

## College Volleyball

# Timberwolves turn back energetic Warriors

## BMCC stays undefeated in NWAC-East

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Warriors came out to play Friday night at Mosby Court, but the Blue Mountain Timberwolves sent them back to Walla Walla firmly entrenched in second place after a four-set victory.

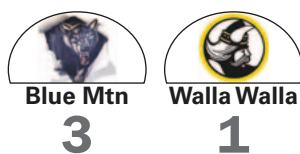
Perhaps the strongest challenge standing in the way of BMCC's fourth-straight NWAC-East title, Walla Walla won the first set 25-22. But despite an off night for its hitters, BMCC was able to create some breathing room in the standings by taking the next three

sets 25-14, 25-20, 31-29.

The win gave BMCC (29-7, 9-0 East) a 2.5-match lead on Walla Walla (17-11, 6-2) with five league matches left before the NWAC Championships.

"Definitely not like we would have liked to have closed it, but a win's a win in my book," said sophomore hitter Klaree Hobart, who smashed the match-winner through Walla Walla's block and finished tied for the team high with 12 kills. "(Walla Walla) had a lot of energy, a lot of motivation. Their energy definitely raised our stakes a lot. I think we were thinking we could take care of it a little easier than that but it's a good challenge for us and down the road it'll be better for us."

The T-Wolves' largest lead in the deciding fourth



set was four points, and they were eventually caught by the Warriors at 20-all Amy Arnzen dropped one of her team-high 15 kills into the back corner.

The lead swapped five times from there until BMCC freshman Kristin Williams split the Warrior defense for a game-tying kill, then gave the T-Wolves the lead at 30-29 when she was at the net to clean up a long Warriors dig for an easy kill.

"That's what you live for in volleyball, that's the best part, going back and forth," Hobart said. "They knock on the door and we answered

right back."

Williams led the T-Wolves in hitting with a .333 percentage and tied Hobart's 12 kills on 20 fewer attempts.

"She's figuring it out, and once she does she's going to be pretty top caliber," Hobart said of the Pendleton High graduate.

Brittney Fielder, Miah Perez, Keri Schwarz and Jordan Mix all flashed moments of brilliance for the T-Wolves while combining for another 31 kills, but the team was much too inconsistent and hit just .176.

"We allowed ourselves to get rattled a little bit," BMCC coach Dave Baty said. "Walla Walla is a good team, (Pendleton native) Chelsie (Speer) is a good coach. I'm proud that our kids were able to eke it out.

"Not to take anything away from Walla Walla, but we talked about the other day when our 'A' game isn't there, we have to be patient with that and keep going. We have to go, 'OK, it's less than A, but we're going to keep going and find a way to eke out the win,' and that's what they did today."

Walla Walla hit just .153 as a team with a match-low .000 in the second set.

Maci Beierle led BMCC with a match-high 26 assists and Kylee Chavez added 23, Hannah Bailey led all defensive players with 25 digs, and Schwarz had a match-high 2.5 blocks.

Blue Mountain took the season series with the Warriors 2-1. The T-Wolves' next match is Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Spokane (13-20, 5-3), a team they've beaten

twice already.

**EASTERN OREGON 3, NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN 0** — At La Grande, the Mountaineers continued their tear through the Cascade Collegiate Conference with their ninth sweep of a 13-match winning streak. Scores were 25-22, 25-11, 25-21.

Amanda Miller led EOU (17-1, 12-0 CCC) with 15 kills, and no other player had more than six. Rachele Chamberlain had 29 assists and Emily Nay added 2.5 blocks. Piper Cantrell led the match with 13 digs and Sara Pulaski added 11.

Eastern hosts Corban Saturday at 5 p.m.

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## PREPS: Nixyaawii spikers end losing streak

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Weston-McEwen held Pilot Rock (0-5, 0-2) to -28 rushing yards.

"We were in the backfield a tremendous amount of times, some of those were bad snaps and when the quarterback picked it up to try run we were all over them," Bailey said.

The TigerScots' running attack had no such issues.

Ten players combined for 275 yards and Ethan Reger, Vince Roff, Jimmy Patrick and Dylan Cain all scored rushing touchdowns. Reger led the team with 102 yards on four carries — "He ran really hard tonight," said Bailey — and Vince Roff added 70 yards on 10 carries.

Brett Speed was 4-of-8 passing for 51 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. He found Tyler Cain, Xander Bailey and Brendan Dearing for touchdowns.

The TigerScots' other points came on a 30-yard field goal by Kirk Scott and fumble recovery by Reeve Betts he returned for a touchdown.

Pilot Rock recovered two fumbles on defense.

The CBC playoff race really heats up next week when Weston-McEwen hosts Irrigon. Pilot Rock will host Culver with both looking for their first league win.

**JOSEPH 62, ECHO 22** — At Echo, the Joseph Eagles (2-3, 1-1 SD1) picked up their first win in Special District 1 this season by beating the Echo Cougars (2-4, 0-3) on Friday. No details were reported.

Echo plays a non-league game next week at Elgin while Joseph hosts SD1 foe Pine Eagle.

**LA GRANDE 56, MAC-HI 3** — At La Grande, the La Grande Tigers (5-1, 1-0 GOL) were too much for the Mac-Hi Pioneers (0-6, 0-1) in their Greater Oregon League opener on Friday. No details were reported.

Both teams remain in GOL play next week as Mac-Hi hosts Ontario and La Grande plays at Baker.

**KING'S WAY CHRISTIAN 48, UMATILLA 28** — At Vancouver, Wash., the Umatilla Vikings (4-2) lost their league tune-up at the King's Way Christian Knights (3-1) on Friday. No details were reported.

Umatilla opens Eastern Oregon League play next week at Nyssa (3-2).

## Volleyball

**NIXYAAWII 3, WALLOWA 2** — At Wallowa, the Golden Eagles snapped a 10-match losing streak on Friday by outlasting the Cougars in Old Oregon League play.

Nixyaawii (3-12, 1-8 OOL) secured the win in the fifth set with a score of 18-16. Other set scores were 25-20, 18-25, 25-22 and 20-25. No details were reported.

**HELIX 3, WALLOWA 0** — At Wallowa, the Grizzlies won their ninth-straight match with the sweep of the Cougars in Old Oregon League play on Friday. Helix (15-2, 9-0 OOL) cruised with scores of 25-6, 25-20 and 25-7. No details were reported.

Helix hosts Joseph on Saturday at noon.

## BULLDOGS: Ramirez sheds tacklers for first TD

Continued from 1B

powered in from two yards out to give Hermiston a 13-7 victory, its first win of the year.

"I just saw an opportunity to do something great for my team," Ena said. "I just wanted to avenge myself and make the DBs look good for once."

The two overtime periods were icing on the proverbial cake for the Hermiston defense, which has struggled to hold down offenses this season. The Bulldogs held the Pioneers to just 18 yards rushing on 31 attempts, and kept bruising back Grayson Fenwick from getting anything going. He finished with 19 yards on 21 carries and four catches for 27 yards and a touchdown.

Ena's first interception was much-needed. After the Bulldogs missed a 24-yard field goal on their first overtime drive, Sandy was taking shots at the end zone. A Sanders pass on second down almost found Gabe Poulin in the back of the end zone, but it was just a bit too far. Then, on third down, Sanders overthrew Robert Snyder and Ena picked it off close to his goal line, and almost managed to score to seal the win.

But he came just short, and Hermiston had to make another defensive stop late.

Cue Ena. After a holding penalty on first down and losses of 13 and 2 yards on their next two plays, the Pioneers (0-6) found themselves in a 3rd-and-goal situation from the 35, with a shot to the end zone almost guaranteed. Ena read the play perfectly, jumped it and ran it back to midfield.



Tucker Salinas (with ball) is tackled hard by Sandy's Aris Herrera (28) during the second half of Hermiston's 13-6 double-overtime victory Friday night at Kennison Stadium. It was Salinas' only catch of the night.

That gave Hermiston a chance to win with just a field goal, but that wasn't necessary. Garcia plowed into the end zone on 2nd down, and Hermiston's players rushed the field in celebration.

"Both teams battle hard," head coach David Faeteete said. "I told the kids, 'This is gonna be a tough battle. Regardless of a team's win-loss record, they're gonna come in and fight because everyone's hungry for a W. The later in the season you get, the hungrier you are.'"

Both teams, though, seemed uninterested in winning in the first half.

Of 15 first-half drives, 11 were three-and-outs and both teams combined for five holding penal-

ties, all but ending drives.

Hermiston took a 7-0 lead with 1:39 left in the first quarter when Nathan Hunsaker, filling in for the injured Dayshawn Neal, hit Jerry Ramirez on a screen pass. The junior tight end weaved his way through the Pioneers defense, making would-be tacklers miss and breaking a few before crossing the goal line for a 13-yard touchdown.

Hermiston would lead just about the rest of the game until a late Sandy drive made things exponentially more interesting. About halfway through the fourth quarter, Sandy embarked on a nine-play, 64-yard drive capped by 10-yard pass to Fenwick to tie things up. Hermiston was whistled for a pass interference penalty the play before

to set up the touchdown. Sandy only had the ball down at Hermiston's goal line because Sanders slipped away on a strange play.

With a third-and-one from Hermiston's 41, Sanders ran a silent, quick-snap quarterback sneak and was piled around, but somehow he slipped out and gained 25 yards, setting up the pass interference penalty and later the touchdown.

A long punt return from Mitch Brown got Hermiston down to the Sandy 26, but a fumble on a zone-read exchange gave the ball to Sandy, which simply knelt to send the game to overtime. Then it was Ena's cue to snatch back the momentum that led to Hermiston's win.

"It honestly just means we got heart and we're ready to come out and finish," Ena said. "It was a good game and I'm glad we won."

Hermiston is scheduled for Columbia River Conference play next week at The Dalles. However, the RiverHawks canceled this week's game against Nyssa due to a lack of players and will evaluate it's ability to field a team week by week.

Hermiston 13, Sandy 6
SHS (0-6) 0 0 0 7 0 0 - 6
HHS (1-5) 7 0 0 0 0 6 - 13
<b>First Quarter</b>
HERMISTON — J. Ramirez 13-yard pass from N. Hunsaker (Extra Point Good), 1:39
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>
SANDY — G. Fenwick 10-yard pass from K. Sanders (Extra Point Good), 7:10
<b>Second Overtime</b>
HERMISTON — O. Garcia 2-yard run
<b>Statistics</b>
RUSHING — SANDY (31-18): G. Fenwick 31-18; K. Sanders 7-17; R. Snyder 1-3; A. Herrera 1-3; A. Soenyun 1-0. HERMISTON (45-193, 1 TD): O. Garcia 18-75, 1 TD; N. Hunsaker 15-58; M. Brown 9-52; H. Simon 3-8
PASSING — SANDY (14-32-2, 123 yards, 1 TD): K. Sanders 14-32-2, 123 yards, 1 TD. HERMISTON (10-20-2, 149 yards, 1 TD): N. Hunsaker 10-20-2, 149 yards, 1 TD.

## TIGERS: Grogan scores final touchdown with seconds left

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as Freddy Vera found the end zone twice in the quarter with a three-yard touchdown run and a 24-yard touchdown reception from Verle to give the Knights a 22-7 lead in the first quarter.

The Irrigon trio finished with 291 yards and two touchdowns on the ground in the first half.

The second quarter saw plenty of back-and-forth action, as the Tigers and Knights traded scores twice to send the teams to halftime with a 35-21 score favoring Irrigon.

Stanfield coach Davey Salas knew that his team was better than what the scoreboard showed, and challenged his players to step up.

"They weren't doing anything we didn't work on in practice," said Salas. "And I think that there was so much emotion in the game, I just had to challenge them to step up and play some defense."

To start the second half, the Knights still held the momentum, holding the Tigers to a turnover on downs to start the half.

Then the Knights added their final touchdown of the night early in the third quarter on a two-yard touchdown run by Rice to put the Knights up 41-21 with just under seven minutes remaining in the quarter.

But after that point, the Tigers dug deep and began to garner some momentum behind the offensive duo of Monkus and Grogan.

Just four plays into the Tigers' next possession, Grogan took the QB keeper around the right edge, side-stepped some defenders and sprinted 54-yards for a touchdown to cut the Knights lead to 41-28.

After the Tigers then forced Irrigon to punt for the first time in the game — the only punt by either team — they put together



Stanfield's Tyler Monkus gets gang tackled by a host of Irrigon defenders in the Tigers' 49-41 win against the Knights on Friday in Irrigon.

a long drive starting from their own nine-yard line. It was ended with a 31-yard screen pass from Grogan to Monkus on fourth-and-long that Monkus took for a

touchdown to cut the Irrigon lead to 41-35.

And just as Irrigon began to put together a nice clock-eating drive, the Tigers defense forced

a fumble and recovered on their own 19-yard line.

After just three plays on the drive, Monkus split the Knights defense and sprinted 42-yards up the middle for a touchdown and with a successful extra point, the Tigers took their first lead of the game at 42-41 with six minutes left in the game.

Monkus and Grogan were almost unstoppable on the ground in the game, combining for 37 rushes and 404 yards and five touchdowns overall.

"It's awesome (to have them)," said Salas. "Grogan is tough, but when you have two guys that aren't afraid to run off tackle, you can win any game."

The Tigers sealed the win on a 16-yard touchdown run by Grogan with just six seconds remaining in the game.

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Stanfield's Dylan Grogan gets wrapped up by Irrigon's Cougar Kroske (54) and Austin Rice (22) in the Tigers' 49-41 win against the Knights on Friday in Irrigon.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris