

The week in review (Feb. 22-25)

Men's Basketball

Berths in the upcoming NWAACC Tournament were sealed by a large number of teams last week. In the East, Big Bend's 56-54 home thriller along with Walla Walla's 89-83 upset over Spokane eliminated Columbia Basin as the Vikings and Warriors, along with Yakima Valley and Spokane, will be the four teams from that region. Lane clinched the South's fourth and final berth with a 78-74 home win over Portland. They join Mt. Hood, Chemeketa and Clackamas as the South's representatives. Centralia's wins over Clark and Green River wrapped up the West's teams as the Blazers will join Grays Harbor, Highline and defending NWAACC champion Lower Columbia in Kennewick. Three teams in the North have punched their ticket to the "big dance" as the fourth and final spot will come down to Olympic and Whatcom, who are currently tied in the loss column. The Rangers have a bye on Wednesday before finishing at Bellevue while the Orcas wrap up with games against Peninsula and Everett. The top scoring performance last week came from Centralia's Marcus Hinton who was 20 for 26 from the floor, leading to 48 points in the Blazers' 104-70 win at Clark. That was followed by Nigel Sims of Seattle who had 40 points in the Storm's 103-96 home triumph over Everett. Players who had 30 or more points in a game were Seth Bauman of Umpqua, Josh Akwenuke of Lane, David Cernin of Clackamas, and Riley Luettgerodt of Chemeketa,

Women's Basketball

Only the South Division is set as to the four teams that will be heading to the NWAACC Tournament on March 9-12. Lane and Clackamas, who share the league lead will be joined by Umpqua and Chemeketa. From the West, it will be Lower Columbia, Centralia and Highline, with Tacoma waiting in the wings. The Titans can clinch the final berth by beating Grays Harbor on Wednesday. Another big game in that division that week will be Saturday as Centralia travels to Lower Columbia in attempt to avenge their only league loss. In the East, defending champion Columbia Basin is barely alive as they will need to beat Walla Walla on Wednesday and get help from other teams just to obtain a playoff for the fourth and final tournament berth. Second-ranked Yakima Valley has already clinched the division with Walla Walla, Spokane, and Wenatchee Valley in better shape for a tourney berth than CBC is at this time. The North has had the best race all season long, and it will continue to be so until Saturday's league finales. Seven of the nine teams are all still alive for tournament berths. The top performances last week came from Umpqua's Micaela Williams (41 points against Southwestern Oregon), Leah Bradley of Peninsula (30 points against Olympic), and Shawn Segerman of Green River (30 points against Grays Harbor).