

Skyview back in state quarterfinals

Storm beat Skyline, reach final 8 for first time since 2016

The Columbian

When describing the work it takes to get to this point in the season — for the Skyview Storm, a place it hasn't been since 2016 — senior Jerrid Secor used an iceberg for an analogy.

"A lot of people see the little stuff up top," the senior defensive back said, "but so much stuff goes into it week in and week out.

"It feels great just to keep moving forward."

And moving forward into the Class 4A state quarterfinals is what the Storm are doing after a 42-7 convincing first-round victory over Skyline on Saturday afternoon. Skyview (10-1) overall hasn't been this far into the postseason since the 2016 team reached the



HOWARD HAWK/for The Columbian

Skyview's Cameron Crooks brings down Skyline's Luke Morgan during Saturday's game at Kiggins Bowl.

state semifinals. It faces Eastlake, a 21-18 winner Saturday over Sumner, next weekend in the 4A state quarterfinals.

"This feels awesome," said senior Micah Robison, who had two of the team's three interceptions on the day. "We're coming out here and proving ourselves right now."

Skyview raced out to a 28-0 halftime lead behind the quarterback-to-receiver connection of Jake Kennedy and Gavin Packer. The duo connected on touchdowns of 19, 82, and 14 yards.

MOUNT SI 31, CAMAS 14 — Momentum favored visiting Mount Si early in Saturday's Class 4A state playoff game. When the Wildcats got

FOOTBALL

a taste of the lead, it snowballed into something greater — something the Papermakers were never able to fully stop.

No. 14 seed Mount Si stormed through Doc Harris Stadium and dealt No. 3 Camas its first loss since the opening week of the season. The Wildcats (8-3), who will face No. 6 Kamiakin in the state quarterfinals, scored four first-half touchdowns and led by as many as 31 points before the Papermakers (9-2) responded with a pair of second-half touchdowns in the season-ending defeat.

"In the playoffs, you've got to play your best football," Camas coach Jack Hathaway said. "I just feel for them (the players), and we gotta take some (responsibility) as coaches; we didn't

prepare them. You turn the ball over and you have a bad half of football, you go home in the playoffs."

Class 3A

KENNEWICK 27, MOUNTAIN VIEW 12 — Kennewick began the third quarter with a kickoff return for a touchdown to take the lead for good in the teams' Class 3A first-round state playoff football game at Lampson Stadium.

Cooper Neer's kickoff return gave the Lions a 9-6 lead seconds into the third quarter after the Thunder held a 6-3 halftime advantage. After taking their 9-6 lead, Kennewick outscored Mountain View 18-6 the rest of the way.

Class 2A

CLARKSTON 44, WOODLAND 6 — Woodland, the 2A Greater St. Helens League champion, saw its season end on the road.

It was Woodland's first

trip to the state playoffs since 2005 as a Class 1A program.

The Beavers (8-3) committed seven turnovers, including two interceptions returned for touchdowns by Clarkston in the first half. The Bantams raced out to a 23-0 halftime advantage.

Class 1A

SETON CATHOLIC 56, KING'S 48 — A season of firsts continues for Seton Catholic.

Another first happened in Shoreline — its upset victory was its first in the state playoffs and sends the Cougars to next weekend's state quarterfinals, where it'll face No. 4-seed Cashmere.

Seton (10-1) held multiple 20-point leads against King's, including 34-14, 41-21 and 48-28. The latter came on Ryker Ruleas' 20-yard touchdown reception with 11 minutes, 53 seconds left in the fourth quarter that gave Seton its 48-28 lead.

2A/1A State Volleyball



MICAH RICE/The Columbian

Columbia River's Lauren Dreves holds the Class 2A volleyball state championship trophy after the title match against Ridgefield Saturday in Yakima.

River rolls to third straight title

Dreves caps prep career in title match against Ridgefield

By MICAH RICE
The Columbian

YAKIMA — A perfect ending to a near-perfect season.

One constant through Columbia River volleyball's recent run of Class 2A state championships has been Lauren Dreves.

The precocious sophomore on the 2021 championship team grew into the engine that fired River's repeat title run last year.

So there was no doubt who would seal Columbia River's third straight championship Saturday at the Yakima Valley SunDome.

Coach Breanne Smedley made sure of that. She told setter Macey McCoy to target Dreves' No. 5 on the final point of a three-set sweep of Ridgefield in Saturday's title match.

"I said to Macey, go to Five," Smedley said. "Let her finish this."

And with her final kill, the Auburn-bound senior finished one of the most dominant seasons in Washington high school volleyball history.

The Rapids not only won

all 24 matches this season, they lost just one set.

They were hardly tested over two days at the annual gathering of the state's best. That was especially true in the final against their 2A Greater St. Helens League rival who had just reached its fifth consecutive title match.

Columbia River took the first set 25-14, then got even stingier. The Rapids won the second set 25-8 and the third set 25-7 against a Spudders team that took the lone set off River this season in last weekend's district title match.

Not once in the tournament did Columbia River

look any less than the most dominant team in the state, perhaps in any classification. The Rapids became the first team Class 2A or larger to win three consecutive state titles since Bellarmine Prep in 2012-14.

"It's just unbelievable," Dreves said. "This team worked so hard. We had such a big target on our back. ... But we just focused on each other and got it done."

The Rapids were never rattled during two wins Friday or a semifinal sweep against Burlington-Edison when they led 14-0 in the first set.

Though Dreves is the

team's star, she is among five seniors who have reached uncharted heights in the program's history. Ellie Ogee, Evelyn Wenger, Logan DeJong and McCoy also ended their high school careers at the summit on Saturday.

"I've played with these seniors for so long," Dreves said. "This is just the best ending I could ever have."

Not to be overlooked was a resilient Ridgefield team.

For the third straight match the Spudders lost the first set in the semifinals against Lynden. But Ridgefield turned the tide and won in four sets (23-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-20).

ROUNDUP

Yamada wins state swim title

The Columbian

FEDERAL WAY — A couple of years ago, Ridgefield High School didn't even have a swim program, so just to have swimmers competing at the state meet was a win for the Spudders.

Now, the Spudders have a state champion.

Rebecca Yamada cut nearly a second off her preliminary

time to win the 100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute, 8.86 seconds, outdistancing the field by almost three seconds.

Coming from Arizona, it was definitely a different atmosphere to get used to, and just the overall feel of the pool and the competition," Yamada said. "So overall I'm just really happy with how I did this year and I how did here."

Yamada's teammate Meade Rusu cut two seconds off her preliminary time in the 200 individual medley, finishing just ahead of Yamada for third place in 2:14.45. Yamada was fourth in 2:15.46.

Rusu also placed fourth in the 100 backstroke (1:01.99). Then the Yamada and Rusu capped off the day with a fourth-place finish in the 400 free relay with Julia Smith and another new face to the program, Federica Catalano.

Girls Soccer

Columbia River clinched its seventh straight trip to the Final Four with a 3-0 victory over R.A. Long at John O'Rourke Field.

Columbia River avenged its only loss of the season, which came to the Lumberjills in the district tournament eight days earlier.

Columbia River notched the first goal of the game in the ninth minute on a penalty-kick goal by Ivy Henderson. Johnson and Juliana Rapp notched second-half goals for Columbia River.

LA CENTER 1, CASHMERE 0 — Shaela Bradley scored the lone goal of the match in the first half and the defense made it stand up as the La Center girls soccer team clinched its first berth in the Class 1A state semifinals.

Sophia Johnson recorded six saves in goal for the Wildcats.

Third place heralds new era of success for La Center

By MICAH RICE
The Columbian

YAKIMA — The next great generation of La Center volleyball has arrived.

The Wildcats wrapped up their most successful state tournament in three decades on Saturday at the Yakima Valley SunDome.

La Center finished third, beating Meridian in four sets after falling to Freeman in the Class 1A semifinals earlier in the day.

The last time La Center

fares so well was a three-year run from 1993-95 that saw the Wildcats place third, first and third.

La Center head coach Cymany O'Brien was on the 1993 squad. Several mothers of current Wildcats were on those teams as well.

"It's so cool to think that the last time we got third place was when my mom was in high school," junior Billie Ross said. "It's so cool that all of our hard work paid off."

Ross led La Center with

13 kills and four blocks in the third-place match. She's part of a large junior class that aims to build off a 23-1 record similar to how this year's team improved from an eighth-place finish at last year's state tournament.

Lauren Hudson and Sofia Van Zant are the Wildcats' lone seniors. Hudson is proud of the progress she has seen.

"I think we left something good," Hudson said. "We instilled great leadership. We acted like big sis-

ters to these younger girls. I can't wait for Billie and the other juniors to take over next year. I think they're going to go far."

After dropping the first set 25-23 to Meridian (17-6), La Center rebounded to win the next two sets 25-14 and 25-19.

The Wildcats caught fire in the fourth set. Ross served for 16 consecutive points, a stretch that saw La Center go from 5-3 down to 17-5 ahead.

La Center wrapped up the

fourth set 25-9 to spark a joyous on-court celebration. The Wildcats weren't just relishing in the final match, but also a tournament that saw them beat previously unbeaten Cascade Christian in a grueling five-set test in Friday's quarterfinals.

"Although we didn't get first, we fought so hard," Hudson said. "Everyone was giving every last bit of everything they had. That match yesterday took a lot out of us, but we left it all out on the court today."