 2022 girls state 2B championship game.

This year's tournament was the school's girls first appearance ever in Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

The Warden boys had never made a trip to the Arena either.

Meanwhile, the Colfax Bulldogs girls have appeared in 10 State "B" tournaments, winning four, and in their days in the 1A classification, they qualified to play in 20 tournaments and won five.

In Saturday night's girls championship game, Warden played like a tourney veteran, winning 70-55.

In a well-attended game, Colfax started scoring 16 first-quarter points and led by 2 at the end of the period.

Asher Cai led the way with 9.

Then the Bulldogs found out what Warden was all about.

The Cougars came into the tournament with only one loss — losing to Liberty (Spangle) in the regional.

No one had been able to handle Warden's full-court press, and Colfax was added to the list.

In the first 4:10 of the quarter the Cougars scored 22 straight points. When the dust kind of settled, they had a 36-16 lead.

Traps, steals, and offensive rebounds were Warden's claim to fame and the Bulldogs couldn't handle the pressure.

They went 6:19 without scoring.

Lauryn York's 2 free throws ended the drought, but the halftime score had Colfax down 38-25.

Warden continued to pull ahead in the third quarter, led by the Madson sisters, Lauryn and Jaryn, who are the Warden coach's daughters.

Between them for the game, they were 7-for-17 from the 3-point line and had 7 steals on the press.

Colfax had a difficult time getting the ball inside to outstanding post,



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Colfax girls basketball team received the second-place state 2B trophy Saturday in Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena after falling to Warden, 70-55.

Brynn McGaughy, and had to settle for 3s.

They connected on only 3-of-20.

Colfax continued to battle in the fourth, outscoring Warden by 2 points.

Coach Jordan Holmes was proud of her way the Bulldogs played in the second half, but they dug themselves too big a hole.

Colfax ended up

turning the ball over 20 times and hit only 27.6% from the floor.

However, the future looks great for the Bulldogs as they have only two seniors — Cai and Hannah Baerlocher — and the sky is the limit for the talented Mc-Gaughy.

Asher closed out her outstanding career, scoring 72 points in the three state games, making 22-

of-24 free throws and eight 3-point shots.

She added 21 rebounds, 6 assists and usually guarded the opponents best player.

She is one of the best players to ever wear the blue and gold, and it is disappointing she lost out on two seasons because of COVID-19 mandates.

She will be headed to Ellensburg next fall to play for Central Wash-

ington.

Colfax 67, Raymond 34

The Colfax girls began their trophy run with a bye then a 67-34 victory in the quarterfinals.

Thanks to their regional round win at University High in Spokane, the Bulldogs drew the Raymond Seagulls in

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OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Colfax boys basketball team received the fourth-place state 2B trophy Saturday in Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena after dunking Columbia (Burbank), 80-45.

Lustig carries Colfax boys to fourth

Bulldogs lose state opening game, but close with two wins

BY JIM STINSON
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

SPOKANE — If the state "B" Basketball Tournament was still played in the old wonderful 4-day, 16-team double-elimination format, Colfax senior guard-forward John Lustig might have been close to a record-shattering performance.

The future star to be

at Lewis & Clark State College was the focus of small school fans from around the state that ventured to Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena last weekend for state hoops.

Even though he didn't lead the Bulldogs to a state title, he easily won the scoring title and gained a great appreciation of his talent by the well entertained crowd.

Lustig scored in about every manner possible, 3-pointers (9-for-16), reverse layups, breakaways, corner jumpers, elbow shots and 6 rim-rattling dunks.

He made 71 % of his shots (41-for-58) and totaled 110 points in the Bulldogs' three state games.

Brock Rivet of Kittitas previously set the three-day record of 117 points.

John also added 17 assists and 34 rebounds.

His only disappointment was that the Bulldogs didn't win it all and had to settle for fourth-place.

In his final high school game, Lustig had lots of help from teammates — especially back-courter Damian Demler,

who made nine 3-pointers and scored 31 points.

With John Lustig and Demler leading the way, Colfax got in front early against a young Columbia (Burbank) team with two freshman starters and led 22-8 at the quarter and 37-26 at the half.

Defensive pressure and hot shooting put the game away in the third quarter as the Bulldogs outscored the Coyotes 25 to 9 and coasted to a 80-45 win.

The highlight of the

Continued on Page A5

Pullman takes second in 2A

Greyhounds top North Kitsap, Prosser in SunDome

BY ROGER HARNACK
GAZETTE PUBLISHER

YAKIMA — The Pullman Greyhounds boys basketball team shocked No. 1-ranked North Kitsap on Friday, March 4, in the state 2A semifinals.

But a second upset wasn't in the cards, as the Greyhounds ended up coming home to Pullman with a second-place trophy.

Pullman, the No. 4-seed, opened post-season with a with a 61-50 regional win over No. 5 Tumwater to get into the state tournament in the Yakima Valley Sun-Dome.

In the quarterfinals, the Greyhounds dominated the Prosser Mustangs, 78-48, to continue their quest for a state trophy.

They weren't expected to beat top-ranked North Kitsap, but the Greyhounds dominated the game, winning 69-53, for a championship berth.

In the final game, Pullman faced No. 2-ranked Lynden.

Lynden won, 51-34, but the Greyhounds stayed close during the first half.

Lynden held Pull-

man to just 5 first-quarter points; but the Lions couldn't pull away, putting up only 9 of their own.

By the half, Lynden had a 20-16 lead.

The Lions added to the margin in the third and fourth quarters, to win 51-34.

The loss was the only one of three the Greyhounds had all season.

Pullman did not report individual statistics.

Lynden sophomore Anthony Canales led all scorers with 15 points.

He also had 6 rebounds, 2 steals and a block.

Canales was named the state 2A tournament Most Valuable Player.

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Reigning state 2B girls champion settles for 5th-place

Lancers lose their final state game to Okanogan, 56-52

BY JIM STINSON
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

SPOKANE — The Liberty Lancer girls have beaten the best and have been beaten by the best this season.

The Spangle-based Liberty team was 1-2 against league rival Colfax and defeated No. 2 ranked Warden in regional action, handing the Cougars their only loss of the year.

After losing to Colfax again in the semifinals round of the state 2B tournament, the Lancers matched up with No. 4 Okanogan in the battle for third-place.

Liberty jumped out to a 17-7 lead after the first quarter.

But the Lancers cooled off in the second quarter and the Bulldogs clawed their way back in it, down 28-23 at the half.

The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first as the teams shot poorly from the field.

Okanogan took its first lead of the game on a jumper by Aleena Lafferty with 6:20 left in the third quarter.

The lead changed hands nine times in the quarter, and Liberty led 41-40, heading into the game's final eight minutes.

A putback bucket by the Bulldogs' Sydney Sparks opened the fourth quarter and Okanogan never trailed again, winning a close one, 56-52.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Okanogan's Alex Goetz passes the ball around Lancer Grace Grumble, who blocked the baseline.

Teagan Colvin led Liberty with 28 points, making 10-of-12 free throws. Ellie Denny added 16.

Loss to Colfax
Liberty took one on the chin, dropping a 74-49 game to Colfax.

The Lancers trailed 15-6 at the end of the first quarter and were down 36-19 at the half.

The Bulldogs had four players hit for double figures, led by Brynn McGaughy, who drained 22 points.

She also pulled down

14 rebounds.

Colvin led the way for Liberty with 24 points.

Win over Chief Leschi
Despite shooting poorly, the Lancers had a reasonably easy time defeating No. 8-seeded Chief Leschi, 53-42.

Liberty's shutdown defense allowed the Warriors just 17 points through the first three quarters.

Chief Leschi turned the ball over 15 times and was out-rebounded 44 to 33.

Colvin paced the Lib-



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Liberty girls basketball team receives the fifth-place trophy in Spokane.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Lancer Teagan Colvin goes up for a layup during state 2B play.

erty attack with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

Grace Grumbly added 16 points, and Denny finished 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Continued from Front Page

Colfax girls finish second in state 2B

their state-opener.

Highly rated Raymond came in with an 18-2 record, but lost to Okanogan in the regional, thus losing their higher seed.

The Seagulls were led by Kyra Gardner, a 5-foot-11 senior guard, who is headed to Pullman next year to play for the Washington State University Cougars.

The future Coug was not enough to contend with what the Bulldogs had to offer.

Raymond had no defense for Colfax, and 6-foot-2 freshman McGaughy entertained the crowd thoroughly the whole game, as she scored on a huge variation of post moves and short jumpers.

She shot 12-21 from the field, made 3-of-4 free throws for 27 points and had 18 rebounds — 7 offensive and 11 defensive.

She tipped in several misses and was quick throwing the outlet passes. Many of those were to Cai, who scored on several breakaway layups. Cai made four 3s and had 22 points.

Colfax played outstanding defense, holding Gardner to an 8-for-24 shooting day, and the Seagulls made only 22.2% of their shots.

Raymond managed only 5 points in the third quarter.

All 12 of the Bulldogs saw a good deal of playing time.

Semi-finals

The Bulldog's first day win set up a rematch with their Northeast 2B District rival and neighbor to the north, the defending state champion Liberty Lancers from Spangle.

The teams had played three times during the season, with Liberty winning a game that was classified as a non-league battle, and Colfax winning the two league contests, 60-53 and 76-39.

Those were the only two losses Liberty had all year.

Colfax would win this matchup, too, 74-49.

McGaughy continued her superb play by making 7-of-13 shots from the



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Colfax's Harper Booth is fouled as she comes down with a rebound. Below, Bulldogs senior Asher Cai goes up for a jumpshot over Liberty's Grace Grumble during the state 2B tournament in Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.

field and put in 8-of-9 free throws for 22 points.

But it was her work on the boards that was most outstanding, as she grabbed 13 rebounds, setting up the Bulldog fast break.

Cai and Jaisha Gibb were the recipient of many of the passes, scoring 15 and 17 points, respectively.

If you throw in Hailley Demler's 13 points on 3-for-3 long shots, it was a great offensive day.

Colfax was 19-for-24 from the line and out rebounded the Lancers, 42-29.

It was another fine defensive day for the Bulldogs, as they held Liberty to 25% from the field.

Teagan Colvin was the best weapon the Lancers had, as she made 15 of 16 free throws, but was held to making 4-of-17 from the field.

Colfax led 36-19 at the half and seemed to



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Garfield-Palouse girls bring home 3rd-place trophy

BY OLIVIA HARNACK
GAZETTE REPORTER

SPOKANE — The Garfield-Palouse girls knocked off one higher seeded team in the state 1B tournament to come home with a third-place trophy Saturday, March 5.

The No. 5 Vikings opened with a 40-35 win over the No. 6 Mossyrock Vikings in the state quarterfinals.

The Garfield-Palouse girls opened the game with a 13-4 first quarter lead and took a 27-14 lead into halftime. The other Vikings closed the margin in the third quarter, outscoring the Whitman County team, 14-5.

But in the final quarter, Garfield-Palouse held Mossyrock to just 7 points to win, 40-35.

“Our team really held a strong defense during that second half,” Coach Garret Parris said. “Strong enough just for us to maintain that lead.”

Kenzi Pedersen had a double-double, scoring 24 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Teammate MacKenzie Collier added 9 points, Maci Brantner 4 and Madi Cloninger 3.

Mossyrock was paced by Caelyn Marshall with 11 points and Hailey Brooks with 10.

“Ultimately, it's the state championship. Whether you win by 100 or by 1, as long as you win, you get to go to the next day and keep playing,” Parrish said. “You keep battling and fighting.”

The win propelled Garfield-Palouse into the semifinals against the No. 1-seeded Mount Vernon Christian Hurricanes.

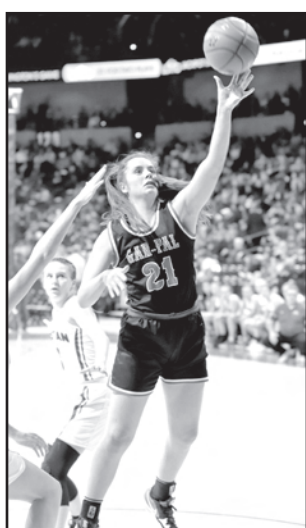
The game went back and fourth, with the Hurricanes taking a 20-18 lead into halftime.

The Hurricanes added 1 point to the margin and then 3 more in the fourth for the 38-32 win. Pederson led all scor-



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Garfield-Palouse girls basketball team finished third in the state 1B basketball tournament in Spokane on March 5.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Garfield-Palouse's Kenzi Pedersen goes up for a shot during state play.

ers with 19 points; Cloninger had 9. Teammates Kara Blomberg scored 3 points and Brantner 1.

Brantner led the Vikings with 12 rebounds, followed by Pedersen with 9 and Collier with 6. Cloninger had 4 rebounds and Kennedy Cook and Blomberg 1.

The loss dropped the Vikings into the game for third place against league nemesis, Colton.

The Wildcats came into the tournament seeded No. 2.

The first quarter had little action as the familiar foes kept scoring to a minimum, with the Wildcats nabbing a 4-3 edge.

But the second quarter was all Vikings, as Garfield-Palouse posted 14 points, while holding Colton to just 7.

At the half, the Vikings led, 17-11.

In the third quarter, Colton awoke, shutting down the entire Viking offense and keeping their rival to zero points.

Despite the overwhelming defensive effort, the Wildcats couldn't take the league, as their own offense only put up 5 points — just enough to tie the score at 17.

But the momentum swung back to the Vikings, as they outpaced the Wildcats, 11-6, for the final score of 28-22.

Pedersen led all scorers with 11 points, while also nabbing 11 rebounds.

Cloninger added 6 points, Brantner 4, Blomberg and Cook 3 each and Collier 1.

Brantner and Cloninger each had 9 rebounds, and Collier had 4. Cook, Blomberg and Zoe Laughary each had 1.

After the win, the girls received their trophy on the floor of Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Viking Mackenzie Collier drives past Colton's Maggie Meyer in the game for third-place.

Colton girls end year 5th in state

BY ROGER HARNACK
GAZETTE REPORTER

SPOKANE — The District 9 presence was felt in the state tournament, with Colton having to face league rivals Pomeroy and Garfield-Palouse during the four-day tournament.

The Wildcats opened their state 1B basketball tournament with a bye, then immediately faced Pomeroy.

Unbeknownst to the players, No. 2-ranked Colton's 57-43 win over the No. 8 Pirates would pave the way for Pomeroy to place higher at state.

Colton opened the state tournament in Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena by dominated Pomeroy.

The Wildcats had a 13-5 lead after one quarter and a 30-18 lead at the half. The Pirates closed the margin by a

point in the third, but Colton opened the game up in the final stanza for a 57-43 victory.

Colton's Maggie Meyer led all scorers with 25 points. Teammate Mary Pluid had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. And Kyndra Stout added another 16 points and 7 rebounds.

The win advanced Colton to the semifinals against the No. 3-ranked Neah Bay Red Devils.

Colton jumped out to a 12-9 lead, but had slipped behind 24-17 by halftime.

The Red Devils kept up the pace, adding 4 to the margin in the third.

Colton was stronger in the fourth, but couldn't close the gap enough for a win.

Neah Bay held the Wildcats to 3-of-14 shooting beyond the arc, while fencing off the key.

Meyers led all scor-



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Colton girls basketball team receives the fifth-place state 1B trophy on Saturday, March 5.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Colton's Kyndra Stout drives between two Neah Bay defenders in the 1B state semifinals Friday.

ers with 27 points. Stout added 8 and Lola Baerlocher 1.

Neah Bay's Allie Greene posted 13 points. Oceana Aguirre had 10 and Amber Swan 8 for Neah Bay.

Colton's final game was against cross-county and league rival, Garfield-Palouse.

The Vikings won that matchup, 28-22.

Meyer led Colton with 7 points in the loss, followed by Pluid with 6, Baerlocher 4, Stout 3 and Sidni Whitcomb 2.

Pluid led with 7 rebounds, followed by Stout with 6 and Whitcomb 5.

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Liberty Lancers crowned state 2B boys champion

BY JIM STINSON
GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT

SPOKANE — Tayshawn Colvin scored a game-high 28 points and the Liberty (Spangle) Lancers got past the Brewster Bears, 64-55, at the Spokane Arena on Saturday, March 5, to claim the school's second state championship.

The last title for the boys was in 1986 when Liberty beat Bi-County League rival Reardan, 61-44.

The Lancers are a ragged group that often played like tough football players.

They reluctantly give up easy scores, and such was the case in this game as Brewster had to move the ball well to get their points.

The Bears were somewhat handicapped with their leading scorer and rebounder, Kelson Gebbers, nursing a badly sprained ankle suffered in a quarterfinal match-up with Toutle Lake.

Neither team was burning nets in the first half.

Liberty was especially cold, hitting just 22% from the floor and was 0-1 from 3-point range.

The Lancers trailed by double-digits, 27-17 at the half.

Gebbers, obviously hurting, led all scorers with 12 points.

Liberty remained relatively cold in the third period, but Brewster was even more frigid, making only 38% of its shots.

The Lancers heated up in the final period scoring 27 points on 7-of-15 shots from beyond the



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Brewster's Adaih Najera looks for a way around Liberty's Jake Jeske in the boys 2B championship game Saturday.

arc and knocking down some key shots at the free thrown line.

All of the Liberty players who suited up for the game took home the 'Gold Ball' for winning the championship.

Semi-finals

Colvin scored 34 points, Lincoln Foland added 17, and the Lancers beat Morton-White Pass 75-65 in semi-final action.

Liberty needed to have their running shoes on for his one, as Timberwolves were going full-speed the entire game.

The Lancers held a slim 26-24 lead at the half, then went on a 22-1 run in the third period to break things open, 48-25.

Morton-White Pass battled back in the final 10 minutes of the contest, but could not overcome



ROGER HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Liberty boys celebrate their state title on the floor of Spokane Veteran Memmriol Arena on Saturday. At right, Lancer fans cheer.

the Lancers' lead.

Quarter-finals

In the Lancers' opening game, Liberty trailed a young talented Lake Roosevelt team 30-26 at the break.

But after an inspiring halftime speech by Coach Jared Hodl, the Lancers took charge, outscoring the Raiders, 43-26 over the third and fourth pe-



Colton Marsh was the big gun for Liberty with 19 points and 16 rebounds. The Bulldogs chased away with it, 73-52.

Continued from Front Page

Senior Lustig leads Colfax to fourth-place state trophy

game may have been a well-executed lob play where John's younger brother Seth Lustig threw a pass about a foot above the rim and John caught it one-handed and threw it through the rim. The crowd exploded.

The Bulldogs graciously accepted the fourth-place trophy.

Quarterfinals

Colfax took on the No. 5-seeded Morton-White Pass Timberwolves in their quarterfinal match.

The Timberwolves played a Wednesday loser-out game against Northwest Christian (Colbert) and came away with a 67-50.

The Timberwolves had played Brewster in the regional and lost by only 8, so the Bulldogs knew they had a tough game.

The score was knotted at 17 after one period and Colfax was able to pull ahead at the half and led by 5.

But in the second half Morton-White Pass used their size advantage to control the boards and their speedy guards to slow the Bulldog attack.

The Timberwolves struggled on outside shooting, managing only 15% from the 3-point line, but they shot 50% from field in the second half.

Colfax only managed 40%.

Morton-White Pass also missed several game clinching free-throws in the final couple of minutes of the game and the Bulldogs were unable to capitalize.

Final score: Morton-White Pass 64, Colfax



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

Colfax senior John Lustig dunks the ball over the top of Columbia (Burbank) Coyote's Elijah Kinsey.

60. Colfax was led by John Lustig's 40 points, as his teammates were only able to add 20 to the total.

He also fouled out of the contest with a minute to go in the game and his teammates were unable to perform any last second heroics.



OLIVIA HARNACK | THE GAZETTE

The Bulldogs Damian Demler drives the baseline past Coyote Michael Lenke.

Loser-out game

The Friday loser-out game between Colfax and Lake Roosevelt may have been the best game of the tournament, as the Bulldogs came out on top 79-77.

There was plenty of last-second action that left many fans scratching their heads. Both teams demonstrated superior shooting during the entire game, as the Raiders shot 55.1% from the field, 47.4% from the 3-point line and were 14-15 from the free throw line.

They had five players in double-figures, led by two players named Chase — March and Clark.

The Bulldogs chased

them all afternoon.

Colfax shot even better than Lake Roosevelt with 59% from the field, 55% from 3 and 62% from the line.

The half-time score was 39-33 in favor of Colfax and the Raiders led by one after three quarters, 56-55.

The score in the game was tied nine times and the lead changed 15 times.

Things definitely got interesting the last couple of minutes the lead changed several times during that time.

On their final possession with 12.3 seconds on the clock, John Lustig hit two free throws to put Colfax ahead 79-77.

The Raiders got the ball down court quickly, Clark drove to the basket got a shot off and made it.

The official on the side of the court called an offensive foul.

No basket! Game over — Colfax won, 79-77, advancing to the semifinals.

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Northwest Grain Growers 4 Park St., St. John 509-648-3316 "Congratulations Whitman County!"	RE/MAX Home and Land Colfax and Pullman 710 S.E. Bishop Blvd., Pullman 509-432-6052	Tick Klock Drug 109 S. Main St., Colfax, 509-397-2111	The Courtyard 300 S Main St., Colfax WA 509-397-6123 "Congratulations Bulldogs!"	Jones Trucking & Implement 425 W. Walla Walla Hwy., Colfax 509-397-4371	Folsom Ace Hardware 610 S. Main St., Colfax 509-397-4102
			Bank of Eastern Washington 803 N. Main St., Colfax 509-397-4681 "Congratulations Bulldogs!"	Pullman Grocery Outlet 1450 S. Grand Ave., Pullman 509-336-2274	Palouse Family Foods 215 E. Main St., Palouse 509-878-2012
					Sam Dial Jewelers 255 E. Main St. #101, Pullman 509-334-3425

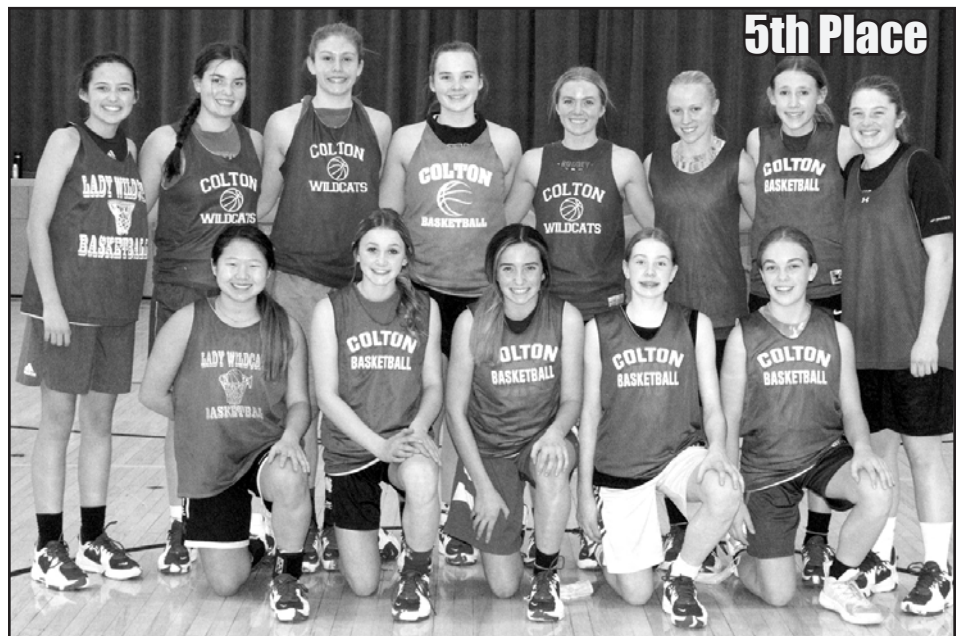


GARFIELD-PALOUSE GIRLS

1B



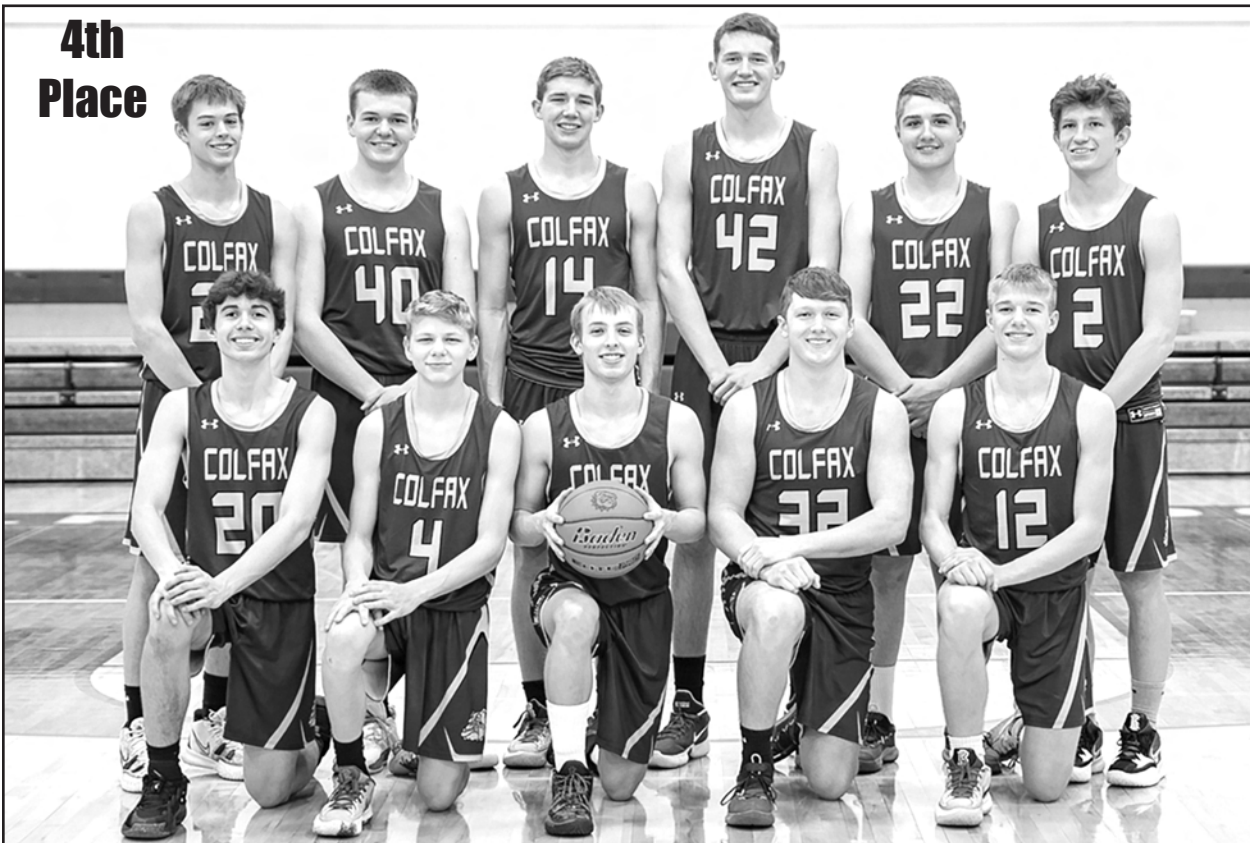
COLTON GIRLS



The Garfield-Palouse Vikings girls basketball team, from left, includes, front row, Emma Orfe, Camryn Blankenchip, Lola Edwards, Rayona Turner, Hailey Beckner and Ella Cuellar; and back row, Kara Blomgren, Zoe Laughary, Kennedy Cook, Kenzi Pedersen, Maci Brantner, MaKenzie Collier and Madi Cloninger.

The Colton Wildcats girls basketball team, from left, is front row, Sidni Whitcomb, Grace Kuhle, Leah Musson, Eloise Clark and Holly Heitstuman; and back row, Clair Moehrle, Kaydee Heitstuman, Kyndra Stout, Mary Pluid, Maggie Meyer, Lola Baerlocher, Ella Nollmeyer, Grace Demeeler. Not Pictured are Rori Weber and Kiya Soza.

COLFAX BOYS



2B



#	Name	YR	POS
2	Damian Demler	SR	G
4	Carson Gray	JR	G
10	J.D. Petersen	JR	G
12	Seth Lustig	SO	G
14	John Lustig	SR	G
20	Bradyn Hellsberg	SO	G
22	Trace Hennigar	JR	F
24	Jaxon Wick	SO	G
32	Mason Gilchrist	JR	F
40	Drew Vantine	JR	F
42	J.P. Wigen	SO	F
	Reece Jenkin		Coach