

SPORTS

TD swim program gives out year-end team awards

Lydia DiGennaro and Will Evans were named as Swimmers of the Year

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

On Feb. 25 at The Dalles Middle School, swim team head coach Derek Shortt and his assistants Nate Timmons and Pat Shortt held the team's year-end banquet and awarded athletes with individual and group honors.

The biggest moment of the evening occurred when seniors Will Evans, Jonathan Snodgrass, Jose Reyes, Bryce Harris, Bree Webber, Hanna Rodriguez, Izabella Montesanti, and Lydia Evans were commended by the coaching staff, and a few of the veterans such as Harris, Will Evans, Webber and Lydia Evans took time to discuss what positive effects the program had on their lives and what they foresee down the road for the coaches and the up-and-coming swim standouts.

"The seniors were essential in creating a positive and resilient team," coach Derek Shortt said. "Their experience was critical in getting our swimmers to state this year."

At the Intermountain Conference District Championships held in Madras, Bree Webber joined Kendall Webber, Kennedy Abbas and DiGennaro in the wild card state-qualifying 200-yard freestyle relay group, who scored runner-up honors in 1:49.72, just behind HRV (1:48.97).

The girls then proceeded to drop one second from their district performance with a time of 1:49.16 to secure eighth place in the field.

In the boys 200-yard freestyle relay race, Harris and Will Evans teamed up with Xander Kirby and Michael Cole put up a 1:38.72, which placed them third behind HRV (1:31.11) and Pendleton (1:36.54), but that final mark was good enough to sneak them into state.

The boys, however, had an early start off the blocks for a disqualification, although they did finish with a time of 1:37.62, which would have been another personal record.

Coach Shortt said he was happy that both Evans and Harris earned state bids in their final varsity seasons.



The Dalles swim team had its year-end awards banquet on Feb. 25 at The Dalles Middle School and congratulated seniors, honored state qualifiers and gave out individual recognition. Winning team awards for their positive attitudes were Lydia Evans and Jose Reyes, taking team recognition for effort were Kendall Webber and Bryce Harris, the duo of Addison Little and Jonathan Snodgrass earned focus honors, and both Lydia DiGennaro and Will Evans were named as Swimmers of the Year. Ray Rodriguez photo

"Will and Bryce are going to be missed by the men's team as well as the team as a whole," head coach Shortt said. "Not only was their performance in the water critical, they were great leaders. They helped to take the younger swimmers under their wing. We also had Jose (Reyes) who joined us as a senior and he improved every meet and brought a ton of energy to the team. Jonathan also carried the men's team on the distance end and worked hard at every practice."

Cole, a freshman, and Kirby, a sophomore, are expected to take on a bigger leadership role as part of the younger core along with Skyler Coburn, William Hoover, Jacob Comini, and a few others.

"We have a lot of reasons to be excited about what those younger boys can accomplish as individuals and relay performers," coach Shortt said.

Added to their relay efforts, DiGennaro qualified for state in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races, and Kendall Webber made it to state in

the 500-yard freestyle, as DiGennaro wrapped up her 50-yard freestyle in 26.04 seconds, which placed her 10th in the state preliminaries, and she tacked on a time of 57.87 in the 100-yard freestyle to lock down ninth place.

Kendall Webber had a 6:00.00 for her district championship and went into the state preliminary race with a personal record of 5:55.77, but blew those times out of the water by nine seconds with a new personal-record time of 5:50.80 to tally eighth place in state.

This is the first time TD has had a state-qualifier since Natalie Varland and the girls 200-yard freestyle relay team earned their spots back in 2017, and the most athletes to make a state trip since 2010 when there were eight total swimmers because both boys and girls relay groups qualified.

Most of the girls team is made up of underclassmen, but Bree Webber, Hanna Rodriguez, Montesanti, and Lydia Evans were the senior role models.

"We will miss our seniors.



The Dalles seniors were given awards and a few gave speeches at the team's year-end swimming banquet last month. In the photo are, from left to right, Jose Reyes, Jonathan Snodgrass, Bryce Harris, Will Evans, Izabella Montesanti, Lydia Evans, Bree Webber and Hanna Rodriguez. Bree Webber, Harris, and Will Evans capped their high school careers with 5A OSAA state qualifications. Ray Rodriguez photo

They were a great group of kids. Lydia Evans, Bree Webber, and Hanna had a great season and inspired through their leadership and helped a very strong girls team accomplish a lot of their goals," coach Shortt said. "We are excited about Kendall, Lydia DiGennaro, Hannah Haight who all went to state,

but we also have many strong younger swimmers returning next year like Paige Compton, Addy Little, and Kennedy."

Winning individual team awards for their positive attitudes were Lydia Evans and Reyes, taking team recognition for effort were Kendall Webber and Harris, the duo of Little and Snodgrass

earned focus honors, and both DiGennaro and Will Evans were named as Swimmers of the Year.

"We enjoyed the most success in this program that we have had in a very long time," coach Shortt said. "We are so excited for the future. We are also excited to watch Will and Bree swim at the next level."

Booster Club names The Dalles' top February athletes

Baldy, Cardosi, and Villa voted on as cheer squad recipients

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

As part of fulfilling the promotion of The Dalles Riverhawk Athletics, on March 6 at The Riv, winter sports athletes representing cheer, wrestling, skiing and boys and girls basketball were nominated for Athlete of the Month awards by coaches for being great examples to their programs, the school and community.

On the cheer side, head coach Kelsey Sugg-Wallace gave her votes to senior Alexa Baldy, junior Ellie Cardosi, and sophomore Arlet Villa. "We chose Alexa for her strong leadership skills on

the mat at state, and Arlet was one of our backs who was super-committed and hard-working, and we wanted her to be recognized for that," Sugg-Wallace said. "Ellie broke her arm in November, and being one of our main tumblers, we weren't sure she would be cleared for state. She worked super-hard to be cleared, crying and pushing through her tumbling passes at practice, to be cleared and ready to tumble."

Joining veteran wrestling head coach Paul Beasley were senior state qualifiers, Steven Preston and Dusty Dodge.

Ski coach Dane Klindt selected his senior veteran Austin Weir and up-and-coming freshman standout Lucy Booth.

"I'm sorry to see Austin go. He was a hard-working kid and showed a lot of potential, but unfortunately, he's a senior. I wish he

would've started three years ago," Klindt said. "Lucy is the hardest working athlete in the whole ski program, and she did a great job this year. I'm very proud of both her and Austin."

First-year head boys basketball coach Greg Cummings picked all-league senior guard Jacob Hernandez and junior post Spencer Taylor.

The Dalles girls basketball coach Brian Stevens picked first-team, all-league senior point guard Kylie Hoylman as his top athlete to wrap up this latest batch of selections for February.


There was also all-league winner and senior Rainie Coddling, and senior teammate Lauryn Belanger who were named as top athletes for the month of December, and all-league senior Jenna Miller was picked as the January varsity basketball Athlete of the Month.



The Dalles Booster Club hosted an Athlete of the Month ceremony back on March 6 at The Riv and named winter sports athletes representing cheer, wrestling, skiing and boys and girls basketball as winners for their citizenship, community service and play. Not pictured are December honorees Rainie Coddling and Lauryn Belanger (TD girls basketball) and Jenna Miller (January). Contributed photo

Dr. Cullen's Student of the week

Alma Garcia, Senior:
She is working very hard. She is sticking to getting her goal of graduating. She sits down, gets her work out and gets what she needs done. She has had pretty good attendance and will readily do make up work when she misses school.



Alma Garcia, TDHS

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Victor Cullen, DDS

Athlete of the Week

Lucy Booth
The Dalles ski team

The Dalles freshman Lucy Booth placed 37th and was disqualified in her first two-career varsity ski races, but then displayed her championship spirit by posting four consecutive 11th place finishes and had a 12th in the team's final event of the season, a giant slalom. Due to her placings and average slalom times of 1:29.55, Booth had 72 individual points, did not score in one event, and wound up two places from earning a state slalom berth.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large 2 topping pizza from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 3-21-20



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