

The week in review (Feb. 15-18)

Men's Basketball

Bellevue took command in the North with a 79-72 overtime road win at Peninsula which put the Bulldogs in first place by 1½ games. Earlier in the week, they rallied from a 40-26 halftime deficit to beat Everett 54-53. They travel to third place Shoreline on Wednesday. Lower Columbia got some breathing room in the West after beating Pierce 88-50 Saturday, and getting help on Wednesday from Centralia who edged Highline 78-76 in overtime. The Blazers are currently up by three games in the loss column over Pierce and Tacoma for the West's fourth and final berth to the NWAACC Tournament. Mt. Hood beat Chemeketa 87-70 on Wednesday to go two-up on the Storm in the race for the South's top spot. Lane and Portland continue to battle for the division's final tournament berth and will play each other Saturday in Eugene. In the East, Spokane took road games at Blue Mountain and Treasure Valley as they continue to lead that division by two games. The top scoring performance came Wednesday as Chris Chase lit up Clark with 47 points in the Titans' 95-89 overtime victory. Players with 30 or more points in a game last week were Josh Akwenuke of Lane (twice), Blake Solomon of Big Bend (twice), Christiaan Hammond of Columbia Basin, Curtis Carlson of Walla Walla, and Bill Richardson of Grays Harbor.

Women's Basketball

East Division leader Yakima Valley pulled off a huge 61-53 home win over second place Walla Walla to go two games up on the rest of the field. The second-ranked Yaks look for their first division title since 1996. They followed that with a five-point win at Columbia Basin, while WWCC defeated Wenatchee Valley 63-48 to own second place all by themselves. The North continues to be a great race as Bellevue (9-4) leads by a half game over Shoreline and Skagit Valley. Everett edged Olympic 65-64 on Saturday as the two teams are currently tied in the loss column for the fourth and final berth to the NWAACC Tournament. In the West, Centralia's 67-64 triumph against Highline dropped the Thunderbirds out of a three-way tie with the Trailblazers and Lower Columbia. Tacoma and South Puget Sound continue to battle for fourth place as both teams received some help from Grays Harbor who pulled off a road win against Clark. The four tournament teams from the South are almost set as co-leaders Lane and Clackamas, along with Umpqua and Chemeketa are in great shape. The top point performances last week came on Saturday from Kari Darnell (33 against Blue Mountain), Rosalind Lee of Blue Mountain (30 against Big Bend), and Moina Snyder of Umpqua (30 against Mt. Hood).