



COUGAR TRACKS



E C H O S C H O O L D I S T R I C T



Spectacular Season

by: Colter McCallum

On February 12th the Echo Cougars faced off with the Nixyaaw-wii Golden Eagles in an elimination game. The game determined who would make it into the District playoffs. The Cougars pulled off an amazing fourth quarter comeback victory after being down by as much as 16 in the second half. When asked about how they managed to come back in the hostile environment, Cougar player Devin Christensen had this to say, "Late in the game, teamwork was a huge factor in coming back from a 16 point deficit." As a result of this win, the Cougars earned a place in the District tournament for the first time in three years. When asked about his team's chances, Coach Shepherd declared, "Now that we've made it in, I expect to win, plain and simple."

When the district tournament started the Cougars opened against Sherman in the first round on Valentine's Day. Sherman had only lost three league games coming into the tournament, two of those losses being to Horizon Christian, the number two team in the state. The Cougars managed the upset and came out on top of the Huskies for the second time in the season. The win put the Cougars into the semi-finals against the Knights of Condon, who had beaten the Cougars twice in league play. Again the Cougars pulled off the upset to make it into the district championship game and guarantee a home court advantage in the first round of the state playoffs.

The next day, in the championship game

of the tournament, Horizon Christian finally stopped the Cougars' magical run in a commanding victory. Now with a first round home court advantage in the state playoffs, the Cougars would play host to the Powder Valley Badgers.

Disappointingly, the Cougars lost to the Badgers by 15 to end their dreams of a state title. Although they exited the tournament in the first round, the Cougars made it further than anyone had expected. Coach Shepherd had this to say when asked about how they were able to play so well toward the end of the year: "We really caught fire at the end of the year. The keys were a strong defense, running our offense, and playing together as a team."

Victory in Heppner

By: Ruben Macias

On February second, members of the Echo Junior High Chess club traveled to Heppner to compete in a chess tournament where they won second place. Echo players, which included Drake Dumond, Brian Bither, and Ruben Macias, competed fiercely in their respective divisions. Drake went on to become the eighth grade champion, Ruben tied for second place with Heppner's chess captain, and Brian battled to a three-way tie for first place in the seventh grade division.



All of our chess competitors want to encourage more students to try out for the chess team and join in the fun. Any students interested in playing chess should talk to Mr. Hall.

The History of St. Patrick's Day

By: Ethan McAuslan

The man we know as Saint Patrick was originally known as Maewyn. While he was still a youth, his Irish village was raided by marauders. He was captured and sold into slavery. As a result, up until his 16th birthday, Maewyn lived as a slave. His time in slavery is said to have brought on his religious awakening, and at this time he changed his name to St. Patrick.

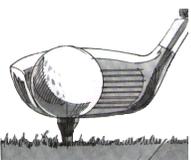
Once St. Patrick found his religious faith, he moved on to Gaul, where he studied religion under the name of St. Germaine. St. Patrick soon decided that he wanted to spend his efforts converting those of Pagan faith to Christianity.

There is much rumor and conjecture surrounding the life of St. Patrick. It is said that he raised people from the dead; it is also said that he drove all of the snakes from Ireland. It is generally accepted that St. Patrick lived from around the year 415 until his death on March 17th, 493.

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1737 in Boston, Massachusetts and has grown into a popular holiday over time.

Spring Sports Arrive in Echo

by: Colter McCallum & Chelsea Myers



Golf Begins!

Spring is here and that means that Echo High School Spring sports are getting underway. The

Echo Golf team is set to begin practice on March 3rd. Although the team took a disappointing 10th place finish at last year's state tournament, they have high expectations for the upcoming season. According to returning golfer, Ryan Ramos, "We expect nothing less than making it back to the state tournament

this year." With hard work and some luck our golfers expect great triumphs this upcoming season.

Softball Returns!

March 11th is the day all Softball fans are waiting for. On this day, the Stanfield and Echo girls will come together in their first game against Mac-Hi at 3:00 in Echo. The girls have a new coach this year, Mr. Amo Estrada, who has taken over for Mike Taylor and Weeb Williams. This is his fourth year coaching high school softball, his first for Echo.

Mr. Estrada's Assistant Coach is Ms. Parker. Mr. Estrada is excited for the season and reminds the girls to "Work hard [in order] to play hard. If softball was any easier, it would be called baseball." He is hoping the girls will go to playoffs and also work together to accomplish their team goals during the season. Saudi Ibarra, one of his players, has been playing softball for 5 years and admits that she has been "waiting for softball the whole year." This season of softball is going to be very promising and everyone should watch the schedule and attend the games to show support for the 2008 Echo Softball team.



Senior Portrait: Ruby Rodriguez

by: Saudi Ibarra

Ruby Rodriguez, a student at Echo Schools since Kindergarten, is now a very busy senior. Born in Nuevo Leon Mexico, she now lives on the outskirts of Echo. She enjoys reading and listening to music.

Ruby hopes to one day visit the city of Rome because of its beauty and she would also like to visit the state of South Dakota to see Mt. Rushmore.

Ruby plans to continue her education after Echo High at the BMCC and hopefully continue on to Eastern Oregon University.



Key Club Recognized

By Saudi Ibarra

Officers and members of the Kiwanis club gave the Echo High Key Club formal recognition during our recent charter event. Guests from all over Umatilla County attended the event at the high school commons where they enjoyed dessert provided by the Echo Kiwanis Club. Among the guests in attendance were the Kiwanis Pacific Northwest Governor, Rich Jensen; Kiwanis and Key Club members; and the members' families.

Our Echo Key Club president, Elizabeth Ferge, initiated the event by introducing the Kiwanis officers. She told the guests about the club activities the students have assisted in over the last few months. Mr. Jensen followed with an inspirational speech for the stu-

dents. He let them know of his expectations for the following year and of his confidence in the club.

The members were then individually called up to receive a certificate and pin which distinguishes them as official Key Club members. What did the members have to say about the event? "I loved it!" said vice-president, Chelsea Myers. The members are excited about this new club and the promise of more fun events in the future are fueling that excitement.

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March 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>For more information please visit us at our website: www.echo.k12.or.us or call us at 376-8436</i></p>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Teacher In-Service</i>	8 <i>Solo & Ensemble Contest</i>
9 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> 	10	11 <i>Dr. Seuss Day</i> <i>Concert 6:30</i> <i>Softball</i>	12 	13	14 <i>HS Track Softball Golf</i>	15
16	17 <i>School Board Meeting</i>	18 <i>Softball</i>	19 <i>Choir Festival</i>	20 <i>Softball</i>	21 <i>HS Track Golf</i> 	22 <i>Softball</i>
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