

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### Timberwolves to wear patch honoring Saunders

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves will wear a commemorative patch on their jerseys during the new season honoring team president and coach Flip Saunders.



Saunders died Sunday after battling cancer. The team said Tuesday it will wear the patch for all home and road games starting with Monday's home opener against the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Timberwolves also plan to wear a specially designed warm-up shirt during all games through November. The shirt says "WE," which the team says symbolizes its togetherness. The gray shirt has black lettering, with the name "Flip" across the heart.

### U.S. Soccer star Wambach set to retire in December

(AP) — Abby Wambach, the leading career scorer — male or female — in international soccer, announced her retirement from soccer on Tuesday

shortly after the U.S. national team celebrated its Women's World Cup victory at the White House.

Wambach, 35, said before the World

Cup this past summer in Canada that she wanted to cap her 15-year career with the game's most prestigious championship. She got her wish.

Wambach, who grew up in Rochester, New York, has appeared in 252 international matches with 184 goals.

She will play the final four matches of the national team's 10-game victory tour before stepping away from the team. Her final match will be Dec. 16 against China in New Orleans.

"It may be counterintuitive, but fans are actually not tuning out when it happens. I think it's fascinating strategy used by Pop (Gregg Popovich) and other great coaches, so it's part of what draws people in."

— Adam Silver  
NBA Commissioner telling ESPN's 'Mike & Mike' on Tuesday morning that the NBA's 'Hack-a-Player' rules are not likely to change in the near future. Silver said he agrees that it's bad entertainment-wise, and will continue to monitor games with the competition committee.

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1939 — Kansas State's homecoming game against Nebraska is the second college football game ever televised, following Fordham vs. Waynesburg in New York earlier in the fall. The Cornhuskers win 25-9 before a limited Nebraska television audience.

2006 — Oregon State upsets the Trojans 33-31, ending USC's 27-game Pac-10 winning streak.

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

## HERMISTON

# Hermiston blanks Pendleton at home

## Bulldogs rout rival in final playoff tune-up

East Oregonian

The Hermiston boys soccer team had nothing to play for but momentum and bragging rights in Tuesday's Columbia River Conference finale against rival Pendleton, but for the Bulldogs that was plenty.

Hermiston sent itself into the postseason with its highest goal output of the season, and three of the

teams five seniors scored on Senior Night in a 6-0 win.

"Tonight I was really focused on the team's mentality going into the play-in game," said Hermiston coach Rich Harshberger of the Bulldogs' home game on Saturday in the OSAA's Round of 24. "We came out and got the result we needed to and had some fun."

Junior Freddy Rodriguez scored the first goal of each half for the Bulldogs (10-2-2, 4-1-1 CRC) and Harshberger said it was his best game of the season in regards to possession retention and play-making.

Boys Soccer	
 Hermiston	 Pendleton
6	0

"He was really confident on the ball," he said.

Rodriguez scored his first goal in the 15th minute, then found the net again in the 41st minute to give Hermiston a 3-0 lead.

He also drew a hard foul in the box that set up senior Edwin Rosales' penalty kick goal in the 32nd minute.

Senior Enrique Leal added an off-foot goal into

the side of the net in the 47th minute and senior John Mejia scored off the dribble from the top of the box in the 60th. Junior Ruben Lopez added the final goal in the 62nd minute to push Hermiston past its previous season high mark of five goals scored in a 5-2 win over Century.

With an eye toward the playoffs, Harshberger was able to rotate through his bench and give several players meaningful minutes while resting regulars.

No. 4 Hermiston's play-in game will be Saturday at Kennison Field against No. 16 Parkrose, the

sixth-place team from the Northwest Oregon Conference. Parkrose (5-8) lost at Liberty 3-2 on Tuesday to set up the meeting and is 2-6 on the road this season.

No. 26 Pendleton (4-9-1, 1-5) could have earned an automatic road play-in game with a win, but didn't see its season end with the loss.

The Bucks tied No. 27 The Dalles for third place in league play with each team winning once in their head-to-head match-ups. A coin flip will determine which team plays at No. 10 Putnam (5-6-3) in the play-in round.

## PENDLETON

# Bulldogs get their point across

## Win secures home playoff game

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

Hermiston came into Tuesday's girls soccer game against rival Pendleton with a chip on its shoulder and looking to prove a point.

The Bulldogs believe their message was sent following a 2-1 win on the natural pitch at Blue Mountain Community College that concluded Columbia River Conference play.

"We know how to play on grass," said Hermiston's Alysia Garcia, who scored the game-winning goal in the 73rd minute.

Garcia was referencing some bulletin board material offered up by Pendleton (5-7-2, 1-4-1 CRC) head coach Paul Parker following their 1-1 tie in Hermiston (4-4-6, 2-1-3) two weeks ago.

"Take these guys off turf and I think it would be a different game," the first-year Buckaroo coach said at the time.

The Bulldogs took notice, and used the added motivation to put forth just their third multi-goal game of the season.

"Basically what it came down to was composure," said Hermiston coach Danielle Turner. "You're working hard to get those opportunities and you've got to find a way to finish them."

Hermiston was much better at finding the frame in the second half, though, and appeared to shooting blindly at times in the first half.

"Sometimes we just sort of kick it instead of placing it, and that's something we've been working on," Garcia said.

"The second half we stepped up, calmed it down a little bit and started playing our game," Turner said.

Despite controlling possession for

See BULLDOGS/2B

#### Girls Soccer

 Hermiston
2

 Pendleton
1



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Pendleton's Nikkola Cook and Shaelynn Gilbert (8), of Hermiston, position themselves to head the ball during Tuesday's soccer game at Blue Mountain Community College as Hermiston's Kali Torres (7) provides backup.

## PENDLETON

# T-Wolves presented with Presidents Cup



Staff photo by Matt Entrup

NWAC Executive Director Marco Azurdia, far right, presents Blue Mountain Community College President Camille Preus, center, and Athletic Director Brett Bryan with the Presidents Cup on Tuesday.

## BMCC athletes earn award for work in classroom

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

The trophy cases have been filling up at Blue Mountain Community College in recent years as the athletic department enjoys its most recent run of success on the playing fields.

But NWAC Executive Director Marco Azurdia was on campus Wednesday to deliver a trophy representing the Timberwolves' excellence in the classroom.

Three years ago the NWAC created the Presidents Cup to award its members whose athletes were the top performing students in the Northwest junior college association. The award is given in large and small school distinctions based on the number of sports a college offers, and Blue Mountain was this year's recipient for small schools.

It is the first time the Timberwolves have won the Presidents Cup, which will be on display at the school until next year's recipient is named.

Points are awarded for GPA, credits completed and degrees or certificates earned. Clackamas Community College won for large schools.

Before presenting the cup to BMCC President Camille Preus, Azurdia explained the thought process behind its creation.

"Athletics is really just the carrot, and education and character development is very important for us," he said. "Our motto is, 'What good is an increase in knowledge without a change in character. And so that's what we want to be about.'"

Azurdia also presented the Timberwolves with a banner that will hang from the walls at Mosby Court.

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