



Win over Crosshill Christian sends Horizon to state semis

Hawks win 59-44, were scheduled to play rival Nixyaawii Friday afternoon in Baker City

BAKER CITY — A business-like, first-round performance Wednesday carried Horizon Christian School into Friday's semifinals of the Class 1A boys state basketball tournament.

The top-ranked Hawks held Crosshill Christian (21-5) to 16 first-half points, en route to a 59-44 win at Baker City High School. Horizon will play former Big Sky rival Nixyaawii Friday afternoon (results were too late for the print edition).

"Well we got the first game out of the way," Horizon Coach Darrin Lingel said matter-of-factly. "It was really important for the guys to come out with a lot of effort."

"Three things we've been focusing on this year have been rebounding, taking care of the ball and running our offense. I thought we did a pretty good job of those overall in the game today."

Mason Bloomster led Horizon (25-3) with 17 points and 16 rebounds. The 6-foot-4 senior post was equally effective at the defensive end, with three blocked shots. The blocks came on Crosshill's 6-5 post Dalton Cubitt, who had all three of his shots rejected by Bloomster and finished with zero points.

"Mason really stepped up for

us as he's done all year long," Lingel said of the Big Sky Conference's player of the year. "Another double-double; I thought he stepped up and played very, very well."

Bloomster had plenty of help defensively, especially from senior Ryan Aldrich. He was assigned to guard Crosshill's top scorer Matthew Gille when the Hawks were in a man-to-man defense. Gille finished with nine points, but was 2 for 15 from the field.

Aldrich did his part on the offensive end as well, shooting 3 for 4 from the field and 3 for 3 from the free-throw line for nine points. Crosshill's most effective offensive production came from long range, as the Eagles made nine three-pointers. Senior guard David Brockman led his team in scoring with 16 points, including four threes. Teammate Ethan Talmage added 12 points — all coming from behind the arc.

Horizon led the entire game

outside of a 3-3 tie early on. Horizon's defense forced Crosshill into six first-quarter turnovers en route to a 14-6 lead. Horizon built on the lead in the second quarter behind a balanced scoring attack. Typical of the contributions were those from senior Jared Davis, who scored, had an assist and a steal as the Hawks entered the locker room with a 28-16 advantage. Davis finished with 11 points, four assists and three steals. His layup with 5:58 remaining gave Horizon its largest lead of the game, 50-33.

"Jared really was involved in the game and got other teammates involved, which is very important for us, especially early in a basketball game," Lingel said.

Horizon enjoyed a sizable scoring advantage inside. Senior wings Nick Andersen and Wes Johnston helped the Hawks outscore Crosshill 34-8 in the paint, with seven and six points, respectively.

"We just know that we can take

advantage of the inside game," Lingel said. "Today we were very effective in doing that."

Crosshill from Turner near Salem stayed close behind the long ball throughout the contest. The Hawk defenders were helping off just enough on dribble penetration to give the Eagle shooters the slightest amount of space on kick-out passes.

"We did lose their No. 3 shooter - Brockman ... a few times in the second half," Lingel said. "He got open for some threes. And No. 11 (Talmage) got open and hurt us early with a few threes. We had to make some adjustments in the second half."

Also of note was the play of sophomore reserve Luke Holste, who made the most of his 11 minutes to go 3-for-4 from the field and score six points.

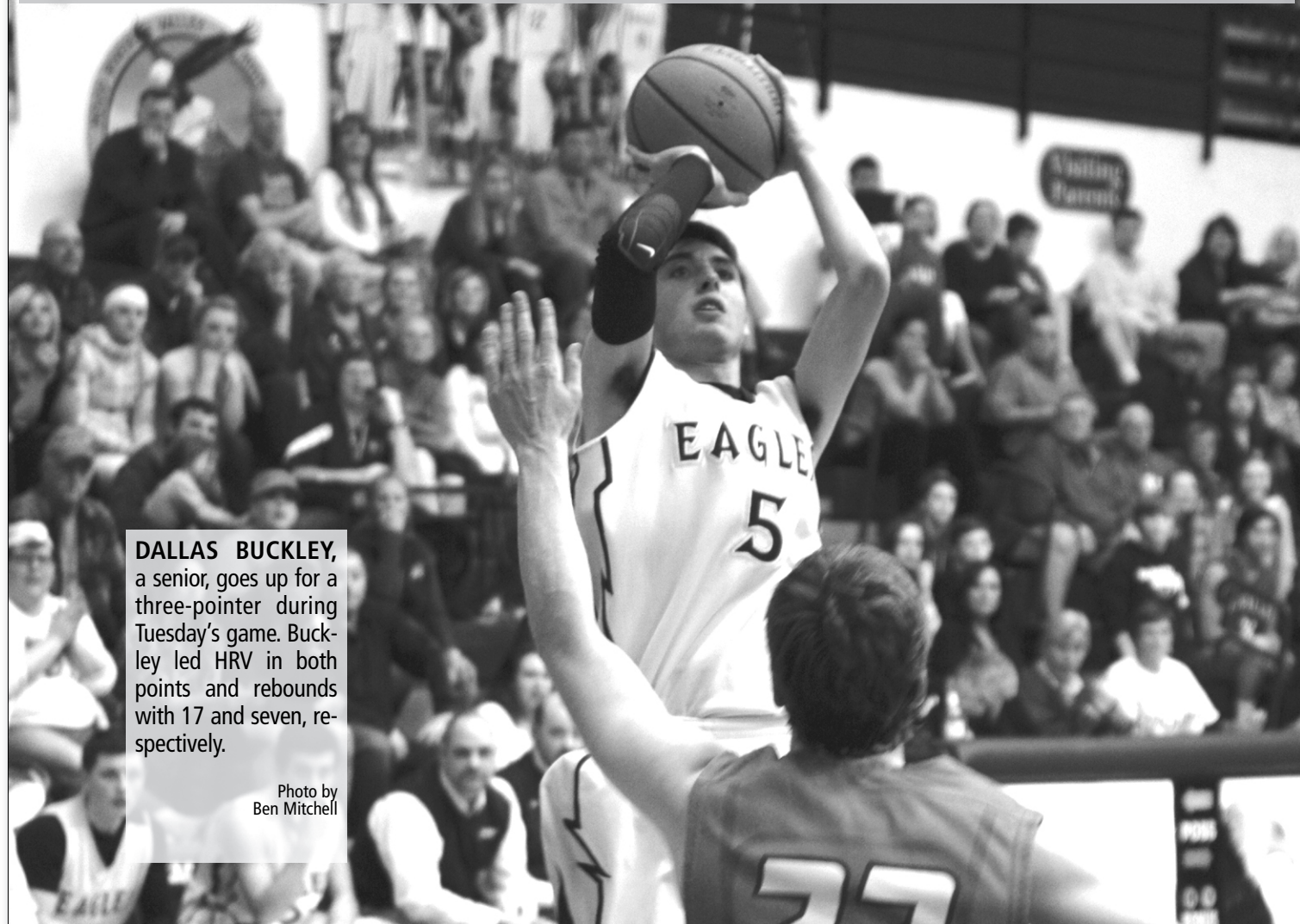
Lingel said: "It's nice to get the first game out of the way — the jitters out of the way — and just play basketball. We look forward to continuing on, one game at a time."

Horizon is pursuing its fourth straight finals appearance. The Hawks won the championship in 2012 (vs. McKenzie) and finished second the past two seasons (to City Christian in 2013 and Columbia Christian a year ago).

'It's nice to get the first game out of the way — the jitters out of the way — and just play basketball'

DARRIN LINGEL

LaSalle 75, HRV 70



DALLAS BUCKLEY, a senior, goes up for a three-pointer during Tuesday's game. Buckley led HRV in both points and rebounds with 17 and seven, respectively.

Photo by Ben Mitchell

HRV falls just short of post-season bid

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

One of the best seasons in recent memory for the Hood River Valley boys basketball program came to end Tuesday night, when the Eagles narrowly lost to LaSalle Catholic College Preparatory, 75-70, as well as lost their chance to make the post season for the first time in two decades.

The play-in contest was a game where so much went right for the Eagles, thanks in large part to a barrage of three-balls that seemed to fall effortlessly, especially in the first quarter, when HRV hit five of what would ultimately be the team's 14 buckets from behind the arc.

However, HRV's shooting faltered in the fourth quarter, and the LaSalle Falcons, who had struggled at the beginning of the game, tightened up both their shooting and their defense to sneak a come-from behind win after trailing the Eagles for all but the final six-and-a-half minutes of the game.

"They just had a lot of weapons," HRV Coach Steve Noteboom said of the Falcons. "We just couldn't stop all of them."

HRV got off to a fast start in the first quarter, scoring nine unanswered points thanks to a trio of three-pointers. LaSalle seemed

disjointed, missing passes, missing shots, and committing turnovers as the legions of Eagles fans who showed up to the game roared their approval.

"The crowd was great," Noteboom said. "We kind of fed off their energy."

Noteboom explained that senior guards Austin Clarke and Kam Walker had been assigned to chase LaSalle's lead scorer, 6-7 post Keeston Smith. The strategy appeared to catch the Falcons off guard, Noteboom said, and resulted in Smith scoring only three points in the first quarter.

HRV scored 24 points in the first quarter, thanks in large part to junior center Dallas Buckley's 11 points that were scored off of three three-pointers and a two. LaSalle, however, was able to rally after the 9-0 run by HRV, and scored 17 of their own to close out the quarter.

Things quieted down somewhat for the both teams in the second quarter, with HRV and LaSalle netting 15 points apiece to make the score 39-32 at the half, with HRV limiting LaSalle's Smith to a total of five points.

However, after being contained for the entire half, Smith broke free and erupted in the third quarter, scoring 16 of LaSalle's 25 points. HRV was able to keep pace with 21, but their seven-point lead

had now shrunk to three, with a score of 60-57 at the end of the third.

In the fourth quarter, HRV's hot-shooting slowed down in the fourth, with a field goal apiece from Buckley and Scottie Ziegner and a pair of threes. And while the Falcons had the exact same scoring from the field in the fourth quarter — a pair of twos

and a pair of threes — they had far greater opportunities at the free-throw line than HRV did.

LaSalle grabbed its first lead, 63-62, with 6:30 left in the quarter, and while there were a handful of lead changes, the Falcons finally pulled away with less than two minutes left to go up 71-70 and

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Photo by Ben Mitchell

KAYDEN GIBBS, a senior, makes a cut around a LaSalle player. Gibbs finished with seven points and three rebounds for the Eagles.



Kegler's Corner

By **JEFF OLSON**

The Dudes Win County League

Team of the Week

Spencer Johnisee, +116 (764)
Jeff Chenier, +98 (752)
Aaron Troxel, +90 (744)
Ed Busick, +88 (739)
Nina Kruckenber, +85 (655)
3,654 total pins with handicap

The Thursday Hood River County league had its championship roll off last week at Orchard Lanes and The Dudes trio emerged victorious over The Incredibowls team in the battle for the title in this fun league. Bowling for the champs were Matt Monbouquette, Patrick Hughes and Jeremy Ziegler. We want to extend our thanks to the County league for bowling with us this season. We miss you already and can't wait to see you again next fall.

Last week's league play produced another diverse Team of the Week of bowlers who shot the most pins over their averages. This team is comprised of young stars and some famous names in Hood River bowling.

Leading everybody in league action last week was Your Rental Center's emerging star Spencer Johnisee who has been on quite a tear for the past month making the fab five for the first time in his brief career and again last week with another stellar performance. This time he fashioned a nice scratch 225 game and 578 series in the Monday night Industrial league finishing up 116 pins over his average. Has Spencer found the secret to this great game? Stay tuned.

Also joining Spencer on the big five for the second time in the past month was Jeff Chenier. Jeff has been a top bowler around here for years after moving from Seattle where he excelled at the game since he was a kid. The master carpenter put all the pieces together last week in the high powered Fraternal league where he popped a spiffy

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Little League field cleanup days

HRV Little League is looking for volunteers to help clean up valley baseball fields in preparation for the upcoming season. The following are cleanup dates:

Odell field cleanup: March 14, 8:30 a.m. Main Contact: Nathan Stanton.

Hood River field cleanup: March 21, 8:30 a.m. Main Contact: Nathan Duckwall.

Parkdale field cleanup: TBA (one session already completed). Main Contact: Mychal Lucas.

Majors baseball, minors baseball/softball tryouts

A reminder, if your son or daughter is between age 7-12 as of Jan. 1, 2015, and they would like to play minors baseball (ages 7-11), minors softball (ages 7-11), or majors baseball (ages 10-12), you will need to attend tryouts this Saturday, March 7 or Monday, March 9 at the Hood River Valley High School varsity baseball field. Girls ages 7-11 wanting to play softball this year should arrive by 9:45 a.m. for tryouts starting at 10 a.m. Boys ages 7-11 wanting to play baseball this year should arrive by 10:15 a.m. for tryouts starting at 10:30 a.m. Boys ages 10-12 wanting to play baseball this year should arrive by noon for tryouts starting at 12:30 p.m. Tryouts MAY last as long as 2 hours depending on the amount of players trying out. Majors teams will be chosen on March 9 and players notified by their new manager by March 14. Minors teams will be chosen and players notified by their new manager by or before March 21. Opening day ceremonies: Saturday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. at the HRVHS varsity baseball field.

Youth football committee

Youth Football Action Committee Meeting on Thursday March 12 at 7 p.m. at Hood River Valley High School in Room H-15. All parents or community members interested in becoming involved are encouraged to attend.