

Herald Sports



Hermiston finishes sixth at Reser's

HILLSBORO — Through his first three matches at the Reser's Tournament of Champions, Hermiston 195-pound senior John-Henry Line won by a combined four points.

Those close defensive battles caught up to him in the championship on Saturday at Liberty High School when Sprague's Santos Cantu was able to edge him 3-2 for the coveted title.

Line had earned his spot in the finals with a win by that exact score over Crook County's Cade Woodward in the semifinals, and he was the only one to advance from the five Bulldogs that reached the semis.

Hermiston started the day tied for fifth and finished sixth with 132 points.

Roseburg won the team title with 270, followed by Dallas (170), Newberg (140), Crater (135.5) and Culver (133) to round out the top five.

Hermiston 138-pounder C.J. Hendon placed third after bouncing back from a 10-9 loss to Sprague's Michael Murphy in the semifinals. Hendon pinned Roseburg's Austin David in 2:11 to reach the third-place match, where he then beat Kyle Beal of David Douglas 6-4.

Placing fourth for Hermiston were Valen Wyse (160 pounds), Julio Leiva (170) and Kenny Bevan (220).

Beau Blake (285) placed fifth, and Adrian Tuia (145) was sixth.

Hermiston will wrestle a dual at Hood River tonight.

Bulldog swimmers surge to win late

HOOD RIVER — Hermiston's boys swim team made it two-for-two on the season by winning the Hood River Invite on Saturday.

A week after tying Pendleton to win both team's first meet of the season last week, the Bulldogs surged to the top of the podium with 471 points at Hood River.

Pendleton was a distant second with 277, and they were followed by Hood River with 263 and The Dalles with 225.

Hood River won the girls' meet with 619, Pendleton was second with 493, The Dalles was third with 388 and Hermiston was fourth with 164.

Hermiston's win again came with a strong showing from its relays as it

placed second and third in both the 200-yard medley and freestyle, and second and fifth in the 400 freestyle to score 194 team points.

Hermiston scored the bulk of its points by placing several swimmers in each individual event, though. Points were awarded down to 16th place.

Taking first for the Bulldogs was Carson Wrathall in the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 2:04.53. He also was second in the 100 free (54.78) and Ryan Barnard placed second in two events, the 100 butterfly (59.84) and 100 backstroke (1:05.01.)

Hermiston will be back in the pool on Saturday at a meet in La Grande.

IN BRIEF

Students will represent Hermiston at state contest

HERMISTON — Two Hermiston students will represent their team at the State Hoop Shoot basketball tournament next month, after winning the local Elks Lodge District Hoop Shoot Jan. 15.

Wyatt Browne and Luis Flores will travel to Milwaukee to compete in the statewide event Feb. 11. The District Hoop Shoot, held at Sandstone Middle School, hosted students ages 8 through 13, representing Elks Lodges from around northeastern Oregon. Students have 25 chances to make as many free throws as possible.

Competitions were divided into three age groups. The winners for the 8-9 year-old age group were Leopoldi Longoria and Lorelai Keefauver. The 10-11 year-old winners were Wyatt Browne and Gianna Medelez, and Luis Flores and JaLay Burns won the 12-13 year-old category.

Cheer clinic offers instruction, performance

HERMISTON — A kids' cheer clinic is offered to youths in first through eighth grades. Participants will perform during halftime of the Friday, Feb. 3 varsity boys basketball game at

Hermiston.

The clinic is Feb. 1-2 from 6-7:15 p.m. in the Main Commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. The cost is \$30, which includes a T-shirt and instruction for cheers, chants, jumps and a dance. Registration is Monday Jan. 30 from 5-6 p.m. in the commons. Those who pre-register by Friday can save \$5.

For more information, contact Kayleigh at 541-701-4467 or kayleigh.wise@yahoo.com.

Softball camp set for February

HERMISTON — Youths wanting to get an edge before hitting the softball diamond can attend a pitching and catching camp.

The camp is open to ages 6-14 and is offered Feb. 5, 19 and 26 (beginning skills form 5-6 p.m. and intermediate from 6:15-7:15 p.m.) at Rocky Heights Elementary School 650 W. Standard Ave., Hermiston. The cost is \$25 for all three or \$10 each. All pitchers must bring a catcher and wear indoor shoes.

For more information or to register, contact Shellie Rysdam at 541-667-6100 (ext. 20005), Lindy Thompson at 541-667-6115 or kate.greenough@hermiston.k12.or.us. To guarantee a T-shirt, participants should register by Sunday, Jan. 29.

Bulldogs posts win in CRC opener



Hermiston's Hayden Meyers drives past The Dalles' Jodi Thomasian in the Bulldogs' 53-36 win over the Riverhawks on Monday in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Padilla, Juul guide Hermiston girls to win

Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — A flat start by Hermiston's shooters gave The Dalles a glimmer of hope, but the Bulldogs didn't let it last as they rallied in the second quarter and took control of Monday's Columbia River Conference game at The Dawghouse.

Maddy Juul and Kynzee Padilla both turned in double-doubles and Hermiston pulled away in its CRC opener 53-36 for its fifth win in a row.

Padilla posted team-highs of 13 points and 14 rebounds, and Juul finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

"Our identity started to show tonight," said Hermiston coach Juan Rodriguez. "Coming into the season I thought our strength was going to be our posts, so to see both of them with double-doubles was really good."

Jazlyn Romero also added 11 points to go with seven rebounds from her guard position, and Rileigh Andreason finished with eight points.

Andreason got Hermiston (7-7, 1-0 CRC) out of its funk with back-to-back 3-pointers to start a 10-0 run in the second quarter.

"That was a big sigh of relief for everybody," Rodriguez said. "The Dalles had to start coming out on her, and that opened things up inside."

Hermiston was down by 10 before its run, and never trailed again after taking the lead by using strong offensive rebounding to keep its offense churning.

Rodriguez said he attributed the slow start to the team's inability to get in a good practice after the game was rescheduled from Friday and an AAU tournament monopolized the courts over the weekend.

Iliana Telles and Brooke McCall each scored 10 points to lead The Dalles (4-6, 0-1).

Webb's hot hand leads Vikings to win

UMATILLA — On Saturday morning, the Umatilla boys basketball team held a shootaround to prepare for the evening's game against Nyssa.

During the shootaround, Umatilla coach Derek Lete said that senior Kaden Webb put up a lot of shots, so much so that Lete had to tell Webb to 'Save yourself for the game' to which Webb replied 'I'll be fine coach.'

After Saturday night's game, it's safe to say Webb's extra shots paid off as he scored a game-high 30 points to help his Vikings knock off the defending league champion Nyssa 66-39 at Umatilla High School.

"He was just in a zone," Lete said of Webb. "He was

6-9 from 3-point range and had five in the third quarter, which was our big quarter, and that stretch really fueled us."

Lete said he was proud of his team's defensive effort, holding defending EOL Player of the Year Andres Gonzalez of Nyssa to just two points and the Bulldogs' leading scorer Boston Thompson scoreless.

Umatilla followed up the win with a 63-37 win over Burns on Monday.

ECHO 64, HELIX 60, OT — At Helix, the Cougars came out on top of a back-and-forth Old Oregon League game that saw the teams tied at 53 when regulation ended.

Morgan Marcum paced all scorers with 28 points

for Echo (5-12, 4-4 OOL), and Klay Jensen added 14 points as the Cougars won their third in a row.

Echo's next game is Friday when it hosts Pine Eagle at 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

ECHO 37, HELIX 29 — At Helix, the Echo Cougars outscored the Helix Grizzlies 16-4 in the fourth quarter to pull away with a 37-29 victory on Saturday night in an Old Oregon League match-up.

Devyn Tarvin led Echo (13-4, 6-2 OOL) with 15 points and Hannah McCarty had 11 points. Sadie Wilson and Emma Fehrenbacher each scored eight

points to lead Helix (6-6, 2-4). Wilson also led Helix with 14 rebounds.

Echo hosts Pine Eagle on Friday at 6 p.m.

NYSSA 45, UMATILLA 32 — At Umatilla, the Vikings couldn't overcome a slow start that saw them staring at a 27-8 halftime deficit as the Nyssa Bulldogs went on to win 45-32 on Saturday night in Eastern Oregon League play.

Aleesha Watson and Lauryn Journot each scored 14 points apiece for Umatilla (6-10, 1-2 EOL), providing the bulk of the Vikings offensive firepower. Charline Lancaster led Nyssa with 11 points.

Umatilla lost to Burns 39-36 on Monday.

Hermiston looking to join Washington conference

Hermiston hoping to leave OSAA by 2018 to save on travel time

Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — On the verge of moving up to a larger conference, the Hermiston School District is looking north to give its athletes a place to compete without having to make the round-trip to Portland all season long.

The district announced Monday it is exploring the possibility of joining the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) by the fall of 2018.

"Hermiston School District is facing a challenge as Hermiston High School's enrollment continues to increase," the district said in a press release. "The growth will move HHS to the state's highest classification

in the OSAA. This brings up the issue that there are no similarly sized high schools within 175 miles of Hermiston for competition."

The current proposal before the OSAA has Hermiston joining the 6A Mt. Hood Conference with an average travel distance for league games of 179.25 miles. The average travel distance for Hermiston in the Columbia River Conference is 85.67.

Hermiston estimates its travel would top 3,000 miles per season for league games alone would it remain with the OSAA's plan.

Hermiston Athletic Director Larry Usher, who voiced concerns over travel when interviewed for a story titled "Bulldogs eyeing move up" that ran by the Jan. 11 edition of the *Hermiston Herald*, took a harder stance in the district's release.

"This could increase the school's travel costs by up to 60 percent, and students could miss up to 30 percent

of their classes in a given month for their athletic events, which is unacceptable," he said.

The more attractive option for Usher is hitching Hermiston's wagon to the WIAA's Mid-Columbia League along with Kennewick, Kamiakin and Southridge — teams the Bulldogs regularly play in non-league competition already.

Which leads to Hermiston's other main issue with the OSAA — it's ranking system.

The OSAA's Rated Percentage Index (RPI) determines postseason seeding, and in some cases even postseason berths. The RPI does not factor in out-of-state opponents, and favors teams that schedule games within their classifications.

It's why Hermiston's boys basketball team has taken four trips to the Portland area for games and tournaments this season, and dealt with multiple cancellations, rather than

play smaller local teams like Umatilla and Stanfield.

Usher said the WIAA still needs to agree to the move, but the Bulldogs also have some outside backers in their corner.

"I believe we are still facing an uphill battle with the WIAA, and we completely understand if they are hesitant," he said. "Something new is not always easy for any group, but this is about our kids in Hermiston and this uphill battle is certainly worth it. We have the full support of every school across the river in the Mid-Columbia Conference and certainly hope that pulls some weight with their association."

Should Hermiston leave, the OSAA would lose one of its most successful programs of the last 10 seasons, which have seen the Bulldogs win 13 teams titles in wrestling (9), girls tennis (2), boys cross country and football.