

Schimmel makes All-State first team

Freshman also named Player of Year by EO

BY THE CUJ

MISSION - Shoni Schimmel likes to let the basketball do her talking.

A no-look pass or a cross-over drive down the lane to the basket mean more to her than accolades.

She answers questions with a nod and a grin.

People around her are more impressed than she is with her most recent honor - a unanimous selection to the Oregon Class 5A All-State basketball team.

"I didn't know what it was, but it's cool," said Schimmel, who led her 12-14-year-old American Horse team to another title in the Basketball Against Alcohol & Drugs tournament during spring break.

That's right. She's 14. A freshman at Hermiston with three more years of high school ahead of her.

College scouts were watching Schimmel before she led the Bulldogs to a fourth-place finish at the state tournament in March. She was the leading scorer in the final state-tournament bracket at the University of Portland, averaging 18 points over three games.

During the season, Schimmel earned Player of the Year honors for the Intermountain Conference by averaging nearly 16 points, more than 4 rebounds, almost 5 steals and 5 assists per game.

How does this kid from the Umatilla Indian Reservation do it?

"Practice. Put your mind to it. Learn from watching," she said, listing LeBron James of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and Candice Parker from the University of Tennessee as her favorites.

She also has the strong support of her



Shoni Schimmel shoots a three-pointer during the BAAD tournament at the Pendleton Convention Center.

parents, who serve as coaches for Shoni and her six siblings.

"It's cool most of the time," Schimmel offered, noting that her parents expect as

much from her as she expects from herself.

Another winning attribute is her disdain for losing.

She said she doesn't really have a killer instinct, but she doesn't like to let up either.

Schimmel said she doesn't feel bad for the other team even when they trail by 30 or 40 points.

"I've been in that situation," she said. "Last year in eighth grade at Clash at the Border teams hammered us."

This year, she noticed a marked improvement in her game and credits the time on the court for Hermiston High School.

"I've had more playing time. On the court, game situations. The players are a lot bigger in high school than in AAU or middle school. And the coach is a little different, more organized."

Schimmel's good friend, Samm McCloud, wasn't surprised by the All-State honors.

"Shoni can handle the ball, push the ball, she knows the court," said McCloud, who has played with Schimmel on the American Horse team for four years but this winter found herself matched against her friend when Pendleton and Hermiston played high school hoops.

Schimmel said she misses playing with her friends - some at Pendleton High School, some at Nixyaawii Community School, but "I've gained new friends at Hermiston."

Off the court, McCloud and Schimmel like to hang out, eat pizza, watch movies.

"We're goofy together," McCloud said.

This spring, Schimmel is running the 400 meters, relays and long jumping for Hermiston High School. She finished fourth in the state cross country meet last fall. She has regularly played softball in summer, but this year will focus on basketball, hoping to play tournament competition around the Northwest.

2007 All-East Oregonian Basketball Teams

Girls First Team

Player of the Year - Shoni Schimmel, freshman guard, Hermiston

Jordan Crossley, senior wing, Hermiston
Megan Greenfield, senior post, Condon-Wheeler
Sara Morrison, senior guard, Hermiston
Megan Orr, junior guard, Heppner
Shanna Treloar, junior guard, Pendleton
Kayla Turner, senior post, Weston-McEwen

Girls Second Team

Lacey Carlson, senior post, Mac-Hi
Lynette Minthorn, junior post, Pendleton
Kylee Rogers, freshman guard, Helix
Annette Sampson, senior guard, Nixyaawii
Regi Seitz, senior guard, Heppner
Sarah Von Arx, junior post, Hermiston

Girls Third Team

Aftan Betsinger, junior post, Hermiston
Daniela Campos, senior post, Umatilla
Erica Harrison, senior guard, Condon-Wheeler
Lyndi Patton, senior guard, Heppner
Kayla Schroeder, senior guard, Helix
Marlah Watchman, sophomore post, Nixyaawii

Girls Honorable Mention

Christina Barkley, senior wing, Pilot Rock
Ashley Borden, junior forward, Umatilla
Jessica Erwert, senior post, Stanfield
Elizabeth Ferge, freshman guard, Echo
Mackenzie Garton, senior guard, Mac-Hi
Kylee Hankins, junior guard, Condon-Wheeler
Sarah Kabishita, senior guard, Helix
Addie Terjeson, freshman guard, Helix
Stefka Waite, senior wing, Pilot Rock
Demee Williams, senior post, Helix

Boys First Team

Player of the Year - Anthony Calvillo, senior post, Riverside
Ramiro Alatorre, senior guard, Hermiston
JJ Ross, junior guard, Hermiston
Robert Turner, senior guard, Riverside
Shann West, senior wing, Pendleton
Tucker Whitten, senior wing, Pendleton
Steve Williams, sophomore guard, Umatilla

Boys Second Team

Aaron Allbee, junior guard, Hermiston
Nacho Elguezabal, junior center, Heppner
Saul Gonzalez, senior post, Mac-Hi
Sam Grogan, junior guard, Hermiston
Levi Smith, senior center, Hermiston

Boys Third Team

Jared Doss, senior forward, Pilot Rock
Tyrel Graham, junior center, Pilot Rock
Justin Iles, senior center, Helix
Johnny Sampson, senior guard, Nixyaawii
Sol Van Pelt, senior wing, Nixyaawii
Eric Yoder, senior guard, Riverside

Boys Honorable Mention

Lane Bailey, junior guard, Heppner
Jake Clark, senior guard, Helix
Bryce Doherty, junior guard, Riverside
Travis Eastwood, senior forward, Weston-McEwen
Vicente Escalante, senior guard, Echo
Mason Foster, senior guard, Nixyaawii
Casey Irving, junior center, Stanfield
Mike Lindell, senior center, Weston-McEwen
Brandon Millt, freshman guard, Arlington
Krieg Mueller, senior forward, Hermiston

Tribal athletes begin spring high school sports



Nika Kash Kash is running track at Pendleton High School.

CUJ photo/Burnside



Shanna Treloar, shortstop for Pendleton High's softball team, tosses the ball to second baseman Steffane Oles to force a runner out in a recent game in Pendleton.

CUJ photo/Dallas Dick



Darren Burnside strides out in a distance race for Pendleton High School track team. His twin brother, Kyle, is also on the squad.

Here's a list of tribal athletes, as provided by area high schools:

Pilot Rock - Christina Barkley, softball; Billy Bronson, baseball.

Weston-McEwen - Viola Minthorn, track.

Pendleton - Darren Burnside, Kyle Burnside, Jeremy Becenti, Nika Kash Kash, Curtis McGarva-Picard, Samm McCloud, all track; Shanna and Rachel Treloar, softball.

Hermiston - Shoni and Shae Schimmel, track.

CUJ photo/Burnside