

Sports shorts

NIT to implement shorter shot clock

NEW YORK (AP) — With scoring plunging to historic lows, the NCAA said Friday it will experiment with a shorter shot clock at this year’s NIT to see if that can jump-start college basketball’s lagging offense.

The tournament will feature a 30-second shot clock instead of the traditional 35-second clock that has been in play since 1993, with officials examining the effect on the games and taking the data to the men’s basketball rules committee for review in May.

The NCAA will also expand the restricted area under the basket from 3 feet to 4 feet to see if it curbs the amount of collisions at the rim.

NFL fines four for Super Bowl scuffle

NEW YORK (AP) — Seattle Seahawks linebacker Bruce Irvin has been fined \$10,000 by the NFL for his role in a scuffle with 18 seconds left in the Super Bowl. Three other players received lesser fines.

FACES



Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett and New England Patriots tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Michael Hoomanawanui were fined \$8,628 each. Hoomanawanui was fined for unnecessary roughness, the others for striking an opponent late.

The shoving began after Patriots quarterback Tom Brady took a knee following cornerback Malcolm Butler’s interception with 20 seconds left in the Patriots’ 28-24 victory. Irvin was ejected and apologized for his actions.

The NFL said earlier that Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin was fined \$11,025 for unsportsmanlike conduct after his 3-yard touchdown catch that gave the Seahawks a 24-14 lead.

“I never thought I could be more proud of Bruce when he reached his goal in 1976, but I’m more proud of him now. It takes a lot of courage to do what he’s doing.”

— Esther Jenner

Mother of Olympic decathlon gold medal winner Bruce Jenner, who has been speculated to be transitioning to a woman. Bruce Jenner has not spoken to the media about his gender identity.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1882 — John L. Sullivan wins the world heavyweight bare-knuckle title by beating Paddy Ryan in a nine-round bout in Mississippi City, Miss.

1976 — Darryl Sittler of the Toronto Maple Leafs sets an NHL record for points in a game with six goals and four assists in an 11-4 victory over the Boston Bruins.

1990 — Lisa Leslie of Morningside High School in Inglewood, Calif., scores 101 points in the first half against South Torrance High School. The final score is 102-24 as the coach of South Torrance decides not to bring his team out for the second half.

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



Hermiston’s Chance Flores (1) drives around Gordy Harris of The Dalles toward the basket during the first half of the Bulldogs win.

Sam Barbee photo

HERMISTON Bulldogs handle Riverhawks

Hermiston retains CRC lead

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

BOYS HOOPS	
 Hermiston 58	 The Dalles 49

In its last two league games, the Hermiston boys basketball team has had big leads in the second half and has struggled to finish off its opponents. On Tuesday, against rival Pendleton, that resulted in a loss, and last week against Hood River the Bulldogs hung on to win.

Friday, against The Dalles Riverhawks, the script was the same: The Bulldogs had a 20-point lead in the third quarter, but a difficult fourth quarter put the game’s result in doubt.

“We did the same thing we

did against Pendleton in the fourth quarter: we got passive,” Bulldogs head coach Jake McElligott said.

Despite the passiveness, Hermiston never led by fewer than six in the final period but held on for a 58-49 win in the Dawghouse. With the win, Hermiston (6-12, 3-1 CRC) moves into first place after Pendleton’s win over Hood River Valley, while The Dalles (2-17, 1-3) falls two games back.

Chase Knutz led the Bull-

dogs with 15 points, and Kegan Crafton wasn’t far behind with 14.

“We just lose focus,” Knutz said after the game. “I don’t know — we haven’t put a full game together all year long. Last week against Pendleton, (we) obviously didn’t put a full game together. Could’ve easily beat them if we handled the fourth quarter the way we should’ve. It’s all mental.”

“We are yet to play a good fourth quarter in league,” McElligott added. “To me, that’s disappointing.”

Hermiston jumped out to a quick first-half lead behind a strong physical presence of Crafton down low. McElligott said he’s been talking to Craft-

See HERMISTON/2B

PENDLETON

Bucks kick Eagles for bounceback win

Pendleton rebounds from loss with blowout win

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

The Buckaroos best wasn’t enough to bounce Hermiston on Tuesday, but a lesser effort versus a lesser opponent was plenty on Friday.

Facing Columbia River Conference doormat Hood River Valley, the Buckaroos overwhelmed the overmatched Eagles en route to a 71-36 victory at Warberg Court.

With caliber of opponent plunging from Tuesday to Friday, the Buckaroos (13-6, 3-1 CRC) saw a dip in their own play in the first quarter before righting the ship in the second and third to allow the reserves the chance to wrap it up in the fourth.

“I don’t think we played very well, but we got a ‘W’, so that’s what counts,” said senior forward Kiana Sperl, who finished with nine points and 12 rebounds.

Hood River Valley (5-14, 0-4 CRC) led for the first six minutes of the game. A Marlene Bodmer corner three-pointer gave the Buckaroos their first lead at 14-11, and Pendleton would close the half on a 29-to-11 run.

The third quarter erased any doubt of the outcome. The Bucks turned the Eagles over on seven of their first nine second half possessions to seize a 50-23 lead midway through the period. The quarter ended with Pendleton leading by 30 and it was time to empty the bench.

“I always love it when everyone gets to play,” Pendleton coach Michelle Gomez said. “There’s some games when

See PENDLETON/2B



Pendleton’s Kristin Williams shoots over Hood River’s Jessica Lara in the Bucks’ 71-36 win against the Eagles on Friday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

GIRLS HOOPS

 Pendleton 71	 HRV 36
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PENDLETON

Bucks get their revenge on HRV

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — Once again Hood River Valley threatened to overtake the Buckaroos late with their frenzied high-paced attack.

The Eagles got within one, but this time the Buckaroos managed to avert the heartbreak, hanging on to earn a 61-58 victory at The Pit.

BOYS HOOPS

 Pendleton 61	 HRV 58
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The opening two minutes of regulation felt like deja vu for the Bucks. Hood River Valley (10-8, 2-2 CRC) came out firing, drilling a trio of long bombs to grab a 9-2 lead. Pendleton would defend the perimeter better for the game’s remainder, however, limiting HRV to just five makes in

See BUCKAROOS/2B



Photo by Mike Weber for the East Oregonian

Pendleton senior post Wes Persinger shoots in the post while guarded by Hood River’s Kaydin Gibbs during the second quarter of Columbia River Conference boys basketball game Friday in Hood River.

HERMISTON

Bulldogs shoot down Riverhawks

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — Hermiston’s shooters were hot from the get and burned The Dalles early and often on Friday in a Columbia River Conference girls basketball game.

GIRLS HOOPS

 Hermiston 55	 The Dalles 30
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The Bulldogs never allowed the Riverhawks to make a game of it and cruised 55-30 at Kurtz Gym.

Led by the outside accuracy of Jansen Edmiston (18 points) and Tavin Headings (14), the Bulldogs (16-3, 4-0 CRC) were ahead 17-2 at the end of the first quarter and led 30-8 at halftime.

“We did a good job of finding the open guard and the way their defense rotated we had a lot of opportunities to shoot early,” said Hermiston coach Steve Hoffer.

See BULLDOGS/2B