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CHAMPIONS



HARRISON Lady GOBLINS



► JEFF BRASEL/STAFF

The Harrison Lady Gobblins react to having their name called to receive the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament championship trophy. The Lady Gobblins defeated Farmington to claim a fifth state basketball title. Team members are: Alex Hill; Clare Barger; Claire Cecil; Sydney Shrum; Brynn Oleson; Tenelle Tate; Madison Bell; Mariah Hudson; Marianne King; Trevera Whitehorse; Maggie Salmon; Shaylee Ward; Jenna Mae Jones; and Reese Ricketts. Team coaches are Kristian Williams, head coach; Stacie Klott, assistant coach; and Kyle Brashears, assistant coach. Team manager is Shelby Oswalt.



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Harrison adds another State Title to trophy case

By **JEFF BRASEL**
jeffb@harrisondaily.com

HOT SPRINGS — Saturday morning, March 20, the Harrison Lady Gobblins once again were crowned the queens of Class 4A basketball as they defeated Farmington to earn the Class 4A State Basketball Championship.

Harrison led from the first score until the game ended. The final score was 68-54.

The Lady Gobblins started with a 7-0 lead and led at all of the breaks.

Farmington used a 14-2 run to cut the Harrison lead to five points, but the Lady Gobblins made a living at the free throw line to finish with the big win.

This is the fourth time that the Lady Gobblins and Farmington met this season. Harrison has now won two of the meetings.

The championship game was at the Hot Springs Convention Arena.

This marks the fifth time in Harrison basketball history that the Lady Gobblins have won a title. The squad has been to the state championship game seven times winning five of those games.

Harrison was runner-ups in 1996 and 2005. The Lady Gobblins had a good 10-year run during the previous trips to the state title game.

Harrison started the season playing some quality teams. The Lady Gobblins played six teams in classifications larger than their own. They defeated several playoff teams in larger classifications.

The Lady Gobblins were 3-0 against Class 6A playoff teams and 1-0 against Class 5A teams.

Against playoff schools in Class 4A, Harrison finished the season 6-3.

Due to COVID-19, the Lady Gobblins had to cancel three games this season. The complexion of the entire season changed. No tournaments were allowed to be played by Arkansas schools.

Harrison didn't cross the state line to play Missouri schools and in the Willard (Mo.) Four-State Classic. This marks the second time since the inception of the Lendel Thomas Classic that the event wasn't held.

The Lady Gobblins started the season with a win over Bentonville West. A scrimmage game with Greenbrier turned into a real game and Harrison left with an eight-point win.

Cedarville's game with the Lady Gobblins was canceled before Harrison played Springdale Har-Ber. Harrison left with a seven point win on Nov. 17.

Two games were canceled because of the virus and the Lady Gobblins had a three week layoff before taking the court against Mammoth Spring. Harrison defeated the Lady Bears and then sent Rogers Heritage home with a loss.

In the last non-conference game of the season, the Lady Gobblins traveled to Baxter County to face arch-rival Mountain Home. The Lady Gobblins left town with a 17-point win.

Harrison ended the non-conference portion of the season with a 6-0 mark.

After Harrison started in 4A-1 play, the Lady Gobblins found ways to win. Harrison had large wins over Prairie Grove and Gentry.

Looming in front of the Lady Gobblins was defending Class 4A State Champions — Farmington.

See **HARRISON**, cont. Page 10

Harrison Lady Gobblins Schedule

56	Bentonville West	46	48	Pea Ridge	43
56	@Greenbrier	48	51	@Berryville	43
47	@Har-Ber	40	55	Shiloh Christian	45
60	@Mammoth Spring	55	64	+Farmington	76
46	Rogers Heritage	38	49	+Berryville	38
53	@Mountain Home	36	47	+Ozark	23
61	@Prairie Grove	44	54	+Pea Ridge	57
55	@Gentry	44	61	+Farmington	63
56	Farmington	42	49	^Brookland	41
68	Berryville	46	62	^Star City	57
44	@Shiloh Christian	43	54	^Morrilton	48
47	@Gravette	46	68	^Farmington	54
65	Huntsville	22			

• District Tournament + Regional Tournament ^ State Tournament

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Lady Gobblins

never give up lead in
WIN over Farmington

By **JEFF BRASEL**

jeffb@harrisdaily.com

HOT SPRINGS — Defense and free throws are key factors in winning a basketball game.

Saturday morning in Hot Springs, the Lady Gobblins of Harrison put on a clinic in posting a Class 4A State Basketball Tournament victory. Harrison defeated Farmington, 68-54.

This was the fourth meeting between the two schools with Harrison winning two which included the state title contest.

Harrison won the regular season conference game between the two teams, but lost the district tournament and regional tournament pairings between the two squads.

The Lady Gobblins started the second period with a bucket from Mariah Hudson. That was answered by Farmington to cut the Harrison lead to 22-18.

Then the Lady Gobblins shot off with an 11-0 run.

Alex Hill started the run and then dished to an open Clare Barger who hit an inside shot. Just 25 seconds

later Barger scored again after the Lady Gobblins had crashed the offensive glass. Barger picked off the second offensive rebound and converted it to points.

Continuing to crash the offensive glass, freshman Reese Ricketts picked off a rebound and scored.

Maggie Salmon finished up the run with a trey to make it a 33-18 contest.

Farmington closed the run with a bucket, but Madison Bell saw Ricketts in the paint and hit the post player for another inside score.

Harrison finished at halftime leading, 37-25.

Hill started the third period with a 6-2 run. Bell hit Hill inside the paint that resulted in a two-shot foul. Hill made one of the those and then a minute later, made a basket and was fouled. Hudson hit Hill on the win and the senior drained a 3-pointer to push Harrison ahead, 43-27.

Farmington warmed up and scored on three possessions in 25 seconds to cut the Harrison lead to 43-33.

Ricketts stopped the mini-run, and started one for Harrison. Her bucket was answered by two Farmington free throws, but she scored once

See **LADY GOBLINS**, cont. on Page 9



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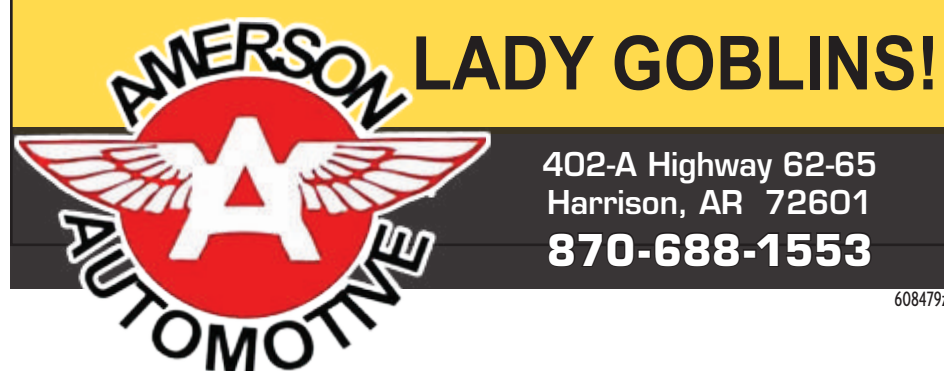
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Lady Goblins

FINISH OVERALL NO. 5

Staff Report

sports@harrisdaily.com

NORTH LITTLE ROCK — Leading into the postseason, the Lady Goblins of Harrison were leading the Class 4A polls and were No. 8 in the Overall Poll.

After finishing with a 22-3 record and a 68-54 win in the state championship over Farmington, Harrison proved their top ranking in Class 4A and moved up to No. 5 in the Overall Poll according to the Arkansas Sports Media High School Girls Basketball Poll.

Bergman's Lady Panthers finished second in Class 3A and received two votes in the Overall Poll. Valley Springs held their ranking at No. 4 in Class 3A. Kingston's Lady Yellow Jackets earned two votes in Class 1A.

In the Overall Poll, Melbourne's 32-1 record along with a Class 2A championship earned them the No. 1 ranking. Fort Smith Northside won Class 6A and sits at No. 2. Third is the winner of Class 6A in Jonesboro. Fayetteville's second-place finish in Class 6A put them in the poll at No. 4. Harrison moved from eighth to fifth after winning the Class 4A title. Bentonville is No. 6 and Conway takes No. 7. Batesville ended the season at No. 8 while North Little Rock and Mayflower tied for the 10th position.

In Class 6A, FS Northside won the state title and leads the group while Fayetteville takes No. 2. Bentonville is third followed by Conway and then North Little Rock.

Jonesboro went from previously unranked to the No. 1 spot in Class 5A after a state finals win. Batesville held its spot at No. 2 and Greenwood fell from first to third. Vilonia stayed at No. 4 and West Memphis entered the poll at fifth.

Harrison held its spot atop Class 4A with a win over No. 2 Farmington. Morrilton and Pulaski Academy tied for third after both were previously unranked. Star City fell to fifth from second after being defeated by the Lady Goblins in the quarterfinals.

Mayflower defeated Centerpoint in the finals of Class 3A and take the No. 1 position in the classification. Bergman's semifinal

loss put the Lady Panthers at No. 2 in the ranking. Centerpoint finishes at third. Valley Springs finished their season at No. 4 and Mountain View is fifth.

Class 2A is led by Melbourne. Salem is second followed by Bigelow, Fordyce and then Marmaduke.

Rural Special won Class 1A and is followed by Norfolk and then Viola. West Side Greers Ferry enters the poll at No. 4 and Mount Vernon-Enola is fifth.

Arkansas Sports Media High School Girls Basketball Poll

Following is the final Overall Top 10 high school girls basketball teams in Arkansas and the top five in Classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A for the 2020-21 season, as voted by a panel of sports media from around the state for the week ending March 20. Ranking is given with first-place votes received, records, total points and previous rankings:

OVERALL

1. Melbourne (15)	32-1	150	1
2. FS Northside	26-2	135	3
3. Jonesboro	23-6	107	—
4. Fayetteville	19-7	92	—
5. Harrison	22-3	77	8
6. Bentonville	18-5	62	5
7. Conway	21-5	51	6
8. Batesville	22-3	45	4
9. North Little Rock	19-9	26	9
(tie) Mayflower	26-5	26	—

Others receiving votes: Rural Special 16, West Memphis 11, Greenwood 11, Vilonia 6, Farmington 4, Salem 3, Marion 2, Bergman 2.

CLASS 4A

1. Harrison (15)	22-3	75	1
2. Farmington	23-8	59	—
3. Morrilton	22-4	31	—
(tie) Pulaski Academy	23-5	31	—
5. Star City	28-4	23	2

Others receiving votes: Pea Ridge 6.



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LADY GOBLINS:

Continued from Page 7

more after getting two offensive rebounds before dropping the shot in.

Hudson scored the next point after being fouled after collecting an offensive rebound. Barger then pushed Harrison back to a 50-35 lead after Sydney Shrum hit her with a pass.

Farmington scored the last six points of the period to end the third with a 50-41 game in favor of Harrison.

The Lady Cardinals, who have been known to make late runs, continued to score while Harrison managed only two points in a 7:03 streak.

Hill's two points were the only two in a Farmington 14-2 streak. The Lady Cardinals had pulled with 52-47 with 3:02 left.

Then Harrison took over the ballgame.

Hill, who took three charges in the game, took one and then was fouled by the Lady Cardinals. She hit both charity tosses.

Those free throws started a streak by Harrison that resulted in the Lady Goblins hitting 14-of-18 opportunities.

Ricketts was the only player to score a field goal for Harrison in the final 2:33 of the game. Hill hit 11 free throws in that stretch of the game, Hudson nailed two and Shrum one.

After sprinting to a 7-0 lead which included five points from Alex Hill and a bucket by Barger to begin the

first period, the Lady Goblins ended the first quarter with a trey from Shrum to put the team ahead, 20-15.

Harrison's largest lead of the first quarter was nine points when Hudson had a steal and a layup.

The largest lead in the second period with at 33-18 on three occasions.

In the third period, Harrison led by 16 points and in the final frame the largest lead of the game was 17 points.

Harrison had a pair of double double players with one being a senior and one a freshman. Hill, the senior, had 30 points which included 13 from the free throw line. She also had 10 rebounds.

Ricketts ended the game with 10 rebounds and 10 points.

Clare Barger added 12 points in the game. Mariah Hudson pitched in seven points, Salmon five points and Shrum four.

Harrison finished the game with nine turnovers while Farmington had 10. Three of the Farmington turnovers came on Harrison steals.

Team members include: Alex Hill; Clare Barger; Claire Cecil; Sydney Shrum; Brynn Oleson; Tenelle Tate; Madison Bell; Mariah Hudson; Marianne King; Trevera Whitehorse; Maggie Salmon; Shaylee Ward; Jenna Mae Jones; and Reese Ricketts. Team coaches are Kristian Williams, head coach; Stacie Klott, assistant coach; and Kyle Brashears, assistant coach. Team manager is Shelby Oswalt.

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Harrison Lady Gobblins ROSTER

No.	Athlete	Class
3	Alex Hill	12
4	Clare Barger	10
5	Claire Cecil	10
10	Sydney Shrum	12
11	Brynn Oleson	12
20	Tenelle Tate	12
21	Madison Bell	11
22	Mariah Hudson	12
23	Marianne King	10
24	Trevera Whitehorse	10
30	Maggie Salmon	12
34	Shaylee Ward	10
40	Jenna Mae Jones	10
42	Reese Ricketts	9

Manager: Shelby Oswalt

Head Coach: Kristian Williams

Asst. Coach: Stacie Klott

Asst. Coach: Kyle Brashears

Athletic Director: Chris Pratt

Athletic Director: Joel Wells

HARRISON:

Continued from Page 5

The Lady Gobblins spanked Farmington by 14 points and then beat Berryville by 22 points.

The next opponent came into the game getting recognition at the time on the state level. Harrison left Springdale and Shiloh Christian with a one-point win.

Another one-point win was on the schedule as Harrison left Gravette after sliding by 47-46.

Huntsville was what the doctor ordered for the Lady Gobblins. The team had an opportunity to flex its muscles and relax by downing Huntsville by 43 points.

Back to the grind, Harrison then defeated the future district tournament winner Pea Ridge by five points before leaving Berryville with an eight-point win.

Feb. 9 was the Lady Gobblins' last regular season game. Harrison defeated Shiloh Christian by 10 points

in Goblin Arena.

After an easy winter, Mother Nature stepped in to create problems in the high school basketball world. The conclusion of the regular season was ended without finishing the last games. Some schools lacked two conference games while most still had one left to play. Some teams had completed the entire league schedule.

Teams were seeded into the event and Harrison was the top seed from the 4A-1 east side. The team earned a trip to the regional tournament and a trip to the semifinals of the district event.

The begin date of the district tournament was moved ahead to get it started before more weather occurred. After the second round of weather, the tournament was to be played to the semifinals and the four teams in the semifinals would be the conference representatives. The conference would seed the teams backed upon the regular season league finish.

With that information, the Lady Gobblins would be the No. 1 seed from the conference.

Things changed.

The Arkansas Activities Association pushed the regional, state and finals back one week. This move allowed the 4A-1 to play its district event.

After taking its second extended break of the season, Harrison was back on the court two weeks later. The Lady Gobblins fell to Farmington in the semifinals before defeating Berryville in the consolation game.

Harrison was now the No. 3 seed from the league into the Class 4A North Region Tournament that was held in Ozark.

Drawing the host in the first game, Harrison doubled up the Lady Hillbillies to assure themselves of a trip to the state tournament.

After facing Ozark, the Lady Gobblins had fourth quarter struggles. The team had a large lead against Pea Ridge in the regional semifinals before losing it. The team led Farmington in the fourth quarter in the consolation game before losing that game.

Harrison had dropped three of its last five games heading into the state tournament.

As the No. 4 seed from the North, the Lady Gobblins drew No. 3 Brookland from the East. Harrison won, 49-41, to move to the quarterfinals.

With the win, the Lady Gobblins were facing the other Class 4A State Champion from last year. (Last season the final games in Class 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A were not held because of COVID-19. The AAA declared the two teams in the final game as state champions.) Star City was on the agenda.

The Lady Bulldogs were ahead of Harrison in the fourth period, but the Lady Gobblins came back and secured the win.

Harrison found itself in the semifinals of the state tournament and for the second tournament in a row, it was to play the host team. Harrison took an early lead against Morrilton and never gave it up as the Lady Gobblins were headed to the championship game in Hot Springs.

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STATE Champions!

◀ JEFF BRASEL/STAFF

The Harrison Lady Gobblins are the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament champions. The team finished the season with a 22-3 record. Team members include: (front row, left to right) Jenna Mae Jones; Claire Cecil; Trevera Whitehorse; (middle) Clare Barger; Mariah Hudson; Maggie Salmon; Sydney Shrum; Tenelle Tate; Madison Bell; (back) Alex Hill; Marianne King; Reese Ricketts; Shaylee Ward; and Brynn Oleson. Kristian Williams served as the head coach and Stacie Klott and Kyle Brashears are assistant coaches.

State Basketball Championships Hot Springs Convention Center

Thursday, March 18

Class 6A Girls Fort Smith Northside 52, Fayetteville 51, 2OT
Class 6A Boys North Little Rock 65, Little Rock Central 55
Class 1A Girls Rural Special 48, Norfolk 40
Class 1A Boys Viola 62, Greers Ferry Westside 47

Friday, March 19

Class 2A Girls Melbourne 55, Salem 34
Class 2A Boys Marianna-Lee 62, Caddo Hills 55, 2OT
Class 3A Girls Mayflower 29, Centerpoint 27
Class 3A Boys Harding Academy 42, Mayflower 38

Saturday, March 20

Class 4A Girls Harrison 68, Farmington 54
Class 4A Boys Mills Univ. Studies 49, Morrilton 46
Class 5A Girls Jonesboro 47, West Memphis 39
Class 5A Boys Jonesboro 58, Maumelle 56

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