

SPORTS



Primero's all-tournament team sophomore Justin Robinson has Shining Mountain players climbing all over him but still gets a shot off in small school division championship game of 73rd annual TSJC tournament Saturday night at Jim Toupal Court. Shining Mountain won its fifth straight tourney crown, 51-43 although Robinson netted 14 points in losing cause.



The 73rd annual Trinidad State Junior College Tournament wouldn't be complete without its parade of princesses representing competing schools. From left are Lacie Monarco of Aguilar High, tournament princess winner Jonlyn McDonald of Hoehne, Holy Trinity Academy's Andrea Shaw, Ariel Benine of John Mall High School, Emmy LaVigne of Primero and Nataara Tamada of Sierra Grande.

Shining Mountain, Colorado Springs School win TSJC cage titles

By **MIKE GARRETT**
The Chronicle-News

For Boulder's Shining Mountain High School, the 73rd annual TSJC Invitational Basketball Tournament at Jim Toupal Court was like wearing a comfortable old hat while for Colorado Springs School, it was a new trophy to place in the case at home.

The two schools took home all the marbles in the small and large division categories Saturday night in somewhat similar fashion. Shining Mountain prevailed over the tough, never-say-die Primero Bulldogs, 51-43, in the small school division while Colorado Springs School got by the Manitou Springs Mustangs, 57-53 in the large school division championship game.

Trinidad and Las Animas County schools earned a modicum of success. Primero advanced the farthest of local schools in reaching the small-school championship game, while Trinidad High took home seventh place overall in the large school consolation bracket, downing Hoehne, 52-42 while Holy Trinity Academy also took home seventh place in the small school consolation bracket by beating Maxwell High of New Mexico, 56-47. Aguilar lost to Primero in the second round of the championship bracket after beating HTA in the opening round last Thursday.

Canon City took home third-place honors in the large school championship bracket with a 51-44 win over La Veta. Sierra Grande took third place in the small-school division.

Primero trailed 10-1 and 15-6 early in the second quarter

against the Lions, battled back to within 15-11 but then trailed 28-13 at the half. The Bulldogs were still down 38-23 entering the fourth quarter before mounting a spirited comeback behind the shooting of William Bryant and Justin Robinson.

Two free throws by Cody Ingoldby closed the gap to 46-41 and the Bulldogs trailed only 47-43 with less than a minute to play. But Andrew Flint swished a couple free throws with 17 seconds left and an Oliver Goddu basket at the buzzer provided the Lions with their victory margin and a fifth straight TSJC Tournament title.

Bryant led Primero with 19 points while Robinson chipped in with 14. Goddu and Flint topped Shining Mountain with 11 each and Chris Bremner added nine points.

The all-Colorado Springs large school division finale was nip and tuck throughout. Manitou had its largest lead of the first half at 15-9 early in the second quarter. But the Kodiaks battled back behind the shooting of Chris Dailey and Delovel Earls to take a 26-23 halftime cushion.

CSS began to exert its authority in the third quarter with Andre Brown doing most of the damage with seven points, including a late bucket to make it 47-36 after three periods.

But the Mustangs weren't going to go quietly. A three-pointer by Sam Schultz followed by another basket by Cole McQueeney cut the gap to 49-46 with 5:34 to play. Earls helped push the margin back to 55-46 before Kyle Maring got hot for Manitou and scored five

straight points. A nifty lay-up by McQueeney made the score 55-53. But two free throws by Brown with 40 seconds to play made it 57-53 and Brown closed out scoring by making 1-of-2 at the charity stripe after a Maring basket had made it a two-point game again in the waning seconds.

Earls led all scorers with 25 points while Dailey added 14 and Brown 12 for CSS. McQueeney swished 23 and Maring 12 for the losing Mustangs.

Earls and Brown made the AA Division All-Tournament team for CSS, along with the Mustangs' Maring. Joining them were Irving Delgado of Pueblo Dolores Huerta, Dakota Mason of La Veta and Steven Trainor of Canon City.

The Division A small-school All-Tournament team consisted of Robinson and Bryant of Primero, Sean Armijo of Wagon Mound, Bremner of Shining Mountain and Urbano Delgado of Sierra Grande High from Blanca.

The top coaching awards went to Primero's Greg Robinson and Sierra Grande's Matt Lucero and the team sportsmanship award to Dr. Joe Jimenez and his Holy Trinity Academy Tigers.

No TSJC basketball tourney would be complete without the annual parade of princesses representing the participating tourney schools. Leading the parade as announced by TSJC President Ruth Ann Woods was 2008 Tournament Princess Jonlyn McDonald of Hoehne High. The daughter of David McDonald and Sheryl Coberly has been a member of the



Holy Trinity Academy players pose with Princess winner Jonlyn McDonald of Hoehne High in receiving their TSJC Tournament Team Sportsmanship Award at conclusion of Saturday night's tourney at Jim Toupal Court.

National Honor Society for three years and a member of Future Farmers of America four years. She was the 2007 Trinidad Roundup Queen Attendant and has played basketball since seventh grade. McDonald would like to earn a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Completing her court were Lacie Monarco of Aguilar, Andrea Shaw of Holy Trinity Academy, Ariel Benine of John Mall, Emmy LaVigne of Primero, who was named Miss Congeniality, Rashelle Arrazola of Trinidad High and Nataara Tamada of Sierra Grande. Each of the princesses has been awarded TSJC scholarships, which can be used at either the Trinidad or Alamosa campuses.

Local Scores from the 73rd

Annual TSJC Boys Invitational Tournament

Thursday Results
Aguilar 71
HTA 49

Manitou Springs 67
Hoehne 42

Shinning Mt. 61
Maxwell, NM 22

Primero 77
John Mall 44

La Veta 56
Trinidad High 40

Friday Results
Wagon Mound, NM 84
Maxwell, NM 27

Rye 58
Hoehne 37

John Mall 69
HTA 37

DHPH 76
Trinidad High 69

Primero 66
Aguilar 37

Saturday Results

A-Division Small Schools
Seventh Place

HTA 56
Maxwell, NM 47 (TO)
Fifth Place
Wagon Mound, NM 61
John Mall 51
Third Place
Sierra Grande 58
Aguilar 31
Championship Game
Shinning Mt. 51
Primero 43

AA-Division Big Schools

Seventh Place
Trinidad High 52
Hoehne 42
Fifth Place
DHPH 53
Rye 50
Third Place
Canon City 51
La Veta 44
Championship Game
Colorado Springs Schools 58
Manitou Springs 55

By **MIKE GARRETT**
The Chronicle-News

Sunday's NCAA Division 1 bowl match up announcements that let us all know who is going to be playing whom in 34 bowl games from Dec. 20 through Jan. 8 is more than enough to fill any college football fan's plate with football glutty.

A ny married football fan who watches all 34 bowl games from his couch is likely to be served with divorce papers come Jan. 9. There are just too many games involving 6-6, 7-5 and 8-4 teams to make them mediocre and dull at best. I mean who is going to want to watch Memphis (6-6) against South Florida (7-5) in the St. Petersburg Bowl Dec. 20? Colorado State (6-6) playing



Mike Garrett

COMMENTARY

Too many bowl games, too few top-flight matchups

Fresno State (7-5) in the Dec. 20 New Mexico Bowl is going to be another yawner. Or how about Notre Dame (6-6) against Hawaii (7-6) in the Dec. 24 Hawaiian Bowl? Nap time!!

And despite 34 bowl games, fans are still going to be arguing as to who is No. 1 after all is said and done, especially those living in the states of Texas and California, assuming both Texas and USC win their bowl games. The BCS got it right in making Oklahoma No. 1 and Florida No. 2 in the final BCS series standings. The winner of that NCAA championship game Jan. 8 in Miami should be the legitimate national champion in the eyes of most fans sans a legitimate college playoff system.

Other good BCS Bowl matchups are Penn State and USC in the Rose Bowl, Utah and Alabama in the Sugar Bowl and Texas and Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. The only clunker among the BCS Bowls is Cincinnati (11-2) vs. Virginia Tech (9-4) in the Orange Bowl

A team with four losses should never qualify for a BCS Bowl game but they do under the current conference tie-ups with bowl sites. No one outside Virginia and the city of Cincinnati is going to care about who wins that game. It will have little or no bearing on the season's final rankings after the bowl games are played.

Leaving unbeaten Boise State and once-beaten Texas Tech out of a major bowl game is simply inexcusable. The Red Raiders really got the shaft. Their only loss was to the Sooners and they were the only team to beat Texas this year. Putting them in the Cotton Bowl against Mississippi (8-4) is really a slap against Tech, which until the Oklahoma loss was ranked No. 2 in the country. The Raiders are also the most entertaining of all college football teams to watch with their wide-open passing attack and prolific scoring.

And didn't Boise State upset Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl a

couple of years ago in one of the best and most entertaining bowl games ever played?

While I would have preferred seeing an unbeaten Utah vs. Boise State game in the Fiesta Bowl, at least the Utes will find out how good they are and how well they match up against a traditional powerhouse like Alabama. A win or narrow loss to the once-beaten Crimson Tide and Utah will gain immeasurable respect for the Mountain West Conference and Rocky Mountain football in general.

USC-Penn State is mostly for bragging rights between Eastern and West Coast fans. I think the Trojans could beat any team in the country on any given day with their great defense able to thwart even the most potent offenses. But this was a down year for the Pac-10 conference and a win over the Nittany Lions won't prove much of anything other than a top 4 final ranking.

Likewise a Texas victory over 10th-ranked Ohio State

isn't going to give the Longhorns any style points. Even if they win by 30 points, it's not going to be enough to vault them ahead of Florida or Oklahoma into the top spot after the bowls.

In scanning the list of bowl games, other intriguing contests figure to be Boise State (12-0) vs. TCU (10-2) in the Dec. 23 Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego and BYU vs. Arizona in the Las Vegas Bowl Dec. 20 (for Rocky Mountain fans only).

If you find yourself watching any of the other nondescript bowl games it's because you are an alum of the school playing, you don't have much of a life, you only get ESPN and ESPN 2 on your TV set, your wife has already left you for a non-football fan, or you easily go into comatose states and can't tell one football game from another.

Now a comment about all you Denver Broncos fans. How come Invesco Field had more than 3,000 no-shows Sunday? Yes, the game was only against

lowly Kansas City and yes, the Broncos had lost their last three home games. In the old days, that lack of home support would have been unheard of. Is it because of the floundering economy that that many people no longer want to or can afford to pay \$100 or more to see the Broncos or having already bought a ticket just didn't care despite the balmy weather?

Maybe it's because too many high-roller Denver fans just don't seem to care any more. They're at the games to be seen and heard and have a social good time. The actual game is becoming secondary. Too many rabid blue-collar Broncos fans have simply been priced out of Invesco's exclusive luxury boxes and 50-yard line seats. The NEW fans are only serving to make the Broncos losers at home on any given Sunday and no longer gives the team one of the biggest home field advantages in the NFL. It may now be a case of the love 'em or leave 'em Broncos. How many leave 'ems can they afford to have?