

25 RANDOM THINGS ABOUT OUR ALL-STATE MVPs

Compiled by Maggie Thach



TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

The Salt Lake Tribune girls' basketball MVPs take to the air during a recent photo shoot. Pictured, from left to right, are Rich's Allie Eastman (Class 1A), Richfield's Jaquel Christensen (2A), American Fork's Haley Holmstead (5A), Wasatch's Kim Parker (3A) and Springville's Ashley Kroneberger (4A).

Mustangs beat Bees in region matchup

Boys' soccer »
Mountain Crest starts slowly in win.

By DAN BIDDULPH
Special to The Tribune

The on-field emotions seemed to match the cold weather in an early-spring region match between the Mountain Crest Mustangs and Box Elder Bees. The boys' soccer teams are jockeying for a top position in the Region 5 standings, but Mountain Crest managed to move up a notch Friday, coming away with a 3-1 win.

Mountain Crest put early pressure on the Bees' defense in the first half, but it took nearly all 40 minutes to put a goal in the net. The Mustangs drew first blood in the final two minutes of the first period when Jake Worley took an assist from Riley Yeates and put a goal on the board.

Coming out of the break, tensions ran high between the teams. Mountain Crest was called for three yellow cards, giving Box Elder's Yardib Vasquez a chance to capitalize. He scored Box Elder's only goal off a penalty kick.

"There were some hard fouls going both ways and both teams were getting frustrated," said Mountain Crest coach Mike Gurney. "For 10 minutes I was concerned, I had to pull my captains out and tell them to control the team."

Mustang team captain Riley Yeates took the coach's advice and came up with his second of three assists, hitting Derek Dreesbeke for the go-ahead goal.

"We kept our heads down and kept fighting," said Yeates, "we didn't let the refs get in our heads, we didn't let their players get in our heads."

The Mustangs would keep up pressure throughout the remainder of the game, never allowing the Bees to score through the remainder of the game.

"I'm thrilled with the result, 3-1," said Gurney, "Not giving up any goals through the run of play was crucial for us and I am even more pleased with us finishing. The goals that we had were quality goals, and guys were doing the things they were asked to do."

Mountain Crest 3, Box Elder 1

Mountain Crest team captain Riley Yeates assists on all three of the Mustangs' goals.
» Yardib Vasquez scores Box Elder's only goal on a penalty kick
» Derek Dreesbeke scores the go-ahead goal.

The random list continues

Haley Holmstead

- I am addicted to Hershey's Cookies & Cream Bars.
- I always honk the bus horn two times when I get on and off the bus for away games.
- I have to listen to these two songs before every game, and I don't even know the names of the songs or who sings them.
- I have to sleep in freezing-cold temperatures and have to have five blankets.

Ashley Kroneberger

- I am left-handed but shoot right-handed.
- I eat a PowerBar before my games. During the state tournament, I ate penne pasta with red sauce every day.
- Every game, I wear the same Jordan Spandex.
- I made a fort out of duct tape when I was little. I loved making things and building random stuff.

Kim Parker

- I listen to the song "I Believe" from the movie "Honey" before every game.
- I make a left-handed layup to end warm-ups before games.
- I'm hooked on box brownies.
- My nickname at my high school is "AJ" (Angelina Jolie).

Jaquel Christensen

- I always wear two pair of socks when playing.
- I hate cake and I love Schwan Man peppermint ice cream.
- I always braid my teammates' hair for games.
- I broke the scissors when cutting the net after we won the state title.

Allie Eastman

- I live in the coldest county in Utah.
- I'm an expert at "Guitar Hero."
- My favorite outside winter activity is snowmobiling.
- I am the youngest and the only girl in my family.



Class 5A » Haley Holmstead



Class 4A » Ashley Kroneberger



Class 2A » Jaquel Christensen



Class 3A » Kim Parker



Class 1A » Allie Eastman

All-State

» Continued from D1

"Our coach has always told us and instilled in us that defense wins," said Wasatch's Kim Parker, the Class 3A MVP. "Emery, we know they're a totally offensive team. If we could stop them, we could be good in the second half. We just played tough defense."

Like Wasatch, 1A Rich also won its second straight state title. But three other teams experienced being the best for the first time in a long time. For 5A's American Fork, it was its first girls' basketball state championship in school history. The Cavemen had been to the title game the year before but made the most of their

College commitments

Kim Parker, Wasatch	BYU
Allie Eastman, Rich	Westminster
Haley Holmstead, American Fork	SLCC
Cydne Mason, American Fork	Utah Valley
Kaycee Mansfield, American Fork	Utah Valley
Ashley Kroneberger, Springville	UNLV
Jaden Parsons, South Sevier	Southern Utah

second chance.

In 4A, Sky View was the favorite all year. The Bobcats were the defending champions and went undefeated in the regular season. Although Sky View had the edge, Region 7 had the most parity. Springville, Mountain View and Payson took turns beating each other during region play.

When it came to the state tournament, a battle-tested

Region 7 team was able to pull out a win over Sky View in the semifinals. Springville earned a trip to the state title game, where it would meet region foe Mountain View.

It was unexpected but the Bruins — under first-year coach Andrew Blanchard — took the top honor, reminding many of Mountain View's domination throughout the first half of this decade.

"There's no question, as a first-year coach, that expectations shouldn't be to win a state championship," Blanchard said. "But when we saw our talent in the summer, it became to win a region and state championship. We had growing pains but we turned it around."

For Richfield, its state title was a couple years in the making. A bulk of the team had played together for a few years and had time to develop chemistry. And that chemistry lifted the Wildcats when it counted most.

Richfield met rival South Sevier, a team that won the past two titles, in the championship. The Wildcats trailed the whole game and their undefeated season was on the

line. But Richfield was able to push the game into two overtime periods and put its fate into post player Jaquel Christensen's hands. When she gave her team its first lead of the game in the second extra period, the Wildcats never looked back. Richfield was the only team in the state to finish with a perfect (24-0) record and a state title.

"Our sophomore year, I broke my foot and everything had gone wrong. Our junior year, we weren't really expected to be that good," Christensen said. "But we realized we could win and that were pretty good our senior year. [The last two years] motivated us to work hard. We knew [South Sevier] wasn't going to give up. We just all wanted it."

About the All-State teams

The All-State teams were decided entirely by coaches' votes.

A week before the end of the high school girls' basketball season ended, coaches were invited to go to tribpreps.com and submit ballots. Votes were tallied by girls' basketball writer Maggie Thach. The top vote-getters were named to the first team and players with more than one vote were named to the second team.

The MVPs were chosen by the Tribune on the basis of which player had the biggest impact on a team, regardless of whether that team won the state title.