

HOOPS: Collins key to Mustang attack

Continued from 1B

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The host Mustangs are atop the 2A food chain after compiling a 10-1 record to this point. Toledo owns the only Heppner defeat this season.

“Are we the best team in state? Well, I think Irrigon’s got to be the best team until someone knocks them off. They haven’t lost to a 2A team in like what two years?” Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said.

For Heppner to end the Knights dominance, which includes just one loss in Columbia Basin Conference play the last 32 times out, it’ll need to stick to its guns, Rosenbalm said.

“You’re not going to stop a great basketball team like that, because they have so many great weapons,” he said. “Hopefully we can slow them down, but we need to focus on our game plan and what we do well. We don’t want to get away from what we do well.”

This season that has been feeding the Mustangs 6-foot-4 center Patrick Collins early and often. With the big man busy at work in the paint drawing double teams, it has freed shooters like Logan Grieb and Weston Putman the necessary room to spot



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Irrigon's A.J. Timpy (3) and Adrian Romero put pressure on Umatilla's Danny Ayala on Tuesday in the Knights' 67-34 win against the Vikings in Pendleton.

up and drill long range shots.

The Mustangs have yet to lose with Collins’ 18 points and 11 rebounds in the line-up. Their defeat to Toledo came with the junior in Pasadena taking in the Rose Bowl football game.

“You have to start with Patrick Collins,” Thompson said. “He’s a tremendous player. He’s big. He’s strong. I think he’s pretty intelligent

as well.

“He’s bigger and stronger than anyone that we’ve got. That’s to be expected. We’ve played multiple games where they have bigger stronger kids than us. We just have to do a good job as a group and work together and stay together”

Last season it was Knight senior Ryan Reynolds who drew the difficult task and

accordingly shut the sturdy ball player down in a pair of dominant Irrigon victories.

“He can have a huge impact in the game. But, we’ve got to get him involved early and see how Irrigon’s going to guard him. Last year they did a great job against him,” Rosenbalm said.

Heppner has not beaten Irrigon in its past six tries and no game has been closer than 12 points.

The biggest challenge for the Mustangs and Irrigon opponents alike, has been keying in on the Knights trio of capable scorers. The loaded lineup includes the past two Class 2A State Players of the Year Adrian Romero and Anthony Landeros as well as this year’s leading scorer Fredy Vera.

All three are lethal perimeter shooters, but also competent at getting the ball to the rim.

“It’s going be a great test for us. It’s still early in the season this one game on Friday isn’t going to decide the season for us,” Rosenbalm said.

Not lost in Rosenbalm’s preparation for Friday is the challenge that lingers a day later. That’s when the Mustangs will travel to No. 5 Stanfield (9-2) for its second-top-five showdown in as many days.

“I honestly believe that our league could be the toughest league in the state. If you look at the rankings that’s pretty obvious too,” Rosenbalm said.

Tipoff is set for Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Heppner High School.

College Basketball



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong
Southern California's Dorion Clark, center, is double-teamed by UCLA's Tony Parker, right, and Gyorgy Golman, of Hungary, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015, in Los Angeles. UCLA won 83-66.

Bruins blow past rival Trojans

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Norman Powell scored 22 points, Bryce Alford added 21 and UCLA used a 26-6 run over both halves to put away Southern California 83-66 Wednesday night in the Bruins’ fourth straight win over their crosstown rival.

Tony Parker added 14 points and Kevon Looney had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Bruins (11-7, 3-2 Pac-12). They dominated the boards, 41-20, and owned a 46-30 edge in the paint, helped by the 6-foot-9 duo of Parker (seven rebounds) and Looney.

Nikola Jovanovic scored 20 points for the Trojans (9-8, 1-4), who have lost five of their last eight. Last season, they won just one Pac-12 game under new coach Andy Enfield. Darion Clark added 11 points.

Alford had his best game in a month, having struggled offensively since scoring 23 points in a loss against ranked Gonzaga. The sophomore guard came in shooting 20 percent in league play, but he hit 5 of 8 3-pointers.

USC kept it close for much of the first half, briefly taking a three-point lead with 2 ½ minutes to go. UCLA had already launched its game-changing run, though, outscoring the Trojans 11-4 to close the half ahead 36-31.

The Bruins picked up where they left off, finishing off the 26-6 outburst over the first five minutes of the second half for a 51-33 lead. Alford hit back-to-back 3-pointers and Looney dunked before Alford’s fastbreak layup closed it out.

The Trojans cut their deficit to 61-52 on six straight points, capped by Jordan McLaughlin’s steal and dunk.

UCLA kept the pressure on with a 12-3 spurt to regain the 18-point lead they owned early in the half. Powell scored six points in the spurt. The Bruins improved to 7-2 at Galen Center since the Trojans’ arena opened in 2006.

The Bruins shot 50 percent in the first half. Their 10-0 run, bookended by 3-pointers from Alford and Isaac Hamilton, built UCLA’s largest lead of the half, 18-10.

The Trojans answered with a 17-7 spurt, including eight in a row by Katin Reinhardt and seven from Jovanovic, to take a 27-25 lead. But the Bruins had the final say, outscoring USC 11-4 to close the half with a five-point lead. UCLA had a 24-10 rebound edge in the half.

STANFORD 69, CALIFORNIA 59 — (AP) At Berkeley, Calif., Chasson Randle scored 25 points, Anthony Brown made two key 3-pointers in the final five minutes and Stanford held on to beat California 69-59 on Wednesday night.

Stefan Nastic added 15 points and nine rebounds while Brown finished with 18 points for the surging Cardinal (12-4, 4-1 Pac-12). Stanford has won four straight and eight of 10 overall to stay percentage points behind No. 8 Utah.

WRESTLING: Rockwell brothers power Pirates

Continued from 1B

Ridgeview. A 42-29 win over Churchill highlights Hillsboro’s 12-1 dual record, and the Spartans’ only loss came to Class 6A power David Douglas. Central and Ridgeview are combined 20-3 in dual meets, but many of Ridgeview’s wins have come over smaller schools.

Pendleton’s key match for making a return to the quarterfinals appears to be Central, which boasts a strong heavyweight roster led by se-

nior Tanner Swinehart (15-0) at 170 pounds.

The Bucks could have the match sewed up before Swinehart takes the mat, though, and come into the OWC led by a strong middle-weight roster of Tristan Holcomb (20-6), Garrison Alcock (15-5), Morgan Holcomb (20-3), Ryan Skeen (16-4) and JD Peters (18-7).

Churchill and Redmond in Pool C, and Sandy and Crater in Pool D, are also teams that enter the OWC with warrant-

ed title aspirations.

In Class 4A, Mac-Hi will wrestle its first duals of the season in an opening pool with defending champion Tillamook, Marshfield and Madras. Mac-Hi was fourth in its pool last season. Defending champion Crook County and last season’s runner-up La Grande will open in the same pool.

In Class 3A, Riverside will be tested in its pool with Illinois Valley, Coquille and Warrenton. Riverside lost to

Illinois Valley in last year’s quarterfinal round. Two Pirates enter the weekend undefeated — 120-pound sophomore Aristotle Rockwell (20-0) and 132-pound senior Hans Rockwell (18-0).

In Class 2A/1A, Heppner’s low numbers put it at a disadvantage headed into a pool with Lowell, Knappa and Redmond’s junior varsity. Lowell was second at last year’s OWC, and defending champion Culver will open in a pool with Hermiston’s JV.

BLAZERS: End homestand, hit the road

Continued from 1B

and 11 rebounds and Meyers Leonard, 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers.

After Crawford’s 3-pointer gave the Clippers the lead, they pulled away by making six free throws during the final 1:16. Paul went 10 of 10 at the line during the fourth.

The Clippers led 27-21 after the first quarter, and held off Portland through halftime as they rode Crawford’s hot hand. He hit two 3-pointers and scored 10 points during second quarter to give

Los Angeles a 50-49 halftime lead.

Portland’s first-half offense went through Aldridge, who hit 10 of 16 shots and scored 22 points.

The game remained tight throughout the third quarter, though the Clippers never trailed. Los Angeles led by as many as seven points, but Portland eventually wiped out the deficit, as Leonard hit two free throws with 1:26 remaining to tie the score at 72. Aldridge scored 13 points during the third quarter.

Lillard triggered a Portland surge early in the fourth, as his 3-pointer gave

the Blazers an 85-79 lead. Los Angeles quickly responded, going on a 10-3 run to take an 89-88 lead with 4:32 remaining on two free throws by Paul.

Portland leads the NBA in 3-point field goal defense at .287, but the Clippers had some success, going 8 of 23.

After playing eight of its past nine games at home, Portland plays three of its next four on the road, at San Antonio, Memphis and Phoenix. The Blazers play seven road games during the final 15 days of January.

Portland plays at San Antonio on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today

Riverside at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Culver at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
Baker at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Hermiston at La Salle Prep, 7:15 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Helix, 7:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Arlington at Condon/Wheeler, 7:30 p.m.
Ione at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Echo, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Pilot Rock at Culver, 4 p.m.
South Wasco County at Ione, 5:30 p.m.
Echo at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.
Heppner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m.
Arlington at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.
Vale at Umatilla, 5:30 p.m.
Dufur at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m.
Nyssa at Riverside, 6 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today

Riverside at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
Pendleton at La Grande, 7 p.m.

Friday

Culver at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Hermiston at La Salle Prep, 5:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Powder Valley at Echo, 6 p.m.
Ione at Mitchell/Spray, 6 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Helix, 6 p.m.
Arlington at Condon/Wheeler, 6 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m.
Arlington at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Vale at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 4 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 4 p.m.
Echo at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
South Wasco County at Ione, 4 p.m.
Dufur at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.
Heppner at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Nyssa at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Friday

Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at Oregon Wrestling Classic (Redmond), 8 a.m.

Saturday

Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at Oregon Wrestling Classic (Redmond), 8 a.m.

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday

Pendleton, Hermiston at La Grande, Noon

Friday

Eastern Oregon at NW Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Blue Mountain at Big Bend 8 p.m.

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Spokane, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Corban, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday

Eastern Oregon at NW Christian 5:30 p.m.
Blue Mountain at Big Bend 6 p.m.

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Corban, 5:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	12	.684	—
Brooklyn	16	23	.410	10½
Boston	13	24	.351	12½
Philadelphia	7	31	.184	19
New York	5	35	.125	22

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	31	8	.795	—
Washington	27	12	.692	4
Miami	17	22	.436	14
Charlotte	15	25	.375	16½
Orlando	15	27	.357	17½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	26	14	.650	—
Milwaukee	20	19	.513	5½
Cleveland	20	20	.487	6½
Indiana	15	25	.375	11
Detroit	14	25	.359	11½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	27	11	.711	—
Houston	27	12	.692	½
Dallas	27	13	.675	1
San Antonio	24	16	.600	4
New Orleans	19	19	.500	8

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	30	9	.769	—
Oklahoma City	18	19	.486	11
Denver	18	20	.474	11½
Utah	13	26	.333	17
Minnesota	6	31	.162	23

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	31	5	.861	—
L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	6½

Phoenix

23

18

.561

10½

Sacramento

16

22

.421

16

L.A. Lakers

12

27

.308

20½

Wednesday's Games

Orlando 120, Houston 113
San Antonio 98, Charlotte 93
Toronto 100, Philadelphia 84
New Orleans 105, Detroit 94
Memphis 103, Brooklyn 92
Washington 105, Chicago 99
Atlanta 105, Boston 91
Denver 114, Dallas 107
Golden State 104, Miami 89
L.A. Clippers 100, Portland 94

Today's Games

New York vs. Milwaukee at London, England, Noon
Oklahoma City at Houston, 5 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men

Top 25

Wednesday's Games

No. 5 Villanova 88 Xavier 75
No. 22 Baylor 74, No. 11 Iowa State 73
No. 12 Notre Dame 62 Georgia Tech 59
No. 13 Wichita State 67, Southern Illinois 55
No. 14 Maryland 73 Rutgers 65
No. 15 North Carolina 81 N.C. State 79
San Diego State 60, No. 25 Wyoming 52

Today's Games

No. 3 Gonzaga at Pepperdine, 7:30 p.m.
No. 7 Wisconsin vs. Nebraska, 6 p.m.
No. 8 Utah at Arizona State, 7 p.m.
No. 10 Arizona vs. Colorado, 6 p.m.

Pac-12

Wednesday's Games

UCLA 83 USC, 66
Stanford 69, California 59

Today's Games

Colorado at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Oregon State at Washington, 6 p.m.
Utah at Arizona State, 7 p.m.
Oregon at Washington State, 8 p.m.

Football

NFL

Conference Championships

Sunday

Green Bay at Seattle, 12:05 p.m. (FOX)
Indianapolis at New England, 3:40 p.m. (CBS)

WHL

Wednesday's Games

Moose Jaw 4, Kootenay 3
Regina 6, Medicine Hat 1
Red Deer 5, Calgary 4 (ISO)
Kamloops 6, Portland 2
Kelowna 7, Tri-City 1

Today's Games

No games scheduled

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	43	29	13	1	59	134	116
Pittsburgh	42	26	10	6	58	129	100
Washington	43	24	11	8	56	126	106
N.Y. Rangers	40	24	12	4	52	124	98
Philadelphia	44	17	20	7	41	119	130
New Jersey	45	16	21	8	40	101	127
Columbus	41	18	20	3	39	106	134
Carolina	43	14	24	5	33	91	114

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	42	29	9	4	62	130	94
Chicago	43	28	13	2	58	134	95
St. Louis	43	27	13	3	57	140	107
Winnipeg	44	22	14	8	52	121	111
Dallas	42	19	16	7	45	131	139
Colorado	44	18	17	9	45	115	127
Minnesota	42	18	19	5	41	113	128

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	44	28	10	6	62	125	119
San Jose	44	23	16	5	51	119	120
Los Angeles	44	20	14	10	52	104	117
Vancouver	41	23	15	3	49	114	109
Calgary	43	22	18	3	47	123	114
Arizona	42	16	22	4	36	99	139
Edmonton	44	10	25	9	29	99	149