

WRESTLING: ‘Our whole team is solid’

Continued from 1B

Williams said. “We come back and win. We’ve just got to do our job in the back-door. We’re gutsy enough to do it.”

“Our whole team is solid,” said Colbray, who won both of his Friday bouts by pin. “That’s what counts, the whole team effort and not just a couple of front-runners. I think we have the heart to pull it off.”

Rodelo exhibited plenty of heart in his 4-2 quarterfinal victory over Justin Montgomery of South Albany. After two previous shots at Montgomery landed outside of the circle, a third with 27 second remaining in the match landed and resulted in the bout deciding takedown.

“It usually comes down to the end, I take one shot, get one takedown and I’m good,” Rodelo said.

Hermiston finished the first day 3.5 points behind Dallas in the Class 5A team standings. Dallas finished runner-up to Hermiston



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hermiston’s Jesse Rodelo wrestled Justin Montgomery, of South Albany, to a 4-2 victory Friday during the Oregon OSAA Wrestling State Championships at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland in the 220-pound weight class.

each of the past two years. Sandy is in third, Hillsboro fourth.

The Bulldogs will go for an eighth state title in nine years tomorrow.

Pendleton will not bring a state medalist across the state. All four of the Buckaroos lost at least once Friday. Morgan Holcomb (138) and Ryan Skeen (152) won their first bouts but took quarterfinal defeats.

Only Marcus Taylor has been eliminated via two

losses.

In 3A, the Rockwell brothers competed to spend as little mat time as possible. At 120, Aristotle Rockwell did away with two opponents in just 2 minutes, 47 seconds. Older brother Hans Rockwell took 2:58 to pin his first day competitors. Hans Rockwell remains in contention to win a school-best fourth state wrestling title.

The Rockwells are joined by Elijah Conlon (126) and

Jesse Hegar (195) in the semifinals.

Riverside sits in sixth place in the team competition with 47 first day points. League rivals Nyssa (82) and Vale (77) top the Class 3A leaderboard.

Mac-Hi advanced four into the semifinals in Class 4A. Pioneer wrestlers Alyx-ander Shaw (152), Jeffrey Jones (160), Vince Ruff (170) and Jacob Podolski (220) are among the four in their weight classes still going without a loss.

After finishing 17th place a year ago, Mac-Hi is fifth in the team standings after Friday. Crook County has all but wrapped up its third consecutive team title.

Ryan Smith of Heppner remains in position to defend his 106-pound title. Smith won his only match of the day over Cooper Baker of Culver in a second round pin. Last year’s runner-up Justin Doyle of Monroe also advanced.

Mustang heavyweight John Propheter joins Smith in the next round.

IRRIGON: Will play Burns Thursday in Pendleton

Continued from 1B

Thompson said.

The Knights held the Loggers to six points in the third quarter while opening an insurmountable lead with an 18-0 run over the last four minutes.

“It was just a matter of playing harder than we were and playing a little bit smarter than we were,” Landeros said.

Irrigon cleared the bench in the fourth quarter, but the lead only continued to grow as Austin Rice scored all 10 of his points in the last six minutes. His jump shot with 2:59 to play gave Irrigon its largest lead at 95-36 (59 points) with 2:59 left to play, and Nate Verley hit a pair of free throws that matched the margin at 97-38 with just



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Irrigon’s Adrian Romero shoots the ball over Vernonia’s Will Botelho in the Knights’ 97-40 win against the Loggers on Friday in Irrigon.

over two minutes remaining.

“It really speaks to the type of culture that is here,” Thompson said. “It’s really competitive from seniors to freshmen. There’s not a day of practice where those guys aren’t playing hard and it showed.”

The Knights held the ball near midcourt for the last 32 seconds, and the crowd’s clamor for the century mark quickly morphed into a standing ovation for a job well done.

“It was tempting, but we’re not really focused on that,” said Rice of reaching 100. “We’re focused on winning with poise.”

Zach Rice added 11 points for Irrigon, and Clay Sullivan led Vernonia with eight.

The win advances Irri-

gon to the 2A quarterfinals where they face Burns, which defeated last season’s runner-up Oakland 53-32 on Friday.

“Burns is really good,” Thompson said of the No. 8 seed. “Austin Feist is probably the best athlete in 2A, so we’ve got our work cut out for us.”

The game will be played on Thursday at Pendleton High School. Tip off is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

IRRIGON 97, VERNONIA 40					
VHS	18	8	6	8	— 40
IHS	30	14	33	20	— 97
VERNONIA — C. Sullivan 8, T. Adams 7, B. Elliott 6, N. Moskalev 6, W. Botelho 4, J. Medaris 3, Z. Chen 2, B. Jones 2, L. McCallum 2, J. Butcher, L. Titus, A. Johnson, D. Cheney.					
IRRIGON — Anthony Landeros 31, A. Romero 23, Z. Rice 11, F. Vera 8, A. Timpy 5, N. Verley 4, R. Reynolds 4, O. Romero 1, O. Vera, D. Vera, H. White.					
3-point field goals — VHS 2, IHS 12.					
Free throws — VHS 4-8, IHS 13-14. Fouls — VHS 14, IHS 6. Fouled out — none.					

BRIEFLY
EOU women’s basketball heads to CCC finals

LA GRANDE – The Eastern Oregon University Women’s Basketball team advanced to the CCC tournament finals, defeating Northwest Christian 58-52 Friday night at Quinn Coliseum.

The No.1-seeded Mountaineers (26-5) nearly lost another big lead, as they did in their previous tournament game, but held on to defeat Northwest Christian (13-15).

The Mountaineers led by 15 with just over 10 minutes to go in the game, but once again their shooting got cold and the lead was just 4 with ten seconds left.

EOU plays Oregon Tech in the CCC tournament finals Monday at 7 p.m in La Grande. They have already qualified for the NAIA National Championship tournament.

BLAZERS: Overcome big Westbrook night

Continued from 1B

Westbrook was hit in the face in the scramble following his free throws. There was no immediate word on his condition.

The Thunder were coming off a 117-113 overtime loss the night before in Phoenix, snapping their seven-game winning streak. Westbrook had 39 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists, and rolled his ankle late in the game.

Kyle Singler gave the Thunder their first lead of the game with a 3-pointer to make it 34-32 in the second quarter. Oklahoma City extended the lead to 47-37 on rookie McGary’s jumper with just under five minutes in the half.

Trailing the Thunder 59-47 at

the break, the Blazers opened the second half with a 7-0 run to close within 59-54. Oklahoma City answered with a 10-0 run capped by Serge Ibaka’s dunk to go up 69-54, and led 89-78 going into the final quarter.

TIP-INS

Thunder: Singler grew up in Medford. He was on the South Medford High School team that won the 2007 state championship game against Lake Oswego High School and star Kevin Love.

Trail Blazers: It was Portland center Meyers Leonard’s 23rd birthday. ... Former Oregon Ducks quarterback Joey Harrington wore a Jerome Kersey jersey. Kersey died last week at age 52.

Boys prep basketball

Heppner wins, heads to state

East Oregonian

No Heppner basketball team has been one of the last eight 2A teams standing since 2002. Until now.

The No. 3 Mustangs knocked off No. 14 Faith Bible 60-45 Friday, behind 20 points from Logan Grieb and a strong shooting night up and down the roster.

Coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said the team had some early jitters, but calmed down in the second quarter when they outscored Faith Bible 21-6.

The team shot 52 percent on the night, including a 3-for-3 effort from Kevin Murraray and 9-for-13 shooting from Grieb. Patrick Collins and Ross Cutsforth both contributed nine points to the winning effort.

Rosenbalm was pleased, and said the team would head to Pendleton feeling loose and accomplished.

“There’s been a lot of hard work and sacrifice. A state playoff berth is well deserved for this team,” said Rosenbalm. “We’re going

Boys Hoops



back to a gym we’ve played at before, right down the road. We’re looking forward to it.”

That gymnasium is in Pendleton for the 2A state tournament and the

Mustangs drew their all-sport rival Knappa in their opening game, currently slated for 6:30 p.m. Thursday. No. 6 Knappa dispatched No. 11 Union 70-45 to qualify for Pendleton.

Heppner beat Knappa by 11 points in the first game of the year for both teams, but

Rosenbalm said a lot has changed since then. Both teams had barely recovered from the grueling football season and he said the tournament matchup will showcase two improved teams.

Heppner 60, Faith Bible 45									
FB	(13-13)	11	6	13	15	—	45		
HEP	(18-5)	13	21	13	13	—	60		
Faith Bible — Hofer 4, Walker 17, Morae-Alvarado 1, I. Schneider 2, J. Schneider 11, Luey 6, Helms 4, 17-52 FG									
Heppner — Putman 3, Grieb 20, Corbin 2, Hedman 5, Collins 9, Murray 6, Cutsforth 9, Kindle 6, 25-43 FG									
3-point field goals — FB 3-19, HEP 4-11.									
Free throws — FG 8-18, HEP 6-11. Fouls — FG15, HEP 13.									

Boys prep basketball

Nixyawaii wins tourney game, heads to Baker

East Oregonian

Nixyaawii qualified for the state’s final eight Friday night, using shutdown defense in the second half to take down Columbia Christian 56-40.

In the first half, Columbia Christian’s 6-foot-4 guard Luke Moody scored 17 points, including five 3-pointers. The No. 5 Golden Eagles (20-6) clung to a tenuous 32-27 halftime lead in the loser-out game.

In the second half, Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera tasked Ira Ashley and Hunter McKay with guarding Moody’s every move. They did and the sharp-shooting big man didn’t score again.

“He never got off a clean shot after that,” said Rivera. “They were sacrificing their offense to keep him off the scoreboard. That defense was

the key to the game.”

No. 12 Columbia Christian (15-11) was eliminated from state tournament play, while Nixyaawii will move forward to Baker to face off against first-round draw No. 2 Horizon Christian,

according to Rivera.

Nixyaawii lost twice to Horizon Christian this year, but both games were close. In one, Nixyawaii led in the fourth quarter only to lose by four.

“We’re right there,” said Rivera. “We’re competitive. We’ve definitely got the personnel to make run in Baker.”

Boys hoops



Nixyawaii 56, Columbia Christian 40
CC (15-11) — 15 12 7 6
NIX (20-6) — 16 16 9 14
CC — C. Heiner 8, Barbarick 5, Endresen 4, Moultrie 2, J. Heiner 2, Moody 17, Vensal 2
NIX — Farrow 6, Ashley 7, Melton 16, Corona DNS, McKay DNS, Oatman DNS, Lewis DNS, Campos 10, Bevis 17, Case DNS
3-pointers — CC 5, NIX 4. **Free throws —** CC 1-6, NIX 16-21 **Fouls —** CC 19, NIX 14.

Local Slate

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Saturday

Weston-McEwen at Vernonia (2A first round), 2 p.m.

Adrian at Echo (1A second round), 3 p.m.

Powder Valley at Condon/Wheeler (1A second round), 4 p.m.

Regis at Pilot Rock (2A first round), 6 p.m.

Umatilla at Amity (3A first round), 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday

Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at State Championships (Veterans Memorial Coliseum), 8:30 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN’S BASKETBALL

Saturday

Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.

Eastern Oregon at College of Idaho (CCC Semifinals), 7 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Saturday

Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Saturday

Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (CofI Invitational), 10 a.m. MT

Eastern Oregon vs. Montana St-Billings (CofI Invitational), 4 p.m. MT

Sunday

Eastern Oregon vs. Montana St-Billings (CofI Invitational), 10 a.m. MT

Eastern Oregon vs. University of Great Falls (CofI Invitational), 2 p.m. MT

Basketball

OSAA Playoffs

Boys

Class 4A Play-in Round

Friday

North Marion 65, BAKER 59

Sisters 44, SOUTH UMPQUA 29

Tillamook 78, MAZAMA 59

CASCADE 53, Elmira 42

SEASIDE 61, Crook County 50

Yamhill-Carlton 43, JUNCTION CITY 40

VALLEY CATHOLIC 36, Hidden Valley 34

MADRAS 45, Stayton 40

Class 3A First Round

Friday

NYSSA 68, Cascade Christian 61 (OT)

Amity 66, ROGUE RIVER 48

DE LA SALLE NORTH CATHOLIC 65, Coquille 41

HORIZON CHRISTIAN 60, Colton 57

CRESWELL 92, Clatskanie 59

Salem Acad. 50, SANTIAM CHRISTIAN 44

DAYTON 69, Umatilla 56

Class 2A First Round

Friday

BURNS 53, Oakland 32

KNAPPA 70, Union 45

HEPPNER 60, Faith Bible 45

REGIS 50, Bandon 33

WESTERN MENNONITE 77, Imbler 49

TOLEDO 67, Lost River 36

OAKRIDGE 45, Central Linn 34

IRRIGON 97, Vernonia 40

Class 1A Second Round

Friday

SILETZ VALLEY 57, Dufur 56 (OT)

Sherman 48, DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN 36

COUNTRY CHRISTIAN 57, Days Creek 39

NIXYA-AVII 56, Columbia Christian 40

Crosshill Christian 48, JORDAN VALLEY 47

HOSANNA CHRISTIAN 46, Adrian 35

YONCALLA 62, Crane 34

HORIZON CHRISTIAN 52, Triangle Lake 21

Girls

Class 4A Play-in Round

Friday

KLAMATH UNION 44, Tillamook 40

MADRAS 45, Molalla 38

MAZAMA 56, Scappoose 41

MARSHFIELD 37, DOUGLAS 36

Saturday

Stayton at BAKER, 1 p.m.

Sisters at PHILOMATH, 6 p.m.

Class 3A First Round

Saturday

No. 15 Santiam Christian at No. 2 VALE, 1 p.m.

No. 11 Portland Christian at No. 6 LAKEVIEW, 2 p.m.

No. 9 Sisco at No. 8 ST. MARY’S/MEDFORD, 4 p.m.

No. 16 Rainier at No. 1 PLEASANT HILL, 5 p.m.

No. 13 Glide at No. 4 SALEM ACAD., 6 p.m.

No. 14 Colton at No. 3 DAYTON, 6 p.m.

No. 12 Umatilla at No. 5 AMITY, 6 p.m.

No. 10 Creswell at No. 7 PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACAD., 7 p.m.

Class 2A First Round

Saturday

No. 15 Gold Beach at No. 2 KENNEDY, 12:30 p.m.

No. 11 Faith Bible at No. 6 BURNS, 2 p.m.

No. 12 Grant Union at No. 5 MONROE, 2 p.m.

No. 14 Weston-McEwen at No. 3 VERNONIA, 2 p.m.

No. 13 Bonanza at No. 4 UNION, 3 p.m.

No. 9 Lost River at No. 8 MYRTLE POINT, 5:30 p.m.

No. 10 Regis at No. 7 PILOT ROCK, 6 p.m.

No. 16 City Christian at No. 1 WESTERN MENNONITE, 6 p.m.

Class 1A Second Round

Saturday

No. 9 Adrian at No. 8 ECHO, 3 p.m.

No. 12 Camas Valley at No. 5 CHILOQUINN, 3 p.m.

No. 13 Powder Valley at No. 4 CONDON/WHEELER, 4