

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, JANUARY 24-25, 2015



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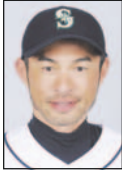
Sports shorts

Marlins, Suzuki closing in on deal

MIAMI (AP) — A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that Ichiro Suzuki has agreed to a one-year contract with the Miami Marlins, pending a physical.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Friday

FACES



Suzuki

because the contract with the 41-year-old outfielder has not been finalized.

Suzuki batted .284 last year for the New York Yankees. He topped the 200-hit mark in his first 10 major league seasons and has 2,844 MLB hits.

He arrived from Japan after spending nine seasons with the Pacific League's Orix Blue Wave, and he won the AL batting title, Rookie of the Year and MVP awards in 2001. He became a 10-time All-Star and won a second batting crown in 2004.

Palmer misses chance to card 59

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Ryan Palmer missed a chance to shoot 59 or lower Friday in the Humana Challenge, settling for an 11-under 61 after playing a nine-hole stretch in 10 under.

After opening with two pars, Palmer had two eagles and seven

FACES



Palmer

birdies on the next nine holes for the longest eagle-birdie streak in PGA Tour history.

Needing to play the final eight holes in 3 under to shoot 59, he bogeyed Nos. 2 and 3. He birdied the fourth, sixth and eighth holes and closed with a par.

The Texan eagled the par-4 12th to start the streak on PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Private Course. He birdied the next three, eagled the par-5 16th and added three more birdies.

Palmer was at 12-under 132, leaving him three strokes behind leader Matt Kuchar.

"Sadly, the Benson family was forced to take this action in the best interests of Tom Benson and his legacy."

— **Randall Smith**
Attorney for the daughter and grandchildren of New Orleans Saint and Pelicans owner Tom Benson. The lawsuit claims that Benson's physical and mental health are failing. The legal action comes less than 24 hours after a new version of the 87-year-old's will left the sports franchises to his wife Gayle Benson.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS 1982 — Ray Wersching kicks a Super Bowl record-tying four field goals to help the San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-21.

1998 — The Denver Nuggets end their record-tying, single-season losing streak at 23 games, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 99-81.

1999 — David Duval shoots a 59, matching the best score in PGA Tour history.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

Prep Wrestling

Bucks frustrate, Bulldogs capitalize

Pendleton, Hermiston finish first day at Reser's

By **WARNER STRAUSBAUGH**
for The East Oregonian

HILLSBORO — Pendleton wrestling coach Fred Phillips can't explain what happened Friday. Everything went wrong for the Buckaroos.

By the end of the first day of the Reser's Tournament of Champions, Pendleton narrowly avoided standing in dead last, finishing 23rd in the 24-team field.

"I'm just kind of disheartened in how we're doing," Phillips said. "It's a tough tournament. We knew what we were getting into when we came down here, but it's just frustrating that we're not



Photo by Warner Strausbaugh

Hermiston 132-pounder CJ Hendon is tangled up with Eagle Point's Levi Pomeroy. Hendon won a tough-fought battle with a fall at 5:47.

performing at our best right now and I don't know why."

The struggles for the Holcomb brothers set the tone for the rest of the team. Tristan (126 pounds) and Morgan Holcomb (138) had a combined 50-9 record entering Friday.

Both were knocked out of the championship bracket on their first bout and both were out of the tournament entirely before the day was over.

"If you would've told me that the two Holcomb brothers would be 1-4 on the day and out of the

tournament by 6:30, I would've said, 'No way,'" Phillips said. "But, it happened. That's why we come down here: to see the best competition."

Phillips said Tristan, like many on the team, has been dealing with a sickness, but added that it is not an excuse. Morgan finished in fourth place at this tournament a year ago as a freshman, and found himself on the losing end in each of his two matches, both of which were a loss by fall.

The Bucks also lost another wrestler to a likely season-ending injury. Jacob Dickerson got hurt and had to forfeit his remaining matches. It is the fifth season-ending injury in 10 days for Pendleton High, according to Phillips.

"We're depleted," he said. "We don't have as many kids as we

See **RESER'S/2B**

HERMISTON

Hermiston girls survive opener

By **SAM BARBEE**
EO Media Group

After three quarters of basketball against The Dalles in the Dawghouse on Friday night, the Hermiston girls basketball team was weighted down by the target on its back as the No. 1 team in the state.

In the fourth quarter, though, the first-ranked Bulldogs shook it off and took a five-point lead after three quarters and turned it into a 51-36 win over The Dalles.

Head coach Steve Hoffert gives his players a quote at the beginning of every week to describe the situation his team is in. This week's was: "Success leads to complacency, and complacency leads to failure."

"We knew that if we got complacent with the way we were playing, we were gonna fail," senior Abi Drotzmann said after the game. "We expected that, and so we tried to work hard tonight so that wouldn't happen."

Drotzmann and Tavin Headings each had 10 points for the Bulldogs, and Katie Conklin had 11 points for the Riverhawks.

"It's a win," Hoffert said. "The Dalles is always a solid program. I didn't think we came out and played like we should've played being the No. 1 team in the state."

Ironically, Hermiston did come out like the top-ranked team in the state opening the game when Sara Ramirez hit a 3, and Abby Drotzmann got 3 on a layup and a free throw.



Hermiston's Jansen Edmiston (20) drives around The Dalles' Kailin Hoylman during the first half of Hermiston's 51-36 win over the Riverhawks Friday night in Hermiston.

Sam Barbee photo

Hermiston (13-3, 1-0) led 6-0 at that point, and led 12-2 with two minutes left in the first and eventually took a 16-5 lead heading into the second quarter.

This was when The Dalles (8-7, 0-1) started to chip away. At one point, though, Hermiston led 21-6, but Lori Cimmiyotti got a layup, Conklin hit a pair of free throws and Brooke McCall got a layup to cut the deficit to 21-12 with about four minutes left.

Hermiston scored the next five, on a jumper by Kynzee Padilla

and another 3 by Ramirez, but The Dalles would score the next four on baskets by Cimmiyotti and Conklin to go into the locker room down 26-16 but with momentum.

The Dalles continued to chip away, cutting the deficit to four on a Kailin Hoylman 3 with 3:27 on the clock that forced Hoffert to call a timeout.

"We knew we weren't going to lose," Drotzmann said. "We knew we weren't going to play like this."

Right out of the timeout, Edmiston got an open look and drained it,

giving Hermiston a six-point lead, and Headings hit a 3 after a Conklin basket to put Hermiston up five. Ramirez got a layup to go through a Conklin foul but couldn't hit the free throw, and McCall hit a 3 with 10 seconds left to cut the deficit to five at 36-31. At that point, The Dalles outscored Hermiston 25-5 since it was down 21-6 with 6:12 on the clock in the second quarter.

Hoffert said he wasn't concerned with the small margin, and he had confidence his team would "stop

See **HERMISTON/2B**

PENDLETON

Buckaroos caught in the swell

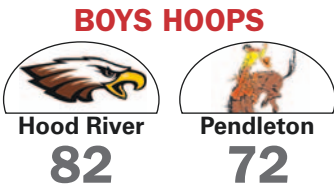
Hood River completes wild turnaround finish

By **ERIK SKOPIL**
East Oregonian

The action that took place at Warberg Court Friday night might as well have been held in the Pacific Ocean.

The visiting Hood River Valley Eagles came after fourth-ranked Pendleton with wave after wave after wave of fresh bodies, wearing on the Buckaroos legs before capsizing them with a frenzied closing run in a 82-72 victory over Pendleton in each school's league opener.

Using frequent five-man hockey-style substitutions, badgering full court pressure and quick trigger three-point shooting, Hood River Valley (8-7, 1-0 CRC) finished the game on a 30-10 run to turn a comfortable Pendleton (9-6, 0-1 CRC) edge into despair.



"They did exactly what they wanted to do," Pendleton coach Brian Broaddus said. "You let a team around and give them hope and they just keep getting more and more confidence. They were definitely the more fired up team. They got more loose balls and rebounds."

Senior guard Sonny Green made a driving layup to give the Buckaroos a 62-52 lead with 5:53 remaining in regulation.

Worn down and on the defensive against the frenetic Eagles, starting Buck guards Kai Quinn and Caden Smith each fouled out in the fourth, weakening the Pendleton backcourt corps, allowing the Eagles even more free reign to raid the Pendleton guards and launch immediate three-pointers. The final six minutes found the Eagles the

recipients of 11 Buckaroo turnovers. HRV converted the gaffes into made basket after made basket — five of which were three pointers.

"They have energy to keep going down the court, down the court and eventually that wears off on you," said Pendleton guard Sonny Green, who scored a game-high 22 points. "That's what it did tonight, it wore off on us and got us tired. They saw it and took advantage of it."

Smith's final foul out acted as the Eagle death blow. Trailing 71-69, the sophomore guard had the ball stripped on a behind-the-back dribble near midcourt. Smith retreated and fouled HRV's Noah Noteboom on a layup attempt. The ball dropped through the net and the contact was deemed flagrant, acting as Smith's fourth and fifth fouls. The play earned HRV a 73-67 lead with 1:47 remaining and ousted the Bucks leading scorer.

The lead never fell below four after.

See **BUCKAROOS/2B**

HERMISTON

Dawgs hold off Riverhawks

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Hermiston Bulldogs overcame an up-and-down performance to hold off The Dalles 54-42 on Friday in both teams Columbia River Conference opener.

The two-time defending CRC champs stretched their league winning streak to 10 games going back to February 2013.

See **DAWGS/2B**

PENDLETON

Bucks stay on roll

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Pendleton girls basketball team won its fourth game in a row on Friday with a 60-34 pounding of Hood River Valley in both teams Columbia River Conference opener.

Marlene Bodmer led the Buckaroos

See **BUCKS/2B**