

Four Del Norte Warriors named all-league in basketball

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Four Del Norte players have been named to the H-DNL all-league basketball team after playing a key role for the Warriors this past season.

For the girls, senior Jadence Clifton and freshman Anyessa Bettega each were named to the prestigious team, while seniors Kaleb Price and Judson Pincombe were both included on the boys' team.

It was no surprise to see Clifton get the nod after she set a new school career scoring record early in the three-week season.

Because of the COVID shortened season, the league did not name any MVPs this year, but Clifton, who was the co-MVP in 2020, would likely have been a frontrunner if there had been one named.

She will play at Humboldt State next year.

“Jadence is well deserving of it,” said her head coach and father Justin Clifton. “And she’s going to have a great career at Humboldt State.”

Bettega, meanwhile, is coming off an outstanding freshman season and is expected to continue playing a major role for the team for the next few years.

“She’s very, very coachable,” the head coach said of Bettega, who started at guard for the Warriors. “She killed it.”

Price and Pincombe each also had impressive seasons for the Warriors, and both were named to the all-league first team after being included as honorable mentions a year ago.

Price was also a first-team selection in football this year and recently committed his future to College of the Redwoods, where he hopes to play football and basketball.

Both Price and Pincombe enjoyed successful careers playing for the Warriors, and each played a key role in leading the team to a Big 5 and Dick Niclai Tournament double in 2020.

Several other Del Norte players also received all-league recognition as honorable mentions.

For the boys, senior Peyton Swan was included, along with juniors Caleb Dodson and Edwin Zepeda.

For the girls, juniors Josephine Heuberger and Molly Slayton were also included.

Heuberger is better known as a softball standout, but she has developed into a defensive leader for the Warriors in basketball.

Slayton, meanwhile, was a sharpshooter for the team, nailing five 3-pointers in a crucial win at Eureka.

“I’m excited for her,” Justin Clifton said of Slayton, who missed all of the previous season through injury. “She’ll be a good senior leader for us.”

The girls team closed out the season 5-2 overall and 2-1 against Big 5 opponents, including pushing undefeated Fortuna all the way in the final week.

The boys closed out the shortened season 5-3 overall and 1-3 in Big 5 action.