Del Norte Triplicate

SPORTS

Steinruck leads the Del Norte all-league selections in girls basketball

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Three Del Norte girls basketball players have received Big 5 all-league recognition, including Tsinte Steinruck, who was named to the conference all-league first team.

This is the second straight year the senior standout has been honored by the league, having also received an all-league honorable mention as a junior in 2024.

Del Norte junior Bliss Blackburn and freshman Jaylee Keeling each also received an all-league honorable mention this year.

Steinruck, who is a three-sport star for the Warriors, also was an all-league selection on the volleyball courts in the fall and an all-league honorable mention on the softball fields last spring.

And it was her consistency and all-around performances that stood out in basketball this winter.

“Tsinte had a good senior year,” Del Norte head coach Dylan Nelson said. “She was one of our most consistent offensive players, our best rebounder — despite playing out of position — and always took one of the top defensive assignments.”

The outstanding senior helped lead the Warriors to a 13-13 overall record.

Blackburn and Keeling each also impressed for the team this winter.

Blackburn is another three-sport student-athlete, who plays volleyball and softball in addition to basketball.

And it was her development as a player and energetic performances that stood out the most on the basketball courts this winter.

“Bliss grew a lot this year,” Nelson said of the junior. “Her consistent energy and competitiveness really stood out.”

And that’s not all Blackburn meant to the team.

“She always accepted a tough defensive matchup, helped solidify our ball handling and always had a great attitude,” the coach added.

Keeling, meanwhile, wasted little time adapting to the varsity level after breaking into the team as a freshman, and she was one of the Warriors’ top performers early in the season

“Jaylee had a solid year,” the head coach said of the newcomer. “She was our primary ball handler as a freshman, and when she is on she is one of the more dangerous shooters around.”

The young player looks likely to have a big impact with the program over the next few seasons.

“She also grew a lot as a defender and improved in setting up the offense,” Nelson said. “The sky is the limit for her.”

The Warriors struggled in conference play and finished 1-7, tying with Fortuna for fourth in the final standings.

But with just four seniors on a roster of 11 this winter, the Del Norte girls should be back stronger next year, especially with two freshmen and two sophomores on this year’s squad, all of whom should only continue to grow as players and establish themselves as key components of the program.