

# Heppner scores post-season win over Loggers, again

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PENDLETON — With the game hanging in the balance, Patrick Collins let his football instincts kick in.

Leading by a deuce with less than two ticks remaining on the clock, Heppner's two-sport star snared Knappa's baseline inbounds pass out of the air, halting the Loggers' final possession before a final heave was possible. Collins' interception sealed the deal for the No. 3 Mustangs, earned them a 56-54 overtime state quarterfinal win over No. 6 Knappa and advanced the school further into the state basketball tournament than ever before.

"I saw the end zone," he said of the final play. "I was ready to score. I read that and I knew game over."

Heppner (19-5) has never played in a state semifinal in basketball contest. Tonight that will change. They'll face off with No. 2 Toledo at 8:15 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center with a berth in the state championship on the line.

"This was our goal from the beginning of the season to get to this moment," sophomore guard Logan Grieb said. "I'm just really happy."

The historic victory was far from a cakewalk. The Loggers (22-6) are fueled by Class 2A's most prolific scorer. In his last two outings, senior guard Tyson Burnard had scored a combined 82 points — including a 50-point outpouring versus Vernonia in a Northwest League district final win.

Burnard was no less impressive Thursday in Pendleton. He had 16 points by the half and his 13 third quarter points vaulted Knappa to a 43-40 lead entering the fourth. He finished with 36.

With their season on the line, the Mustangs turned defensive in the fourth. Burnard scored just two points, the Loggers four total and Heppner was able to piece together enough baskets to force overtime.

The Loggers mighty mite made things interesting at the regulation buzzer, however. Burnard's halfcourt fling reached the rim, and almost ended it there, but was just a hair too strong.

Collins, who scored 12 in the first half to lead Heppner, reasserted himself in the overtime. An outside jumper opened the extra time scoring and a layup on a feed from CJ Kindle gave Heppner the lead for good.

"Part way through overtime



E.J. HARRIS — EO Media Group  
Knappa's Dakota Severson makes an off-balanced rebound in the Loggers' 56-54 loss to Heppner on Thursday in Pendleton.

I said 'Go to work big man', and he said 'Feed me the basketball. Just give it to me,'" Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said of Collins.

"My team needed me," Collins said. "It took us a few extra minutes than normal but we got it done."

After Burnard missed a floating jumper, Grieb sank two free throws to give the Mustangs a four-point edge with 12.7 seconds remaining. Burnard wasted little time, hurrying down the court to drain a three-pointer to make it a one-point game. CJ Kindle made one-of-two free throws next to push it back to two and then Collins jumped in front of Knappa's Dale Takalo's inbounds pass to cement the win.

The nail-biting, heart-pounding variety of victory is nothing new for the Mustangs. Heppner has won four games this year decided by two points or less, including the state playoff berth clinching win over Stanfield two weeks ago.

"I'm not very old, but they're aging me," Rosenbalm said. "I don't know if some of my kids have ice water in their veins or what it is, but somehow we find a way to make the play when it really matters."

Collins finished with team-high 18 points and 10 rebounds. Grieb added 14 and Weston Putman chipped in with 12.

No Logger besides Burnard made more than two field goals, but Just Dragoo blocked nine shots.

"It's a huge deal," Collins said. "I know that the city of Heppner is so proud of us. I'm just happy to say that I'm a part of it and I've got my best friends beside me."

Toledo ended Heppner's perfect 10-game start earlier this season with a 62-36 win at the Central Linn Holiday Tournament.



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Knappa's Tyson Burnard shoots the ball guarded by Heppner's C.J. Kindle in the Mustangs' 56-54 win against the Loggers on Thursday in Pendleton.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

**Boys Basketball** — 4A State Playoff: Seaside at North Valley, 7 p.m.; 2A State Tournament: Knappa vs. TBA.

#### SATURDAY

**Girls Basketball** — 4A State Playoff: Klamath Union at Seaside, 6 p.m.  
**Boys Basketball** — 2A State Tournament: Knappa vs. TBA

### BASKETBALL

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

**Class 2A Boys Quarterfinal at Pendleton**

**Heppner 56, Knappa 54**

**KNA (54):** Tyson Burnard 36, Dakota Severson 6, Dale Takalo 4, Justin Dragoo 4, Jason Miller 2, Chase Rusinovich 2, Andy Miller, Colton Weirup, James Hendrickson.

**HEP (56):** Patrick Collins 18, Logan

Grieb 14, Weston Putman 12, Ross Cutsforth 6, C.J. Kindle 3, Jesse Corbin 3, Caden Hedman, Kevin Murray.

**Knappa 12 11 20 4 7—54**

**Heppner 10 16 14 7 9—56**

**Field goals:** Knappa 22-59; Heppner 21-49. **3-Point Goals:** Knappa 6-17 (Burnard 5, Takalo); Heppner 5-10 (Putman 2, Grieb 2, Corbin).

**Free throws:** Knappa 4-7; Heppner 9-12. **Fouls:** Knappa 14, Heppner

13. **Turnovers:** Knappa 9, Heppner 16. **Rebounds:** Knappa 28 (Dragoo 10); Heppner 40 (Collins 10). **Blocks:** Knappa 9 (Dragoo 9); Heppner 2 (Collins, Cutsforth). **Assists:** Knappa 5 (Burnard 2); Heppner 12 (Kindle 6).

**Steals:** Knappa 7 (Burnard 2, Dragoo 2, Severson 2); Heppner 4 (Collins 2). **Fouled out:** None.

**Players of the Game:** Tyson Burnard, Knappa; Logan Grieb, Heppner.

## Seaside hosts Klamath Union Saturday

The Seaside girls basketball team will host the Klamath Union Pelicans at 6 p.m. Saturday at Seaside High School in the Sweet 16 of the Class 4A OSAA state playoffs.

Doors open to spectators at 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Accepted passes include the OSAA Gold Card, OSAA VIP pass, OSAA Media pass, OSAA Basketball Discount ticket and OSAA Basketball Media pass, with photo ID.

School, athletic district, officials association, etc., passes will not be accepted.

# Baby orca, other discoveries made by tracking team

SEATTLE (AP) — A new baby orca wasn't the only interesting discovery researchers made while tracking endangered killer whales.

Researchers aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel returned to Oregon earlier this week with a wealth of new data about the whales and their ocean environment.

The information was gained after NOAA Fisheries researchers followed the giant marine mammals for 21 days to find out where they go during the winter, what they eat, and what risks they encounter.

The data and other research will help determine what critical areas offshore need to be protected for the whales, researchers said during a briefing Thursday.

The study came as the National Marine Fisheries Service is considering whether to expand protections for the orcas to include offshore areas from Cape Flattery, Washing-



NOAA photo

This orca was photographed near the mouth of the Columbia River on Feb. 24 by researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. North Head Lighthouse and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center can be seen in the background.

ton, to Point Reyes, California.

The agency has already designated inland waters of Washington as critical to orca conservation.

Using satellite tags, the

team tracked the orcas as they swam about 100 miles or so, mostly along the Washington coast and as far south as central Oregon.

The trip that began Feb. 11

provided a unique opportunity to spend up to 24 hours at a time observing the whales, listening to their sounds and collecting samples of what they eat and expel.

Orcas were listed as endangered in 2005. Local and regional efforts began in the 2000s to save them.

The satellite tagging project, research cruises and other efforts are helping scientists fill in the gaps about their travels and diet.

Among the highlights was the discovery of the new baby orca off the coast of Washington in late February, the third such baby documented this winter.

"I never expected to see this, and it was a key finding," said Brad Hanson, wildlife biologist with NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle.

For the first time, researchers also observed groups of whales reuniting offshore, he said. The orcas were also seen farther from the coast than before — about 15 miles from Washington and 10 miles from Oregon.

Researchers were also surprised to find the orcas at one point foraging in relatively

shallow waters, with a depth of about 26 feet (or 8 meters), near Willapa Bay in southwest Washington.

The scientists were able to get out on a smaller boat to collect fecal samples and fish scales to study what the orcas eat and even which stock of Chinook salmon they prefer.

They also gathered information about the ecosystem where the whales spent their time. While at sea, the scientists collected data on sea surface temperatures, observed the abundance of seabirds in the area, and recorded the sounds the orcas made through a series of hydrophones, or underwater microphones.

"This is such an exciting formation with so much great data," said Lynne Barre, branch chief for protected resources, West Coast region.

Hanson said there's still more to learn, including whether the movements of the orcas change from one year to the next.