

Prep Swimming

Bucks breeze through prelims

Jennings earns four finals spots

East Oregonian

GRESHAM — The Pendleton swim team advanced to the finals in all of its events Friday as the 5A state swimming championships completed preliminary heats on Friday at Mt. Hood Community College.

The boys 200-yard freestyle relay enters Saturday evening's finals with the top time after stopping the clock in 1 minute, 31.19 seconds.

It was a six-second improvement from the team's district time, and just fast enough to hold off Corvallis (1:32.21) and Lebanon (1:32.39).

Two members of the team also earned individual finals berths as well.

Jon Jennings, a sophomore who also swam on the 200 medley relay, qualified for the finals in the 100 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. He was third in the 100 free prelims with a time of 49.92 — two seconds off the lead pace set by Summit's John Hartmeier.

Hartmeier is also the leader in the 100 back, which Jennings qualified for the finals in sixth place.

Senior Nate Rickman also made an individual final after posting a 22.56 that was fourth in the 50 free prelims. He's also chasing a Summit swimmer after Tommy Brewer swam a 21.28 to lead the preliminary round.

The finals begin at 6:45 p.m. tonight.

BULLDOGS: Ramirez, Edmiston pace HHS offense

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Eleven Bulldogs touched the court, but it was regulars Sara Ramirez and Jansen Edmiston pacing Hermiston (20-3, 8-0 CRC) once again. Ramirez finished with a game-high 19 points and Edmiston added 18.

No player reached double digits scoring for Hood River Valley (5-18, 0-8).

Hermiston finishes its regular season on Tuesday at Pendleton. Tip off is scheduled for 5:15 p.m.

HERMISTON 59, HOOD RIVER 27
HHS (20-3) 17 18 12 12 — 59
HRV (5-18) 9 7 5 6 — 27
HERMISTON — Sara Ramirez 19, J. Edmiston 18, K. Padilla 7, T. Headings 5, M. Juul 3, S. Moore 2, M. Foley 2, J. Gutierrez 2, A. Drotzmann 1, R. Andreason, S. Gilbert.
HOOD RIVER VALLEY — K. Wells 7, J. Mattson 5, M. Bloomster 5, K. Davidson 4, J. Lara 2, B. Weekly 2, L. Winans 2, A. White.
3-point field goals — HHS 5, HRV 0. Free throws — HHS 12-20, HRV 5-16. Fouls — HHS 12, HRV 18. Fouled out — none.

BUCKS: Sperr adds double-double

Continued from 1B

hit with a T. Pendleton (15-8, 5-3) had already erased the five-point deficit it had started the fourth quarter with, and was ahead by four.

Gomez said that was where the Bucks sealed their win.

Lindsey's three throws gave her a team-high 12 points, and she added four assists. Kiana Sperr chipped in with a double-double with 10 points, 14 rebounds, and Marlene Bodmer added 11 rebounds, six points.

PENDLETON 47, THE DALLES 39
PHS (11-11) 10 8 13 8 — 39
PHS (15-8) 11 7 8 21 — 47
THE DALLES — Lori Cimmiyotti 10, B. McCall 7, J. Telles 6, K. Conklin 6, O. Starks 6, K. Hoylman 4, M. Goslin.
PENDLETON — Darian Lindsey 12, K. Sperr 10, K. Williams 8, M. Bodmer 6, S. Greb 6, K. McGlothlan 2, H. Thompson 2, H. Greb 1, L. Taylor.
3-point field goals — TDHS 1, PHS 2. Free throws — TDHS 16-26, PHS 21-30. Fouls — TDHS 22, PHS 20. Fouled out — Starks, Hoylman (TDHS), Williams (PHS). Technical fouls — Coach Telles, 2 (TDHS).

Prep Basketball

Eagles eliminate Cougars at districts

East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — The Echo Cougars suffered their second heart-breaking defeat to the Eagles in three weeks Friday at the Old Oregon League tournament.

But Friday's 52-50 loss hurts especially bad. It places Echo (12-12) behind the eight-ball Saturday versus Powder Valley. The Cougars must win Saturday to reach the state playoffs.

Joseph (13-9) overcame eight Echo 3-pointers to clinch a playoff berth of their own Friday. Echo's Klay Jensen was the long range culprit most of the time. He connected on 4-of-8 attempts from distance.

JOSEPH 52, ECHO 50
EHS (12-12) 10 6 18 16 — 50
JHS (13-9) 9 10 14 19 — 52
ECHO — C. Chaves 11, Z. Gerke 0, J. Dorn 0, B.

Moffitt 0, K. Jensen 14, C. Medrano 0, M. Thompson 10, Danny Tappo 15.
JOSEPH — C. Stone 0, D. Van Winkle 4, J. Chrisman 8, N. DeLury 6, Caden DeLury 15, A. Borgeding 7, S. Beckman 12.
3-point field goals — EHS 8, JHS 1. Free throws — EHS 4-4, JHS 7-9. Fouls — EHS 14, JHS 8. Fouled out — M. Thompson (EHS).

In other OOL action: Nixyaawii advanced to the district championship with a 92-50 win over Powder Valley. The Golden Eagles play Joseph at 8 p.m. tonight.

In Big Sky action: Horizon Christian and Sherman will meet for the championship after picking up wins on Friday. Horizon topped South Wasco 58-23 while Sherman bested Dufur 53-44. The district final tips off at 7:30 p.m. at Hermiston High School.

Girls Basketball
ECHO 55, WALLOWA 25 —

At Baker, Hannah and Elizabeth McCarty led the Cougars to a state tournament bid sealing win Friday at the Old Oregon League district tournament.

Echo (18-6) led 28-13 at the half and never looked back after intermission. The Cougars struggled to score from the perimeter but pounded the ball in the paint with regular success against Wallowa (13-10).

The McCarty sisters scored 15 points apiece. Hannah McCarty grabbed nine rebounds, her older sister seven.

Echo (18-6) earned a spot in the big tournament but still has work to do in Baker. Echo will play Saturday for the OOL district championship.

ECHO 55, WALLOWA 25
WHS (13-10) 4 9 4 8 — 25
EHS (18-6) 16 12 14 13 — 55
WALLOWA — M. Jones 0, M. Hulse 4, C. Wellens 0, T. Harshfield 2, S. Nobles 0, C. Hall 2, C. Miller 2, Lauren Makin 11, M. Fei 4.
ECHO — E. Parks 1, K. Ranger 11, D. Tavin 4, T. Swaggart 2, Hannah McCarty 15, L. Cox 0, M. Montoya 0, B. Srofe 3, Elizabeth McCarty 15, L. Wiggins 0, B. Millbrott 0, H. Reese 4.
3-point field goals — WHS 0, EHS 2. Free throws — WHS 3-4, EHS 9-21. Fouls — WHS 18, EHS 11. Fouled out — none.

In other OOL action: Nixyaawii as dealt a crushing defeat in overtime, falling to Powder Valley 54-46. The Golden Eagles face Wallowa for third place today at 3 p.m.

In Big Sky action: Condon/Wheeler will face Sherman for the district title after beating Ione 59-26 on Friday. Sherman earned its spot in the final with a 42-31 win over Dufur. The championship game will be played at 3 p.m. at Hermiston High School.

College Basketball

Weisner helps Oregon State to win

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Talk about a possible league crown isn't taboo or off limits, just something the Oregon State players don't really discuss right now.

Way too much work left to do. Still, No. 7 Oregon State moved a step closer to its first Pac-12 title by beating Colorado 66-44 on Friday night.

"This is huge," said Weisner, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds for her 10th career double-double. "We say every game just leads us to the championship, so every game is like a championship game for us."

"We know that's our final goal. We have to take it one practice, one game at a time."

The Beavers (24-2, 14-1 Pac-12) maintained a two-game cushion in the conference race with three contests remaining, including one at home next week against No. 18 Stanford. The Cardinal are the gold standard in the conference — and the defending champion.

That's why Oregon State coach Scott Rueck tries to keep his team grounded in the moment, not looking down the road.

"Those things take care of themselves if we take care of business," Rueck said. "And so that's all we talk about — next possession is all that matters."

Ali Gibson scored nine of her 14 points in the second half as the Beavers pulled away from pesky Colorado (11-15, 4-11) for their first-ever win in Boulder. With the victory, Oregon State matched the school record for most wins in a season. The team also had 24 wins a year ago and during the 1982-83 season.

"We just try to play our game every game," Weisner said.

But Colorado prevented the Beavers from playing their style in the first half. Oregon State turned the ball over an uncharacteristic 10 times and shot just 33 percent.

It wasn't until midway through the second half that Oregon State began to shake free from Colorado. That's when the Beavers rediscovered their shooting touch and committed fewer turnovers. They went on a 20-8 run



AP Photo/David Zalubowski
Oregon State forward Deven Hunter, center, battles for control of a rebound with Colorado forwards Jamee Swan, left, and Alina Hartmann during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Friday, Feb. 20, 2015, in Boulder, Colo.

to gain some separation. "We were a bit out of our element. Second half was a normal half for us," Rueck said. "We settled down and did our thing."

Sydney Wiese finished with 10 points and had seven of the team's 16 assists. The Beavers entered the game fifth in the nation in assists per game (19.5).

Jen Reese scored 19 points and Jamee Swan added 13 for Colorado, which dropped its 16th straight game against ranked opponents.

"They're No. 1 in the league for a reason. You can see why," Colorado coach Linda Lappe said. "Such good balance — they're tough. They shoot the ball well."

Oregon State led by as many as 11 in the first half, but miscues and missed free throws allowed Colorado to work its way back into the game.

That and the shooting of Reese, who scored all of Colorado's points in an 8-2 run late in the first half. She almost gave the Buffaloes the lead at halftime as her shot at the buzzer hung on the rim before rolling out. The teams went into the locker room

Reese didn't have as many open looks in the second half.

"They stayed tighter to Jen Reese, kept somebody pretty much glued to her," Lappe said. "They keep coming at you. They have very good balance in their team. We knew that it was going to be a tough game."

TIP-INS

Oregon State: Until Friday, the Beavers were 0-4 in Boulder, including two losses as a member of the Pac-12. ... Oregon State was picked to finish third in preseason conference polls. ... The Beavers outscored Colorado 22-2 in the paint in the final half.

Colorado: There was a petting zoo set up on the concourse for kids, complete with a goat, hen and a rabbit. No buffaloes or beavers, though. ... Colorado last beat a top-10 team on Dec. 14, 2012, at home against No. 8 Louisville. ... The Buffaloes have played all season without junior forward Arielle Roberson, who tore the ACL in her left knee in fall practice.

WRESTLING: Pirates advance with first-round pins

Continued from 1B

matter to the wrestlers, however, who looked at the experience in a positive light.

Both Jason Fitzpatrick and Colton Evans said they rate this year an 11 out of 10, and both guaranteed they will wrestle next winter.

Both said they learned a lot about the sport and themselves, agreeing they've grown to love the sport and what it means. Evans said he has learned not only wrestling skills, but life skills, too.

"For them to come out, saying that they love the sport that much ... That means a lot to me," Tombs said.

Evans, in particular, can point to one area of growth above all others these past three months.

"In the beginning of the year, I thought I was mentally tough," Evans said. "I found out not so much. Now, it definitely shows that sticking with it and going hard at it, my mentality changed a lot."

Echo was without its most experienced wrestler, Hayden Hilliard, Friday, who was bull-riding instead. He was the only member of the Echo team not present at the district meet, but Tombs wasn't disappointed. And aside from Hilliard, everyone who was at the district meet was at the first practice in December. To Tombs, that's a win right there.

"We pretty much ended with the same kids that we started with," Tombs said. "Even established programs don't have that kind of (dedi-



cation) — they have a lot more kids that quit and everything else. To be ending with what we started with, that's huge right there."

Moving forward, it's a steady climb upwards. Tombs pointed out he doesn't have to teach the basics to this core group of mostly freshmen anymore. He said most of the wrestlers had no idea what a double-leg was, or even a singlet, at the start of the season. Now, however, their focus is on mat time.

"The only thing that matters is the mat time," Evans said.

RIVERSIDE PIRATES
Seven Riverside wrestlers advanced to the Special District 1 semifinals on Friday — and five of them earned their spot in the next round with pins.

Three-time state champion Hans Rockwell pinned Rainier's Aaron Bruce in 19 seconds in the 132-pound semifinals, which followed a 14-second win in Round 1.

His sophomore brother Aristotle (120 pounds) also didn't let his quarterfinal match get past the first minute, pinning Clatskanie's Jon Lefor

in 37 seconds. Riverside 195-pounder Jesse Hagar also made it a short day, pinning Clatskanie's Lukas Roubal in 33 seconds. Senior Elijah Conlon also advanced with a first-round pin, beating Rainier's Issac Carter in 1:24, as did 182-pounder Ricardo Mendoza with a 1:12 pin on Echo's Hayden Sather. Brian Mendoza (285) and Roberto Peralta (152) were awarded quarterfinals byes.

The semifinals begin at 10 a.m. today at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston.

NFL

Expanded replay on list of reviews

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Rams coach Jeff Fisher expects the NFL's competition committee to take another look at expanding replay.

The committee co-chairman said Friday that while many coaches and team officials are proposing changes, including the possibility of making penalties reviewable, they may not happen before next season.

"You have two standards. To me, that's the biggest concern with it is you have an on-the-field, full-speed, bang-bang call made by the official — we'll just say pass interference — and then now you're going to go to replay and you're going to go frame by frame by frame to determine whether it is or not," Fisher said. "I'm not so sure that's where we want to go with our game right now."

Replay becomes a hot topic each offseason because of the lingering memories of controversial plays.

The two most notable ones this time came in the playoffs: a non-call in the Lions-Cowboys playoff game, and Dez Bryant's attempt to catch a pass against Green Bay, which was ruled a reception on the field and then overturned.

Fisher said the number of proposals discussed this week during the NFL's annual scouting combine was at an all-time high.

"We're scratching the surface on it now, and we'll look at in detail. To comment at this time would be very premature," he said when asked if judgment calls could be challenged. "But obviously that's probably going to be one of the major topics of discussion as we resume our meetings in Naples (Florida) next weekend."

Riverside's Elijah Conlon wrestles Rainier's Issac Carter on Friday at the Special District 1 tournament in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris