

H-DNC releases all-league selections

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The Big Five and Little Four have announced their most valuable players, all-league selections and honorable mentions for the 2007-08 prep basketball season.

Earning MVPs for a second consecutive year are McKinleyville's Sage Romberg, a sophomore who led her team to a fourth straight Big Five championship this year, and Eureka's Greg Allen, a junior who earned co-MVP honors in the Big Five with Del Norte's Cliff Van Hook.

Although the league MVP traditionally goes to the championship team's best player, which, for the Big Five boys, would be Del Norte's Van Hook this season, there was no denying Allen, who was the league's leading scorer with 604 points (20.8 points per game).

"I think the coaches gave Greg the respect he deserves for his playmaking ability, his scoring ability and his importance to our basketball team," said Eureka head coach Duane Peterson. "It's tradition that the championship team has the most valuable player, but I think both players were deserving."

In the Little Four, it was all about the St. Bernard's Crusaders, whose girls and boys each won league titles and had players earn MVP honors.

For the boys, St. Bernard's junior Andrew Ayers was named league MVP for the first time, while for the girls, teammates Michaela Redner and Amanda Malfatti were co-MVPs.

"Not only are they great athletes, they're great people who work really hard," said Lady Crusaders head coach Briar Fontaine of Redner and Malfatti, two seniors who led St. Bernard's on an unbeaten campaign in league. "The coaches were all in agreement that it would be too hard to choose between the two. They kind of play off each other."

The all-league selections for the Little Four girls are Crystal Carpenter of St. Bernard's, Cara Olsen and Evi Ashenbrucker of South Fork, Kin-sin-ta Joseph and Jessica Ammon of Hoopa, as well as Ferndale's Jodi Grinsell.

For the Big Five girls, McKinleyville's Chelsea Roane and Aleisha Brown, Fortuna's Shylo Wantt and Jain Tuey, Arcata's Karen Pontoni and Lydia Banks, Eureka's Nikki Powell and Del Norte's Lauryn Lesina were all

named all-league selections.

For the boys, the Big Five's all-league selections are Del Norte's Cole Lesley and Saxon Schultz, Eureka's Trevor Hash, Arcata's Jordian Bianco and Kalani Robles, McKinleyville's Ren Bettendorf and Fortuna's Skylar Rice.

In the Little Four, St. Bernard's Matt Landing and Nick Dalby, Ferndale's Jesse Slade and Kyle Miranda, Hoopa's Roman and Dion Hutt, along with South Fork's Matt Anderson all earned all-league selections.

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