

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 14-15, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

LeBron James elected VP of NBA player's union

NEW YORK (AP) —

Cavaliers superstar LeBron James has been elected first vice president of the National Basketball Players Association, giving the game's top player a leadership role in the union.

James was elected unanimously on Friday during the union's annual meeting as part of All-Star weekend. A person familiar with James' election said Clippers All-Star guard Chris Paul, the union's president, had urged the four-time MVP to take an active role within the union. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity before union executive director Michele Roberts announced the election, said James wanted to be deeply involved in future collective bargaining with the league.



Morgan lifts US to win over England

MILTON KEYNES, England (AP) — Alex Morgan is back.

The American forward scored in the 25th minute in her second start since returning from an ankle injury, and the U.S. women defeated England 1-0 on Friday night in an exhibition game.

Morgan got her 50th goal in 79 international appearances, becoming the third-fastest American woman to reach the mark behind Michelle Akers (49 games) and Abby Wambach (64).

The goal ended a 217-minute scoring drought for the United States, which played its second game of the year in preparing for this year's Women's World Cup — and its second without suspended goalkeeper Hope Solo. The Americans had won just one of their previous five matches, including a 2-0 loss to France last weekend.

FACES

Morgan

"I don't think he knew whether he was going to play last year until almost training camp. Marshawn is getting to a point in his life where he may want to enjoy other things that are important to him."

— **Michael Robinson**
Former Seattle Seahawks FB and friend of RB Marshawn Lynch confirming in a radio interview that Lynch has not decided whether or not he'll play again next season. Lynch has one year remaining on his deal with Seattle, and Robinson said he thinks he'll end up playing out the contract.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1975 — Julius Erving of the New York Nets scores 63 points in a 176-166 quadruple overtime loss to the San Diego Conquistadors. Erving sets an ABA record by shooting 25-for-46 from the field and the 342 points are an ABA record.

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

War on 84

Bucks hold off late rally

By **SAM BARBEE**
EO Media Group

The last time the Hermiston Bulldogs played the Pendleton Buckaroos, it was a back-and-forth affair at Warberg Court the Pendleton boys would eventually win.

Friday night in Hermiston, the game couldn't have been more different.

The Bucks led for the final 27 minutes of the game behind Wes Persinger's 19 points, seven rebounds and three blocks and they held off a late rally by Hermiston to win 62-51.

"It was very important (to get ahead and stay ahead)," Persinger said after the game. "We've been focusing on it for awhile. It's just good to come out and beat 'em by (11). This game was very important because now we automatically won the series with them."

Kai Quinn added 15 points and six assists for the winners and Caden Smith chipped in with 14 points. Austin Nailon led the Bulldogs with 13 points, Keegan Crafton had 10 and Chase Knutz had 11.

But no one was bigger or better on the floor than Persinger.

"He was the hardest-working kid out there," Hermiston head coach Jake McElligott said of Persinger after the game. "He was the difference-maker. He was the equalizer in the game. He worked his butt off, and I told him that after the game."

Hermiston (6-14, 3-3 CRC) never led did tie the game at three after Austin Nailon hit a three-pointer to put Hermiston on the board. Pendleton (14-7, 4-2), however, would close the quarter on an 11-6 run to seize control early and extended the lead to 12 at halftime. Hermiston never came closer than 10 points in the second half.

McElligott called this week

See **BOYS HOOPS/3B**

Pendleton's Caden Smith shoots the ball guarded by Hermiston's Cole Smith and Austin Nailon (10) in the Bucks' 62-51 win against the Bulldogs on Friday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

BOYS HOOPS



Pendleton
62



Hermiston
51

GIRLS HOOPS



Hermiston
66



Pendleton
57



Bulldogs run to victory

Hermiston transition game sinks Pendleton

By **ERIK SKOPIL**
East Oregonian

The third quarter of Friday's War on 84 girls basketball game might have rendered Hermiston's pre-game layup lines obsolete.

The Bulldogs got plenty of chip-shot practice to open the second half, using a slew of fast-break run outs to bury rival Pendleton on its way to a 66-57 victory at the Dawg House.

With a slim cushion out of half, Class 5A's second-ranked team's advantage got plenty comfy thanks to a 17-5 run to open the second half. Much of the Bulldogs (18-3, 6-0 CRC) success began at the defensive end. That's where Hermiston put the kibosh on the Bucks (13-8, 3-3 CRC) aim of hanging around with stop after stop that allowed a rash of uncontested gimmes.

The efficiency at which the Bulldogs transitioned from defense to offense was just what Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert had hoped for.

"We forced bad shots, got quick rebounds and we were gone," he said. "We talked (at the half) about defense having

to be the difference in the game and then went out in the third quarter and did exactly what we had to do."

"We wanted to keep pushing them until they were done," said sophomore Kynzee Padilla, who had eight points in the third. "The first five minutes of the quarter we wanted to go until we push them over and they fell."

With the victory the Bulldogs locked down a share of their fifth consecutive Columbia River Conference crown. Now holding a three-game edge on the field with three remaining, things would have to go bonkers for that not to become yet another outright win.

The reign of dominance extends over the Buckaroos in particular. Hermiston has now downed Pendleton 24 straight times. Not since February 18, 2006 have the Buckaroos gotten the better of the Bulldogs.

"That's a long stretch to beat somebody," Hoffert said. "We don't talk about it much... it's obviously that we're very proud of. It's something that's very difficult to do. You hope you can beat somebody three times in a row let alone 24 times in a row."

Pendleton coach Michelle Gomez knew her team place themselves in an inauspicious position after they fumbled

See **GIRLS HOOPS/3B**



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Hermiston's Maddy Juul puts up a shot guarded by Pendleton's Kristin Williams and Marlene Bodmer in the Bulldogs' 66-57 win against the Bucks on Friday in Hermiston.

Prep Wrestling

Hermiston just inches from first at districts after Day 1

By **MIKE WEBER**
For the East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Hermiston Bulldogs have 22 wrestlers with an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament and are 1.5 points away from winning the District 4 title at Hood River Valley High School.

Hermiston, guided by third-year head coach Shaun Williams, had an incredible performance with most of their 26 team members advancing to compete Saturday in the nine-team Columbia River Conference/Intermountain Conference Regional Tournament. The defending state champion Bulldogs notched 145.5 points in team scoring to hold onto second place behind front-runner Redmond with 147. Pendleton has six wrestlers in contention for trips to state.

"We did a fairly good job and everyone competed well today," Williams said. "Some of the younger guys wrestled very well and they upset people in their matches, which was good to see. We have to compete hard and win some more matches on Saturday. We don't have anything clinched yet. We're all happy now, but if we don't get the job done Saturday, then we'll be crying."

Hermiston has 11 boys in today's semifinal matches and if they win, they'll move on to the state tournament Feb. 26-28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Bulldog wrestlers in the semis who are hopeful of advancing to state include Jesse Rodelo, Sam Colbray, John-Henry Line, Mitchell Lincoln, Bob Coleman, Brock McDonough, Devin Bonser, Robert Crane, See **WRESTLING/2B**



Photo by Mike Weber for the East Oregonian
Hermiston sophomore Oscar Lopez has a strong performance in getting a win over Redmond's Davin Curry during a 132 weight class match Friday in the Columbia River Conference/Intermountain Conference Class 5A District 4 Regional Tournament at Hood River Valley High School.