



Tenacity leads to HRV victory in CRC opener

Eagles upset Pendleton with 33-point fourth

By ADAM LAPIERRE
News staff writer

A relentless onslaught of aggressive full-court pressure and a late-game rally that included 33 points in the fourth quarter gave the Hood River Valley High School varsity boys basketball team a season-defining win Friday night at Pendleton. The 82-72 come-from-behind victory over the favored Buckaroos is the clearest sign yet that the Eagles have turned the corner this season, leaving the past few years of foul weather and tough luck in the dust.

On paper, 5A No. 4 ranked Pendleton (9-6) was the heavy favorite in the Columbia River Conference



Photo by Adam Lapierre

HIGH SCORER: Skylar Hunter led the Eagles with 15 points and seven assists in the Jan. 23 game.

opener, but, as is often the case, rankings meant very little once the ball started bouncing. Using the fast-paced, in-your-face style of play they adopted at the beginning of the season, the Eagles proved that

patience is a virtue, even in basketball. After trailing for the first three quarters, HRV simply outran, out-hustled and outlasted their opposition, and once they had the Buckaroos on their heels in the final minutes, they struck hard and effectively, turning a seven-point deficit into a ten point victory.

"We kept constant pressure and eventually wore them down," Coach Steve Noteboom said. "We outscored them 30-10 to close out the game. We are playing our best basketball of the year right now and are excited about the rest of the league play."

As has been the case all season, an encouraging sign in Friday's win is the point spread within HRV's lineup; four players scored double digits and four more had five or more points. Top five scorers were Skylar Hunter (15), Tyrone Stintzi (14), Noah Noteboom (13), Kaydin Gibbs (11) and Colin

Tegmin (9). The win is another in a run of high-scoring outputs (69-8 average points per game) that is quickly garnering HRV a reputation as the Comeback Kids of 5A basketball.

Highlighting HRV's fourth-quarter frenzy were several key plays that turned the tides of momentum in the final minutes. Down by ten with about six minutes remaining, the Eagles capitalized on a worn-out Pendleton squad by forcing nearly a dozen turnovers and sinking five three-pointers to outscore the Buckaroos 30 points to ten in the final minutes. Tegman, who got all nine of his points from beyond the arc, sank two clutch threes in the fourth quarter and Noah Noteboom had a crucial four-point play with less than two minutes remaining to fuel HRV's rally. After Noteboom's play – a steal, a lay-in and two free-throws (from a flagrant foul) – the Eagles were up by five

and increased the lead by another five in the final minutes.

The Eagles shot 30 for 63, including 14 for 26 from three-point range. Kuechmann got the team's hustle award for netting three assists and four steals and taking three charges at critical times.

In the other CRC opener the same night, Hermiston defeated The Dalles 54-42. HRV will travel to Hermiston Friday for the first of three games the two teams will play in the next few weeks before returning home for games against The Dalles (Feb. 3), Pendleton (Feb. 6) and Hermiston (Feb. 10).

HRV highlights:

Skylar Hunter: 15 pts., 7 assists; Tyrone Stintzi, 14 pts., 4 reb.; Noah Noteboom, 13 pts., 3 assists; Kaydin Gibbs, 11 pts.; Colin Tegman, 9 pts.; Dallas Buckley, 7 pts, 3 steals; Scottie Ziegner, 6 pts., 4 reb.; Parker Kennedy, 5 pts., 3 reb.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Babe Ruth, Little League sign-ups start this week

■ For Babe Ruth, players can register every Wednesday night at the Hood River Valley High School indoor hitting facility (next to HRV baseball's home field) from 7:30-9 p.m. A copy of your player's birth certificate is needed at registration. The fee this year is \$90. For more information e-mail David Hough at: Yzhough@yahoo.com.

■ For HRV Little League (players from Hood River, Odell and Parkdale), signups will be run online this season at www.signup.hrvll.com. Players can start as young as five years old (as of Jan. 1, 2015). Early registration (by Jan. 31) is \$45; the fee increases to \$60 from Feb. 1-28 and \$75 after Feb. 28. Practices will start in mid-March. For more information e-mail hrvlittleleague@gmail.com.

CSRT excels in first race

More than 70 Cooper Spur Race Team (CSRT) athletes participated the first Mt. Hood Youth Council race of the year earlier this month. Low snow levels at Ski Bowl resulted in the Kandahar GS race being moved to Summit Ski area.

With over 350 competitors, CSRT showed up on the podium at every age level and gender. Highlights are as follows: U8 girls Skyler Vaivodaverrr, Kylin Elliot and Ruby Maki all placed in the top five. Sutton Lefevre finished second and showed high potential in her first year in the U10 class. The U12 girls claimed five of the top ten places (Annie Hendricks 3rd, Marrisa Rigert 7th, Sara Davies 8th, and Madison Swanson 9th). U14 girls team saw Francis Melby in 2nd and Annika Howe 4th, Paris Nunn 5th, and Eva Jones in 9th, while the U14 boys were led by Cassel Lefvre, who missed 1st by .10 of a second, Josh Nardone in 4th and Mason Mahears in 6th.



Left to right are Paris Nunn, Tori Hopkins, Francise Melby, Annie Hendrickson, Annika Howe, Eva Jones and Emily Hendricks.

DERBY DAMES

The Gorge Roller Girls hosted their first roller derby bout of the season in front of a sell-out crowd Saturday night at The Dalles Armory. The double-header opened with a bout between GRG's No. 2 team, the Mountain Mavens, and the Air Raid Roller Girls; the main event followed with a battle between the GRG All Stars and the Shanghaied Roller Dolls. The Mountain Mavens battled tough against a more experienced Air Raid lineup and lost 281-166; Pit Bull (pictured above, center) got Jammer MVP for the bout and Goldie-Knox was MVP Blocker. The GRG All Stars (pictured at right during warm-up) destroyed their opposition to the tune of a 221-124 win. J-Bom got All Star Jammer honors in the bout and All Star blocker went to Kimbo Slice.

Photos courtesy Bill Zingraf, www.regularmanphotography.com



DERBY NAMES

In roller derby, a good name is as important as a good pair of fishnet leggings. Derby names represent athletes' alter-egos when they lace up their skates and hit the track, and like many teams, the Gorge Roller Girls prefer to use their derby names for media coverage of the team. Here are the rosters from Saturday's bouts: GRG All Stars – Faye Spounder, Kat Von Splat, Ginger Binger Danger Hips, Kesassin, Bad Abbott, Hate Winslet, Kimbo Slice, Helda Contempt, Comet, Off Killer, Booya, J Bomb, Pit Bull. Mountain Mavens – Damnations, Bad Abbott, Hound, More Cowbell, Scoldie Knox, Cindarolla, Notch-Yo Mama, Helda Contempt, Jawbreaker, Tannetrum, Jinx, Pitbull, Antie Maim and Minndestructable.

Wrestlers win Stevenson tourney

By ADAM LAPIERRE
News staff writer

Eagle wrestling has a new trophy to add to its collection.

With nine top-three finishes, including four individual champions, the Hood River Valley High School varsity wrestling team claimed first place Saturday in the nine-team Columbia Gorge Invitational at Stevenson High School.

Jessica DeHart, Angel Jones, Jason Shaner and James Estes all took home gold in their brackets and helped the Eagles earn 179 team points in the tournament. Castle Rock was runner-up with 154, followed by Ridgefield (124.5), Washougal (122.5) and Hudsons Bay (89.5) to round out the top five.

The Eagles will look keep the positive momentum going over the next several days as they face one of the toughest and busiest weeks of the season. On Wednesday they host top-ranked Hermiston (JV 6 p.m., varsity 7 p.m.) in a dual that will likely determine the Columbia River Conference champion, on Friday they host Mountain View in a repeat of a close battle the teams had earlier this month at the Oregon Classic

Alumni night Wednesday

Former Hood River Valley High School wrestlers are invited to the team's annual Alumni Night this Wednesday, when the Eagles take on the Hermiston Bulldogs in a dual meet. A meet-and-greet will take place from 6:30-7 p.m. in the gym and will be followed by a brief ceremony and a group photo before the start of the dual.

and on Saturday they host the annual Hood River Elks Memorial Tournament, which brings together several of the state's top-ranked teams.

Gorge Invitational results:

106, Jessica DeHart: 1st, 2-0; 113, Angel Jones: 1st, 1-0; 120, Jason Shaner: 1st, 3-0; 126, Cade Parker: 0-2; Dylan Peterson: 3rd, 3-1; 138, James Estes: 1st, 3-0; 145, Mario Medina: 0-2; 152, Chris Castro: 1-2; 160, Ian Rand: 4th, 2-2; 182, Oscar Villegas: 2nd, 2-1; 182, Michael Holmes: 0-2; 195, Mark Reyes: 3rd, 3-1; 195, Alex Pedroza: 0-2; 195, Jordan Jones: 1-2; 220, Max Lane: 3rd, 2-1; HWT, Justin Wilson: 2nd, 1-1

Horizon basketball sweeps Cardinals

(Editor's Note: This is a shortened version of Horizon basketball coverage. For the full version see hoodrivernews.com/news/sports.)

By MIKE WEBER
For the News

The No. 1 ranked Horizon Christian School Hawks boys basketball team had another dominating performance over a Big Sky Conference foe as they crushed the Ione Cardinals 69-27 at home last Friday. The Hawks (6-0 league, 14-3 overall), seeking to capture a fifth straight Big Sky title, appear to be well within reach of that accomplishment after notching their 40th consecutive league win over the past four seasons.

"It was a good game for us and it was nice seeing everyone contribute offensively so that we could have more balanced scoring," said coach Darren Lingel, whose squad has won six league games by an average of 25.5 points per game.

The Hawks win streak will likely continue when they meet the Condon-Wheeler Knights (0-6, 3-12 overall) in a home game Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Horizon. On Saturday the Hawks will face a much more challenging opponent in a 5:30 p.m. road game in Moro vs. the No. 8 ranked Sherman Huskies, who are currently the third place team in the eight-team Class 1A Big Sky standings. The Hawks won 71-56 at home in a Jan. 6 contest against the Huskies.

Hawk girls notch another Big Sky win

The Horizon Christian School varsity girls won their second straight game Friday by a 47-38 margin over the Ione Cardinals. The senior trio of Hannah Lingel (11 pts.), Hannah Kempf and Trista Hicks combined to score 34 points to help lead the team to victory.

The Hawks, guided by first-year coach Brian Stevens, were seeking to notch a third straight win when they played a nonleague matchup Tuesday at Trout Lake (results unavailable at press time). Horizon won an earlier matchup 34-29 over Trout Lake at home Dec. 17. The Hawks (2-4 Big Sky, 5-10 overall) play the No. 1 ranked Condon-Wheeler Knights (6-0, 15-1) in their next home game Friday at 6 p.m.

"The girls played really well tonight from start-to-finish," said Stevens. "We had two players (Trista Hicks, Jodee Hicks) who fouled out, but everyone played hard to help us get a win. Hannah Kempf had an outstanding game and without her, we wouldn't have won. She's our floor general and she leads the team in helping us handle the full court press. She was our defensive leader and she just sets a good example for her teammates about how to play good basketball."

The Horizon girls are seeking to advance to the Big Sky District Playoffs for the first time since 2012.