

BUCKS: Nirschl, Greb lead team in kills

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and looking for the entire season," she said. "To get a lead, keep the lead, and push through, so it was great to see the whole picture finally come together tonight."

The third set played out much like the second set, as the teams battled neck-and-neck all the way to a 22-22 tie. And then just like the second set, Hermiston gained the advantage and served game point a total of four times as Pendleton battled back before finally getting two straight to earn the 28-26 set win.

"It's one of our positive marks from the season is that they are a team that battles," said Hermiston coach Dorothy Smith. "I knew this was a young varsity team, but I've really seen them grow this year."

Hermiston got another big performance from junior Kynzee Padilla, who finished the night with nine kills and several key digs to keep the Bulldogs close.

The potential in Padilla as well as players such

as Hayden Meyers, Alex Barton, and Regan Meyers have Smith excited for what's to come next season.

"When they get it together, it's going to be there every single time," Smith said. "It's a great team, we're only losing one senior so that'll be easy to fill and keep the girls going at it."

In the fourth set, the match swung back into the Bucks favor as the team found the momentum early and breezed to a 25-16 set win to clinch the match victory.

"We've learned over the season that no matter what you have to continue to fight and bounce back," said Lapp. "And that's what we took into that (fourth) set, just forget about what happened and go for it."

The Buckaroos saw some big offensive nights from Nirschl and Greb as they led the team with 13 kills and 11 kills respectively — with many of those coming in the clutch.

Seniors Lauren Roberts and Yoshioka led the team defensively with a combined

50 digs. Freshman Aspen Garton was close behind with 20 digs.

"The seniors have been here and worked so hard for this," said Lapp. "And the new girls coming in and leaving their footprints already, they earned it tonight."

The teams played in front of a loud crowd at Warberg Court Monday, which included the loudest and largest student turnout for the Bucks this year.

For Yoshioka, that student support is something that will stick with her and be one of her best memories as a Pendleton student.

"There's really no feeling like it," she said with a smile. "To have a huge student body behind you just amps you up and gets you excited. I've been to a lot of schools (before Pendleton), but I've never seen one that's cheered so much and cared so much for the athletes."

And for Lapp, it was the best way to see the three seniors — Yoshioka, Roberts, and Shelby Greb — leave

their final mark.

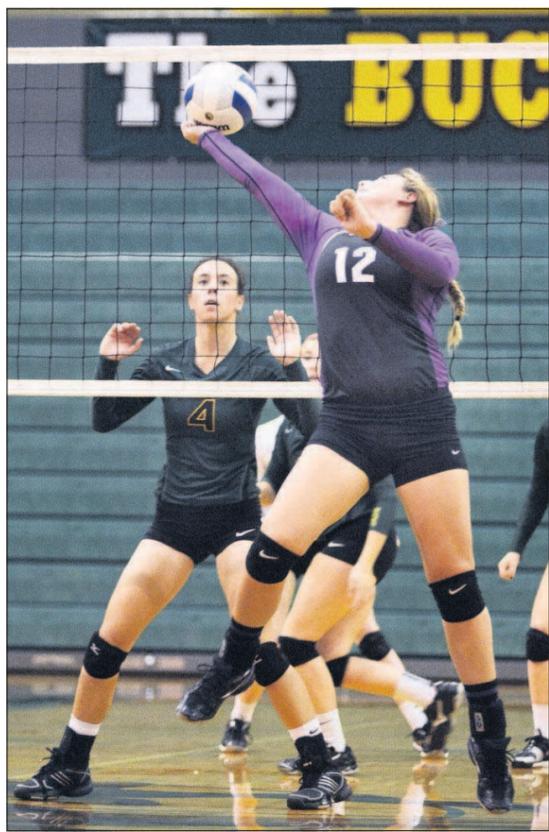
"I walked in here my first year and they were all freshmen," she said. "So to be here with them sitting on the bench and fighting hard through every point tonight and go out with the win over the rival, it's really heartwarming."

Pendleton now only has one game remaining on its schedule, which is a contest with Baker next Tuesday evening. The Buckaroos defeated Baker in their season-opener 3-0 back on Sept. 1.

But for Hermiston, it's the end of the road, finishing a disappointing first season under Smith and her coaching staff.

The Bulldogs lone Columbia River Conference win came earlier this month when they defeated Pendleton at home in five tough sets.

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Hermiston's Kynzee Padilla tips the ball over the net in front of Pendleton's Haley Greb in the Bucks' win against the Bulldogs on Monday in Pendleton.

PREPS: Helix's win streak snapped, TigerScots and Tigers split

Continued from 1B

No set scores were reported. Nixyaawii (3-15, 1-11) will next play in the Old Oregon League Tournament next Saturday in La Grande.

POWDER VALLEY 3, HELIX 1 — At Powder Valley, the Helix Grizzlies finished off the regular season with a 3-1 loss to Powder Valley.

Helix (17-4, 10-2) won the second set 25-23, but fell with scores of 25-7, 25-23, and 33-31.

No other details were reported. The Grizzlies will hit the court again for the Old Oregon League Tournament next Saturday in La Grande.

WESTON-MCEWEN TIGERSCOTS — At Irrigon, the TigerScots split their matches in the Irrigon Tournament, falling to

Culver 3-0 before defeating Irrigon 3-0.

"We played tired today," said TigerScots coach Shawn White. "Culver played well and we just weren't as ready to compete at that level to start."

Weston-McEwen (19-8, 7-2) fell to Culver with scores of 25-23, 25-8, and 25-17, and then beat Irrigon with scores of 25-11, 25-20, and 25-11.

Sarah Finifrock led the TigerScots with 20 kills and 11 digs in the tournament, and Alyssa Finifrock turned in 18 kills.

Elsewhere, Ali Schroeder contributed 51 assists and six aces, while Sara von Borstel smacked eight kills and turned in 20 digs.

TigerScots finish the regular season on Tuesday when they host Stanfield at 5 p.m.

STANFIELD TIGERS — At Irrigon, the Tigers split at the

Irrigon Tournament, defeating Irrigon 3-1 and then getting swept by Culver 3-0.

Against Culver, Stanfield (8-10, 3-5 CBC) lost 25-14 and 25-13 in the first two sets, and then lost in a close third set 26-24.

Then against Irrigon, Stanfield dropped the second set 25-19 to the Knights but won with scores of 26-24, 25-17 and 25-13.

Kenzie Gonzales finished the tournament with five kills and seven aces to lead the Tigers.

"I was extremely proud of them today," said Tigers coach Angie Connell. "They finally came out and showed what they could do and played like I knew they could."

Stanfield concludes its regular season slate on Tuesday when they travel to Weston-McEwen at 5 p.m.

IRRIGON KNIGHTS — At Irrigon, the Knights dropped both of their matches at their tournament

on Saturday, getting swept by Weston-McEwen 3-0 and dropping the second match to Stanfield 3-1.

Irrigon (4-16, 0-9) fell to the TigerScots with scores of 25-11, 25-20, and 25-11, and then lost to Stanfield with scores of 26-24, 25-17, and 25-13.

The Knights won the second set against Stanfield 25-19.

Irrigon will conclude its regular season slate on Tuesday with a trip to Pilot Rock at 6 p.m.

PENDLETON BUCKAROOS — At Kennewick, the Buckaroos split two matches at the Southridge Tournament on Saturday, defeating La Grande 2-0 but then losing to Clarkston (WA) 2-0.

The Bucks (5-12, 1-7 CRC) beat La Grande 27-25 and 25-23 and then fell to Clarkston 25-16 and 25-18.

The win over La Grande ended an eight-game losing streak for the

Buckaroos, and also marked the second win in three tries for the Bucks over La Grande this season.

No other details were reported.

Pendleton will play again on Monday against rival Hermiston in Pendleton at 6:30 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

RIVERSIDE 9, CULVER 1 —

At Culver, the Pirates kept its foot on the gas as they blew out Culver 9-1 on Saturday.

Riverside (8-2-1, 6-0) led 6-0 at halftime before adding the last three goals in the second half. The Pirates have now won their last two games by a combined score of 15-1.

No other details were reported. Riverside next plays at home versus Irrigon on Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.

UMATILLA 8, CITY CHRISTIAN 2 — At Umatilla the Vikings (6-5-1, 5-2) blew out City Christian for an 8-2 win.

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