La Pine High School Girlsâ€™ Basketball Team takes State title

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Celebration Parade for La Pine Lady Hawks, Victors in 4A Basketball Championships, Slated for March 20

The La Pine High School girlsâ€™ basketball team claimed the State championship title with a 40-32 win against number-two ranked Cottage Grove at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis on March 14. The team, which battled Cottage Grove and lost twice during regular season play, emerged with its first state title since 1989.

Athletic Director Rusty Zysett said dedication and commitment helped the team clinch the title. â€œThese girls and coaches proved that hard work is the key to all success,â€• he said.

To show their pride, the school is honoring the Lady Hawks with a celebration parade at noon on Friday, March 20. The girls will depart La Pine High on an open float escorted by members of the La Pine Fire Department and Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Department. After circling the community, the team will tour La Pine Middle School and La Pine Elementary School where they will be greeted by young Hawk Fans. After the parade, the team will attend a banquet in their honor at the Sunriver Lodge.

Activities Director Kimberly Testerman said the basketball victory has inspired the entire school and community. â€œIt's given all students hope that they too can do anything with hard work and dedication. All things are possible,â€• she said.

Senior point guard Maria Ramirez and Junior Kassi Conditt were named first team All-Tournament players. Both players made big contributions to the teamâ€™s win in the finals and throughout the season. Conditt led all players at the state tournament in

scoring and was second in rebounds. Ramirez led all players in assists and was fourth in rebounding at the tournament.

â€œFor our seniors the work started when they were freshmen, said Testerman. â€œCoach Beer made them believe that with hard work all things are possible. These girls believed, worked hard and did it!â€•

The team was surrounded by school spirit during the championship game with almost 2,000 supporters cheering them on. Testerman said, "This title has become bigger than our girls and our school. It's become a community title, something we can all be proud of!"

For more information about the parade route or banquet, contact La Pine High School Activities Director Kim Testerman, 322-5377 or Athletic Director Rusty Zysett, 322-5379.

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