



La Grande's Camryn Collman, left, scored a game-high 25 points Monday in the Tigers' game against Hermiston.

Bulldogs clip Tigers

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — La Grande head coach Brian Wright was pleased with how his team battled and didn't quit Monday despite facing multiple double-digit deficits.

In the end, though, turnovers and Hermiston's sharpshooting from the 3-point line — especially in the second half — did in the Tigers as they dropped their home opener to the Bulldogs, 64-56.

"There were two times in the game where I felt like we could have rolled over and got beat by way too much, and both times the kids were resilient and came back," Wright said.

The first was early in the third quarter, when the Bulldogs, who were 9-for-28 from 3-point range, drained

their first three triples of the third, with Katelyn Heide-man's back-to-back 3s giving Hermiston its largest lead, 41-24.

A 15-4 La Grande run followed, one that Lauran Rinker scored all seven of her points during, to bring the Tigers within 45-39. The Tigers' deficit was 48-41 after three quarters.

In the fourth, Hermiston seemed set to pull away when two Jazlyn Romero free throws extended the margin back to 13 before La Grande made a final rally.

"Right now your face is telling the other team you're going to get beat," Wright said of his message to the team during a timeout in the fourth. "I think the kids really responded well to that. We made a little run there and closed the gap."

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La Grande's Brooklyn Hutchins (32) is fouled on a shot by Hermiston's Sydney Seavert during Monday's home opener.

Elgin finds offensive spark in victory

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

ELGIN — The Elgin Huskies found a flow on offense Tuesday and came away with the team's highest-scoring effort of in nearly four years.

Tristan Simpson and Cody Harvey both scored 17 points, and Elgin never trailed as it rolled to a 70-53 home win over Weston-McEwen.

"The biggest thing is the team finally was coming together offensively, passing the ball around and sharing the wealth," head coach Kevin Johnson said. "We've been trying to get to that concept. Finally, it set in place tonight."

The big night offensively from Simpson, Harvey and Kaden McClure, who added 16 points, led to Elgin's first 70-point effort since January 2016.

"That was very needed," Harvey said of the balanced scoring. "We need more people to step up and get points, and I'm glad they could do that tonight."

The Huskies hadn't eclipsed 50 points yet in the young season.

"The first two games it was jitters," Harvey said.



Elgin's Gage McKay, right, dives on the floor Tuesday to steal a ball from Weston-McEwen's Levi Phillips during the Huskies' win over the TigerScots.

"Everybody was so quick to rush shots and not move the ball. If you move the ball, the ball will come to you and you'll get points."

The Huskies also were a force on the glass, owning a 41-31 rebounding advantage with Simpson collecting 15 boards — 10 on the offensive glass. Harvey also had 10 boards to collect a double-double.

"Having them crash the

boards is one thing we've been talking about," Johnson said.

The Huskies twice in the first half had runs to try and build their lead, but the TigerScots hung around. Harvey's rebound and putback gave Elgin an eight-point lead late in the first quarter, but Weston-McEwen pulled even twice in the second quarter, the last at 23-23 on a layup by Blair Rudolph.

Elgin countered with a 14-3 run to end the half, with a putback by Simpson and two more field goals by the senior — including a late fastbreak layup — giving the Huskies a 37-26 lead at the break.

A 3-pointer by Blane Peal midway through the third cut Elgin's lead to six before the Huskies put the game on ice. Harvey responded with a 3 to start a 15-2 run to end

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Huskies take down Weston to start season 3-0



Elgin's Gracie Evans attempts a reverse layup Tuesday during the Huskies' win over Weston-McEwen.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

ELGIN — The Elgin Huskies got off to a quick start and were never threatened Tuesday at home as they picked up their third win of the young season.

Jayden Palmer scored a game-high 15 points, Jocelyn Palmer added 11 and Elgin stopped Weston-McEwen, 42-28.

"I guess just being excited about playing" head coach Brian Evans said of what triggered the quick start. "I told them in the room we don't want to go backwards. Every game we want to get better and better. They came out and took it to them right out of the gate. I was proud of them."

Elgin seized control of the game as the Huskies opened on a 15-2 run. Jayden Palmer and Gracie Evans each had five in the opening quarter to help spark the fast start.

"We've been undefeated (to start the season) so we don't want to go down, we want to keep growing," Jayden Palmer said.

Elgin stagnated in the second quarter and went into the half leading 22-10, but a strong third quarter sparked by Kaelin Evans and Jocelyn Palmer — Evans on a trio of baskets on the low block and Palmer on a pair of drives to the rim — helped Elgin take its largest lead after three quarters,

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LHS wrestlers begin with win at Ranger Classic

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — Even with a large portion of the La Grande wrestling team not on the mat as they recovered from the run to the state football title, the Tigers claimed the team title Saturday at the Ranger Classic in Estacada behind individual titles from Joshua Collins and Dominick Caratello, four additional second-place finishes and a pair of third-place efforts.

The Tigers, powered by a bevy of younger low- and mid-weight wrestlers — La Grande didn't have a grappler above 170 pounds compete — finished with 202 points as a team to edge the host Rangers (193 points). Nine freshmen and a sophomore were among the 14 who competed for La Grande.

"I was excited to see them compete," LHS head coach Klel Carson said. "They really did a great job. It was unbelievable. (We) Had two freshmen that were champions. They wrestled well."

Collins went a perfect 4-0 at 120 pounds, pinning his first three opponents in a combined time of 2:02 and finishing with a 9-0 major decision over Washougal's Luke Golphennee, while Caratello (126), who received a double-bye into the semifinals, rolled in earning the semifinal win and a 14-second pin of Estacada's Landin Vittetoe in the championship.

Delia Gulzow (106), Alex Kehr (138), Cole Isaacson (145) and Braxton Bisenius (152) each went 2-1 to reach the finals in their respective weight classes and finish second. Gulzow, Kehr and Bisenius each recorded both their wins by fall. Wyatt Livingston (160) and Lamar Ward (170) each went 3-1 to place third, and Weston Durfee (113) Eli Bisenius (120) and Cole Shafer (132) all went 2-2 to finish fourth.

All but one wrestler for La Grande won at least two matches.

The Tigers return to the mat Friday at the Muilen-

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