



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Camryn Collman, center, and Kenzie Williams, right, put pressure on Irrigon's Ana Zacharias during Tuesday's game in La Grande. The Tigers pulled away in the second half for a 63-31 victory.

Beavs have more than just 3-point prowess

By Steve Gress
The Albany Democrat-Herald

Even with junior sharpshooter Kat Tudor out for the remainder of season, the Oregon State women's basketball team can light it up from beyond the 3-point line.

The Beavers led Division I in 3-point percentage through games played Monday, knocking down 165 of 381 attempts for a 43.3 percentage.

Oregon State was tied for sixth with 10.3 made per game and was sixth with the 165 made shots.

While the lone-range shot is obviously a key part of the No. 10 Beavers' offensive arsenal, they proved this past weekend they don't have to rely on the shot to be successful.

"I know the 3 is not always going to fall so you have to be ready to have an inside and outside threat," said junior guard Mikayla Pivec, who leads the team at 57 percent (16 for 28) from beyond the ark.

"So knowing that we can drive effectively, if that's what the defense is giving us, or being ready to make them pay from the 3-point line, having both is important."

Twice in conference play, the Beavers have faced a team that focused on containing their 3-point barrage.

Both Washington State and UCLA chose to defend the perimeter and force the Beavers to try to beat them one-on-one and attack the basket.

Oregon State did hit nine 3s against the Cougars but it took 24 attempts for a 37.5 percent effort, well below its season average.

The Beavers attempted just nine 3s against UCLA and made four but still won by 10 on the road.

Coach Scott Rueck said he wasn't all that surprised the Bruins looked to take away the long-range shots last Friday.

"They chose the 3-point line, which was an effective strategy a year ago," Rueck said. "They took Kat away down there they just sat on her and buried her and denied her the ball all game long and that impacted us."

The Beavers have the ability to attack the basket more than in year's past with Destiny Slocum and Pivec leading the charge from the guard position, instead of relying mostly on the 3 to give the offense a spark.

"This year's team has more playmakers, we're at a different level of understanding the game, a different level of confidence," Rueck said. "We're just better in those attacking positions, so I just thought we did a really nice job getting to the rim and taking what they gave us, which I think talks to the versatility of our team."

The Beavers had plenty of versatility on offense as six different players went for

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Tigers roll in win over Knights

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The La Grande Tigers girls basketball team always felt in control of its Tuesday night contest against the Irrigon Knights, even though the Tigers had just an eight-point lead at halftime.

They made sure they were in command after the break.

Camryn Collman and Ella Dunlap both reached double figures with 13 and 10 points, respectively, and the Tigers used a strong second half — and a 13-0 third-quarter run — to blast the Knights, 63-31.

"At halftime, we talked about how we had not only a size advantage inside against their zone, but an ability advantage, I felt, as well," Head Coach Brian Wright said. "We talked about making sure we swing the ball to one side and then get the ball reversed, and then the posts were going to be open."

The Tigers were crisp on their passing much of the night, but especially in the third quarter, when they had six assists on their seven made field goals.

Kenzie Williams, who had nine points, fed Jacie Howton for a layup and a 35-23 lead midway through the third. Howton later returned the favor, finding Williams for a score and a 37-24 advantage.

The Tigers then assisted on



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Alexyss Chamberlain, right, skies for an offensive rebound in the second half of Tuesday's game.

three 3-pointers late in the third — two off of kickouts following an offensive rebound — as part of the big 13-0 push for a 50-27 lead after three quarters.

"We have worked on passing a lot and talking as a team," Dunlap said. "This game we were able

to work on that because of the advantages (we had). We were able to see the open passes."

Wright called the effort in the passing game "much better" than of recent contests, noting that the Tigers had their passing issues in last Friday's game against

McLoughlin.

"We talked at halftime (that) our shooting percentage is way better when the ball goes into the post and then comes out and our kids have their feet set. Very pleased with the ball movement — pleased with the effort," he said.

All told, La Grande had 17 assists on 24 made field goals. Collman and Lauran Rinker had four apiece and Williams chipped in with three.

Rebounding was another strong suit for La Grande, as the Tigers — who had six players on their roster listed taller than Irrigon's tallest at 5-foot-7, used that size advantage judiciously. As a team, the Tigers had 46 rebounds to the Knights' 25, and collected 20 offensive rebounds.

Dunlap led the way with eight rebounds total and six on the offensive end. Williams had seven boards and both Grace Neer and Alexyss Chamberlain added five.

"We did really good crashing the boards," Williams said. We got a lot of offensive rebounds which helped us score more points and get more shots, and we moved the ball really well in the second half and got good open shots."

Neer also had nine points — seven in the first half — and Chamberlain added eight for La Grande, which shot 42 percent and was 4-for-9 from 3-point range.

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La Grande girls first, boys third at White Buffalo Invite

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers girls swim team won six events on its way to victory at the Madras White Buffalo Invite on Saturday, while the boys team placed third overall.

Romayne Ricker picked up two individual victories and swam on a winning relay to pace the LHS girls, who scored 106 points for the win. Ricker won the girls 200 individual

medley relay (2:15.06), and the 100 breaststroke (1:11.29). She also teamed with Laramie Ricker, Reagan Kruse and Kristal Jensen in winning the 200 freestyle relay (1:46.77).

Jensen added a victory in the girls 100 butterfly (1:03.18) and Kennedy Kruse took the top spot in the 500 freestyle (5:50.37) to lead a 1-2-3 finish in the race. The Tigers rounded out their onslaught with

Laramie Ricker, Riley Weigand, Tulea Setser and Kennedy Kruse winning in 4:03.92.

La Grande added second-place finishes from Kennedy Kruse in the 200 freestyle (2:08.98), Jensen in the 50 freestyle (26.67), Reagan Kruse in the 100 freestyle (1:00.03), and Weigand in the 500 freestyle (6:00.69).

Setser placed third in the 200 freestyle (2:16.69) and the 500

freestyle (6:05.38), while Aryana Bouten claimed third in the 100 backstroke (1:10.97). Weigand added a fourth-place finish in the 200 IM (2:29.30).

Garren Dutto led the boys team, which scored 48 points, with victories in the boys 200 IM (2:02.84) and the 100 freestyle (49.75). He was also part of two second-place relay teams, joining Caden Ricker, James Thurman

and T.J. Clay for second in the 200 freestyle relay (1:38.18) and Ricker, Clay and Logan Flynn for second in the 400 freestyle relay (3:41.27).

The Tigers also scored fourth-place finishes from Ricker in the 200 freestyle (2:01.47), Flynn in the 200 butterfly (1:08.20) and Clay in the 100 backstroke (1:01.72).

La Grande returns to action Saturday at Baker.

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