

HEADINGS: Didn't pick up a ball during time away

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three former teammates and their families go through senior night festivities before they thumped rival Pendleton en route to a perfect Columbia River Conference season.

She had never fully closed the door on the idea of returning to basketball, but now she knew she was ready to walk back through the gym doors.

"I realized that I wanted to have a senior night and I wanted to experience the atmosphere again," she said. "I felt like I was ready and I was hoping that I'd be more mature this time around."

"From that point on, she's been a completely different person emotionally — active, happy," Hoffert said. "She wants to play college ball."

A number of colleges wouldn't mind providing her that opportunity. Coaches from George Fox, Northwest Christian and Western Oregon have already expressed interest in Headings.

"Now looking into it, it's a good choice to play college ball," she said.

While it took just one swim meet to ascend from junior varsity to varsity, returning to basketball was a completely different animal.

Headings vowed not to pick up a basketball following her sophomore year for fear "of any of the bad feelings coming back." She stayed true to that pledge until last spring. Through summer training and winter workouts it was clear to Hoffert that her game was a work in progress.

"Even through the first six or seven games, there was not a whole lot going on," he said.

Hoffert decided to switch



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Tavin Headings opted not to play basketball her junior year, swimming for the Bulldogs instead, before returning to the hardwood for her senior year.

things up at the Nike Interstate Shootout. He inserted her into the starting lineup for the first time. She responded with team-highs in scoring in wins over Roseburg

and Centennial.

With Headings' scoring supplementing the play of the junior guard tandem of Jansen Edmiston and Sara Ramirez, the Bulldogs

have been a force in Class 5A. Winners of 10 of 11 and owners the classification's top billing, the Bulldogs are legitimate state title frontrunners. The team's ascent to contender status leaves questions in both player and coach's minds about what might have been in 2014.

"She's automatic offense, which we missed last year at times," Hoffert said of last year's second runner-up team. "We both say the same things, but I tell her 'Let's not go last year right now'."

"That's why she wants so badly this year to make a difference because she knows last year it could've been something — a different result."

The hottest team in the state is eight wins from making that "different result" a reality this season. Doing so would be history for Hermiston, which has yet to win a girls state basketball title.

"That's in our reach," Headings said. "That's my main goal. I think that would be a really great experience — especially looking back."

Looking back, however, she's not quite certain the year away from the court wasn't necessary to drive her and the Bulldogs to where they are today.

"I have a new mindset coming back into it. It's like I forgot my past experiences and this is brand new," she said.

Headings and the Bulldogs look to inch closer to history tonight with the second leg of the War on 84. Tip off is set for 7 p.m. at Hermiston High School.

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College Basketball Beavers excited for closing stretch

By STEVE GRESS
Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS — The focus for the Oregon State women's basketball team has always been on upcoming weekend.

It's 80 minutes of basketball — nothing more, nothing less.

But as the Pac-12 season reaches the final third, it's hard not to look ahead just a little bit at what could be in store for the No. 8 Beavers.

At 11-1, Oregon State (21-2 overall) enters this weekend the leader of the Pac-12 by a game over Arizona State (21-3, 10-2) and California (18-5, 10-2), and two games in front of Stanford (17-7, 9-3).

The Beavers will face all three of those teams over the next three weekends, beginning with Friday's 6 p.m. Pink Out game against No. 12 Arizona State.

That means the Beavers control their own destiny in the quest for the Pac-12 title.

OSU defeated Arizona State 68-57 back on Jan. 25 when both teams entered the game undefeated in the Pac-12.

After Friday, the Beavers host an Arizona (9-14, 2-10) team on Sunday that just upset Stanford last weekend.

Then it's a road trip to Colorado (10-13, 3-9) and Utah (7-16, 1-11) before returning on to face Stanford on Feb. 26 and Cal on Feb. 28 to wrap up the regular season.

"We have six more big games and I think it's crucial that we win all of them if we want to get to where we want to be," junior Jamie Weisner said, noting the Beavers have to take a one-game-at-a-time approach.

Having the opportunity to close out the regular season, and possibly then again in the Pac-12 tournament, against some of the top teams should help the Beavers be prepared for what they hope is a high seed in the NCAA tournament and possible opportunity to host the first and second rounds.

On Wednesday, OSU was one of 20 teams the NCAA announced as possible host sites.

"They're top-caliber teams going into postseason so yeah, it definitely prepares us," Weisner said. "I think its huge that we get them at home, in front of our fans to give us that extra boost and confidence in those tough games."

Pac-12 Standings

	Conf	Ovr	Pct.
Oregon St.	11-1	21-2	.913
California	11-2	19-5	.783
Arizona	10-2	21-3	.875
Stanford	9-3	17-7	.708
Washington	7-5	18-6	.750
UCLA	6-7	10-14	.435
USC	5-7	13-10	.565
Washington St.	4-8	13-10	.565
Oregon	4-8	11-12	.478
Colorado	3-9	10-13	.435
Arizona	2-10	9-14	.391
Utah	1-11	7-16	.304

Thursday's Games
California 70, UCLA 64
Today's Games
Washington State at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 6 p.m.
Arizona at Oregon, 6 p.m.
USC at Stanford, 6 p.m.
Arizona State at Oregon State, 6 p.m.

VIKINGS: Lead never dropped below 10 in second half

Continued from 1B

game and a half back of first-place Vale, which plays Nyssa on Friday and Umatilla on Saturday. Riverside (9-14, 0-8) falls further behind.

"We started running our sets finally," Umatilla head coach Scott Bow said. "We struggled in the first half trying to get our sets run, and I told my girls ... 'Let's start working on our stuff.' It still didn't happen."

Then, after Riverside head coach Kevin Gilbertson called his second timeout of the quarter, and Bow gave it to his team straight.

"I said, 'If we're not gonna run my sets, then I'm no help,'" the seventh-year coach said. "Until I can help you, we're not gonna work."

Umatilla did, in fact, start running its set plays and Umatilla went from down one to up eight by the end of the quarter.

"At first, you want to be mad at yourself," junior Sidney Webb said. "But you have to remember it's only (the) first, second quarter. You gotta get through this. You gotta focus. It's too early in the game for you to do that. You just gotta play your game. You gotta let it go."

Umatilla would cruise the rest of the way. Aside from a 3-pointer from Sadie Hasbell on Riverside's second third-quarter possession that put the count at 22-15, Umatilla wouldn't lead by fewer than double-digits the entire second half.

Riverside was without key member in junior Jenna Shimer, and Ellie Sanchez went down in the third quarter with an unfortunate knee injury. That left the Pirates significantly shorthanded and undersized at the block.

"When you're down to being 5-foot-6 against 5-foot-11 and 5-foot-8, 5-foot-9 ath-

letic girls (it's tough)," Gilbertson said. "I'm proud of 'em. (Umatilla's) eighth for a reason. They're big, they're poised and they want to win."

As far as the league standings are concerned, Umatilla needed to win Thursday night after consecutive losses to Vale. But Bow and the Lady Viks didn't see it that way.

"The kids didn't really see them as losses," Bow said. "And I didn't really see them as losses, either. Vale is Vale. I challenge anyone else in the state to go after Vale and see what they get."

UMATILLA 47, RIVERSIDE 26

RHS (9-14) 7 5 7 7 - 26
UHS (18-5) 7 13 17 10 - 47

RIVERSIDE — L. Mashos 11, K. McCullough 0, B. Lomas 0, S. Hasbell 13, P. Pena 0, M. Camp 0, S. Wightman 0, E. Valasco 0, E. Sanchez 0, A. Hernandez 2.

UMATILLA — B. Chavez 0, M. Paz 9, K. Barajas 0, I. Campos 8, B. Campos 0, S. Webb 3, K. Glabraith 10, C. Dohman 13, A. Watson 4.

3-point field goals — RHS 4, UHS 2. **Free throws** — RHS 4-13, UHS 7-19. **Fouls** — RHS 14, UHS 13. **Fouled out** — none.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today
Pendleton at Hermiston, 5:15 p.m.
Culver at Stanfield, 6 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Baker, 7:30 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Dufur, 7:30 p.m.
Sherman at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.
Ione at South Wasco, 7:30 p.m.
Joseph at Helix, 7:30 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.
Wallowa at Echo, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Joseph at Nixyaawii, 2:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Arlington, 3 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 5:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m.
Culver at Heppner, 5:30 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Ione, 5:30 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Helix, 5:30 p.m.
Nyssa at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday's result
Umatilla 47, Riverside 26

Today
Pendleton at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Culver at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Baker, 6 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
Irrigon at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Dufur, 6 p.m.
Sherman at Arlington, 6 p.m.
Ione at South Wasco, 6 p.m.
Joseph at Helix, 6 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.
Wallowa at Echo, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Joseph at Nixyaawii, 1 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Arlington, 1:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 4 p.m.
Stanfield at Irrigon, 4 p.m.
Culver at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Ione, 4 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Helix, 4 p.m.
Nyssa at Riverside, 4:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.

2A Columbia Basin Conference

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Irrigon	8-0	19-1 1
Stanfield	6-2	16-4 5
Heppner	5-3	14-4 3
Weston-McEwen	3-5	9-12 17
Pilot Rock	2-6	6-11 31
Culver	0-8	2-19 37

1A Big Sky League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Horizon Chr.	12-0	20-3 1
Dufur	10-2	14-7 12
Sherman	9-3	16-4 7
South Wasco	7-5	11-9 22
Mitchell/Spray	5-7	9-11 33
Ione	3-9	4-15 44
Condon/Wheeler	1-11	4-17 50
Arlington	0-12	1-19 58

1A Old Oregon League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Nixyaawii	10-0	15-6 5
Joseph	6-4	10-8 24
Echo	6-5	10-10 34
Pine Eagle	5-6	6-12 35
Powder Valley	5-6	9-11 37
Wallowa	4-6	8-11 43
Helix	0-10	2-18 64

Chicago	34	20	630	—
Cleveland	33	22	600	1½
Milwaukee	30	23	566	3½
Detroit	21	33	389	13
Indiana	21	33	389	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	36	17	.679	3
Dallas	36	19	.655	4
San Antonio	34	19	.642	5
New Orleans	27	26	.509	12

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	36	17	.679	—
Oklahoma City	28	25	.528	8
Denver	20	33	.377	16
Utah	19	34	.358	17
Minnesota	11	42	.208	25

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	42	9	.824	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.648	8½
Phoenix	29	25	.537	14½
Sacramento	18	34	.346	24½
L.A. Lakers	13	40	.245	30

Thursday's Games
Chicago 113, Cleveland 98

Friday's Games
All-star break

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Montreal	54	35	15	4	74	146	122
Tampa Bay	57	34	17	6	74	184	154
Detroit	53	31	13	9	71	156	134
Boston	54	28	19	7	63	142	136
Florida	53	24	18	11	59	134	149
Ottawa	53	21	22	10	52	145	150
Toronto	56	23	29	4	50	159	173
Buffalo	55	16	36	3	35	103	191

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Islanders	55	36	18	1	73	173	153
Pittsburgh	55	32	15	8	72	160	139
N.Y. Rangers	53	32	16	5	69	163	130
Washington	55	29	16	10	68	162	139
Philadelphia	54	23	22	9	55	146	157
New Jersey	54	21	24	9	51	122	148
Columbus	52	23	26	3	49	135	161
Carolina	53	19	27	7	45	117	141

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	55	37	12	6	80	167	130
St. Louis	55	36	15	4	76	176	136
Chicago	55	33	18	4	70	167	129
Winnipeg	57	28	19	10	66	155	149
Minnesota	54	27	20	7	61	147	146
Dallas	54	25	21	8	58	172	175
Colorado	55	22	22	11	55	140	158

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	56	35	14	7	77	166	155
San Jose	56	28	20	8	64	158	158
Vancouver	53	30	20	3	63	148	140
Calgary	54	30	21	3	63	156	137
Los Angeles	53	23	18	12	58	144	144
Arizona	55	20	28	7	47	126	180
Edmonton	56	16	31	9	51	129	184

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Girls

5A Columbia River Conference

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Hermiston	5-0	17-3 1
Pendleton	3-2	13-7 10
The Dalles	2-3	10-9 11
Hood River	0-5	1-15 31

4A Greater Oregon League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
La Grande	5-0	15-5 7
Baker	3-2	8-13 19
Ontario	2-3	5-18 31
Mac-Hi	0-5	3-15 37

3A Eastern Oregon League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Vale	7-0	20-1 2
Umatilla	6-2	18-5 8
Nyssa	2-5	7-13 22
Riverside	0-7	9-13 28

2A Columbia Basin Conference

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Weston-McEwen	7-1	14-6 14
Pilot Rock	7-1	11-6 10
Stanfield	4-4	9-11 22
Heppner	3-5	8-11 26
Culver	2-6	10-11 30
Irrigon	1-7	6-12 33

1A Big Sky League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Condon/Wheeler	12-0	21-1 4
Dufur	11-1	15-7 11
Sherman	7-5	9-11 29
Arlington	6-6	12-10 30
Ione	5-7	5-14 38
South Wasco	3-9	5-16 43
Mitchell/Spray	2-10	7-14 43
Horizon Chr.	2-10	5-18 51

1A Old Oregon League

Conf	Ovr	Rnk
Echo	8-3	16-6 15
Powder Valley	8-3	12-8 18
Nixyaawii	7-3	15-6 13
Wallowa	7-3	11-8 23
Helix	3-7	8-12 40
Joseph	3-7	6-12 44
Pine Eagle	0-10	2-15 54

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	36	17	.679	—
Brooklyn	21	31	.404	14½
Boston	20	31	.392	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	24
New York	10	43	.189	26

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	43	11	.796	—
Washington	33	21	.611	10
Charlotte	22	30	.423	20
Miami	22	30	.423	20
Orlando	17	39	.304	27

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
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