

HERMISTON

Bulldogs' Edmiston inks with Lewis-Clark State

Hermiston senior to join Frontier Conference power

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

After Jansen Edmiston's freshman year, one in which she was thrust into the starting point guard role after never playing a minute at the high school level, Hermiston head coach Steve Hoffert knew she could be a good college player.

As she enters her senior season this winter, Hoffert now thinks she can be a great college player, and will have a chance to do so at Lewis-Clark State University in Lewiston, Idaho after signing her national letter of intent on Wednesday afternoon. Edmiston plans to study either mathematics or "something in the health field."

She said her first high school season was a trial by fire.

"How I did it (was), 'Either you're gonna survive it, or you're gonna die,'" Edmiston said of that freshman year. "So you can do whatever you had to do to survive."

She may have seen it as

survival, but it was clear to Hoffert she had the talent and smarts to play at the next level.

"The smarts is the big thing. Basketball IQ is huge," he said. "She sees the game like I do at times. She sees the game the way you want and recognizes things. She's starting to take initiative in herself and direct traffic."

Edmiston said Hoffert's guidance has been the key to her current opportunities.

"If I didn't have Hoffert, I wouldn't have been pushed into varsity freshman year," she said, "and that helped me realize, 'Oh, you need to start doing more drills.' But also he helped my love for basketball because he makes practices fun and more enjoyable."

Lewis-Clark State, known as L-C State or simply L-C, competes in the Frontier League of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and is one of the better programs. The Warriors will start this season ranked 19th in the preseason coaches' poll. Last season, L-C finished 21-11 and lost 86-80 in the quarterfinals of the Frontier League Tournament to No. 23 Great Falls, then played eventual national champ Oklahoma City in



Sam Barbee photo/file

In this Feb. 24, 2015, file photo, Hermiston's Jansen Edmiston looks to create space for a shot during the first quarter of Hermiston's 53-44 win over Pendleton at Warberg Court.

the first round of the NAIA Division I National Championships, losing 63-61.

Under the direction of 15-year veteran Brian Orr, the Warriors have dominated the Frontier League. Orr has

an overall record of 343-119 (.742) and a 192-35 (.846) record at home. Between 2006 and 2012, Orr led the Warriors to six straight national finals appearances while compiling a 252-77

(.765) mark and is the all-time winningest coach in L-C women's basketball history.

"They make it to the national tournament every year," Edmiston said. "I didn't want to go somewhere (with little success) because I don't like losing."

Edmiston was also interested in Northwest Christian University where Hoffert's daughter attends, but L-C and the surrounding town here too much to deny after a recruiting trip at the beginning of fall.

Edmiston said the success of the Warriors program also influenced her decision. She said she didn't want to go from a program with a lot of local support and success to a program without those things. L-C provides both. The town of Lewiston, with a population of about 32,000, was reminiscent of Hermiston with two rivers and a similar climate. She practiced with the Warriors while on her trip and thought that was the best choice for her.

"They're really supported, like our girls basketball is supported (L-C's) is really supported," Edmiston said. "It kind of just reminded me of home, and the girls are

super nice and the coach is super nice."

Edmiston was offered a full scholarship following her campus visit, and was given two weeks to make a decision. Hoffert said he and Edmiston talked several times before she eventually took the offer.

But she didn't commit right away, and she wasn't asked for a commitment right away. Orr gave her two weeks to decide, though she didn't take all of them.

"I said, 'You know what? Here's the deal: We can tell this guy (Orr) we can wait, but what are we waiting for? If you like the place, if you like the girls, you like the team, you like the (coach), what are you waiting for? Because he's offered you everything,'" he said. "Think about saying no and waiting for the next (offer). How stressful would that be?" I was happy she took it."

So, at the beginning of the month, Edmiston notified Orr of her decision.

"I kind of just want to say thank you to everyone who supported me on my way since third grade, all my coaches, my parents," Edmiston said. "Thank you to everyone who supported me."

Prep Cross Country

Cardenas wearing target at state finals

Locals compete in Eugene Saturday

East Oregonian

Umatilla senior Fabian Cardenas will be running with a big target on his back at the OSAA 3A/2A/1A cross country state championship meet today in Eugene.

Not only is the standout Viking the defending state champion, he's also run the fastest 5,000 meters of any runner entered in Saturday's race this season.

Cardenas set a new personal record back in September at the highly competitive Nike Portland XC meet with a time of 15 minutes, 31 seconds.

He hasn't neared that mark since, but only because he hasn't been pushed to.

Cardenas won last year's state title with a time of 16:02 on the same Lane Community College course he'll run Saturday, and won his district title in a time of 16:00.42.

But even though only one other runner has cracked 16 minutes this season, Cardenas will still have to be on top of his game to hold off a talented field of challengers.

Jefferson sophomore Hassan Ibrahim crashed into the sub-16 ranks at his district meet with a winning time of 15:56.3, and finished second to Cardenas at the Sep. 12 Ultimook Race.

Ibrahim finished 11th at last year's 6A state finals running a 16:02 for David Douglas.

Another small school runner looking to track down Cardenas is his good friend Hayden Scott, who also has competed at state at a higher classification when he went with the 5A Hermiston Bulldogs in 2013.

Scott was second to Cardenas at districts and was within a few paces until Cardenas pulled away in the final mile.

Scott's 16:24.7 at districts ranks seventh in the state this season. Other runners in the state's top five entering the meet are Kennedy senior Adrian Parra (16:08.2), East Linn Christian junior Josh Miner (16:20.2) and Central Linn senior David Glenn (16:20.8).

Cardenas and Scott will just be the first locals to compete at LCC on Saturday, though, since their race begins at 10:35 a.m.

Following them at 11:15 will be the 4A girls and the Mac-Hi Pioneers, which qualified as a team by placing second at their district meet last weekend.

Senior Elise Griffith is their top runner and is making her second run at state after placing 57th as a junior. Her best time this season is 21:52.1, which is good for just 82nd on the best marks list for 4A.

Following a break in action, the 5A girls will then take the course at 1:15 p.m.

Pendleton's Delaney Clem will be making her fourth starting line at Eugene in that race after she won her district title last weekend. Her quickest time this season is 19:31.1, which is 16th on the 5A list. Summit junior Olivia Brooks holds the top time (17:45.2) and Silvertown senior Maddie Fuhrman is second (18:05.2).

Also in that race will be Hermiston sophomores Melany Solorio and Morgan Hancock. Solorio ran her best time of the season two weeks ago in 20:31.3 at the Kyle Burnside Wildhorse Invite, which ranks her 55th in 5A. Hancock hasn't been able to top her 21:25.91 from early in the season and enters her first state field ranked 98th.

The last race for locals is the 5A boys at 1:50.

Hermiston finished third at state last year and return with five of their top six from that team — Hayden Earl, Josiah Niederwerfer, Angel Castellanos, Donell Rome and Isaac Sanchez. Graydon Fritz and Emmanuel Ibarra will race at state for the first time.

Hermiston was within five points of district champion Hood River, but will also have to contend with very fast Summit and Crater teams to make it into the state's top three again.

Hermiston's fastest time this year was posted by Niederwerfer with 16:26.6 at the Wildhorse Invite (31st in 5A), but Earl and Sanchez were the Bulldogs' top two individuals at districts.

Crater senior Walter Vail enters with the No. 1 ranking and a season-best of 14:57.2.

BULLDOGS: Bucks hurt themselves with mistakes

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play, 80 yard drive in 3:34 of game time, capped off with a 36-yard play-action touchdown pass from Hunsaker to Tucker Salinas to put the Bulldogs on top 14-6.

Then after forcing a three-and-out from the Bucks, the Bulldogs struck quickly again as Hunsaker ran a quarterback-draw up the middle and scampered 74 yards for a touchdown to put Hermiston on top 21-6 with just under six minutes left in the second quarter.

After forcing another Pendleton punt on the next possession, the Bulldogs offense made quick work yet again in the quarter, drawing up a five-play, 66 yard drive in just 1:14

of game time that was capped off by a four-yard read-option keeper by Hunsaker for his third rushing touchdown of the half to increase the Bulldogs' lead to 28-6.

In that quarter, the Hermiston offense had a pretty balanced attack of QB keepers, base runs, and play-action passes. Hunsaker says that balance will be crucial for the Bulldogs in the playoffs.

"We have to be able to run the ball and get the play-action pass," he said. "We did that tonight and got some pretty big plays out of it."

The Buckaroos had their fair share of chances in the game, however. In the first quarter, running back Jamal Vann busted out a 64-yard

touchdown run that would have tied the game at 7-7. Instead, it was wiped out due to a holding call on receiver Trevor Sweet, adding to the long list of big-play touchdowns the Bucks have had called back this season for penalties.

Pendleton had another chance in the fourth quarter, starting a drive from its own five yard line and driving all the way down to Hermiston's 10 yard line. But the drive would stall with no points, as Kai Quinn was intercepted in the corner of the end zone on fourth down.

Even with the loss, Davis was pleased with the fight he saw from his team.

"They never quit," he said. "They fought all the way to

the bitter end and that's all I can really ask for out of 16-, 17-, 18-year-old kids. Were we outmanned a few times this year? Yeah but we didn't quit and we can build off of that."

For Hermiston, the Bulldogs will now wait to find out their playoff opponent. But even with the win, Faaeteete said the game ended with a little bit of a sour taste in his mouth.

"I think we shot ourselves in the foot in the second half," he said. "We didn't come out as energized as the first half. We have to finish better, we didn't tonight and it showed."

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Cardenas

PREP FOOTBALL: Riverside stuns Nyssa in double OT

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half and controlled things, but they played us hard," Grant said. "I think we had to play harder and longer than we have all year long and I think that was good for us."

Hepner finished with 329 yards on 60 plays from scrimmage and Kindle led them with 120 yards on 23 carries. Grieb finished with 97 receiving yards to go with 29 rushing and Clark was 5-for-11 passing for 105 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

Hepner earns a guaranteed home playoff game by virtue of its league title, but Weston-McEwen must hope for one of Class 2A's four at-large berths after finishing in third place.

The TigerScots were in good shape at press time with a No. 10 ranking that would earn them the second berth. Rankings freeze at 10 p.m. Saturday night.

The first round of the state playoffs begins next Friday.

STANFIELD 41, CULVER 26 — At Stanfield, Tyler Monkus scorched Culver on the ground and the Tigers (8-1, 4-1 CBC) held off the Bulldogs (3-6, 1-4) on Friday to earn second place in the Columbia Basin Conference.

Monkus finished with 246 yards on 20 carries and scored four touchdowns. Dylan Grogan added 127 yards on 17 rushes and completed 5-of-6 passes for 100 yards.

"It was a hard-hitting game," Stanfield coach Davy Salas said. "Culver is tough. They could have easily been 5-3 as opposed to 3-5 (coming into the game). The first half we didn't play super great on defense, but the second half we were able to control their running back (Jaiden Jones)."

Justin Keeney also scored for Stanfield and ran for 67 yards on seven carries.

Stanfield led 27-12 at half-time.

The Tigers will learn who their first-round opponent in the state playoffs will be on

Sunday.

"We're off to the playoffs and we're pretty excited," Salas said.

IRRIGON 56, PILOT ROCK 14 — At Irrigon, the Knights ran out to a 50-0 halftime lead before hitting cruise control in their Columbia Basin Conference finale on Friday.

Statistics were not available, but Irrigon coach Steve Sheller said the rushing attack was on point.

"The offensive line blocked really well and Fredy (Vera) ran the ball like crazy," he said. "Austin Rice had some good long runs as well."

But the highlight of the game went to seldom-used senior Marty Brown on Senior Night. With Vera applying pressure, Brown stepped in front of a Pilot Rock pass for an interception, then returned it 60 yards for a touchdown while shedding would-be tacklers on the way.

"The kids were going crazy, everybody was happy to see that," Sheller said.

Irrigon (6-3, 2-3) had its first winning season in program history this year and finished fourth in the CBC. Irrigon will rely on its No. 13 OSAA ranking to deliver its first playoff berth, which won't be official until 10 p.m. Saturday night when the OSAA freezes its rankings. Irrigon was in line for the fourth and final at-large berth when the EO went to press.

RIVERSIDE 20, NYSSA 14, 2OT — At Nyssa, the Pirates forced a three-way tie for second place in the Eastern Oregon League with their double-overtime upset win on the road.

It was Riverside's first league win since 2010 and its first win over Nyssa. (Riverside did not compete in a league in 2013-14)

Coach Dave Boor said the key to victory was pretty basic.

"We finally put together a complete game," he said. "We had some players that don't get to play that much have to step

up, and they went in there and battled. That's how you win football games is 11 guys on the field working together as a unit."

Statistics were not available, but Boor highlighted strong games by running back Ricardo Mendoza and defensive end Austin Thompson.

Riverside scored first, but Nyssa answered to make it 6-6 and Felipe Olvera gave Riverside the halftime lead with a long interception return for a touchdown. A two-point conversion made it 14-6.

Nyssa tied the score again with a 99-yard drive and two-point conversion, forcing overtime.

Riverside failed to score on its overtime possession, but forced a turnover when Nyssa had the ball, then stopped them on fourth down when the Bulldogs began the second overtime with the ball.

Olvera then handed the Pirates the win with a 23-yard touchdown run.

"It was a big win, the kids learned a lot the last couple weeks about competing," Boor said. "It's a process, and sometimes people want to speed the process up, but sometimes you have to have these moments to learn."

Boor wasn't sure what the tiebreaker would be to determine which team earns the second playoff berth from the EOL.

"I don't really care, I just want to enjoy the kids finally playing four full quarters," he said.

VALE 56, UMATILLA 6 — At Umatilla, the Vale Vikings (7-1, 3-0) finished off an undefeated Eastern Oregon League season for the league title on Friday. No game details were reported.

Umatilla (5-4, 1-2) still has a chance to reach the state playoffs and finished in a three-way tie for second with Riverside and Nyssa. The tie-breaking criteria was not known at press time.

PERRYDALE 62, ARLINGTON/CONDON 14 — At Perrydale, the Pirates' league-leading offense was too much for the Honkers to contain in Friday's regular season finale. No details were reported.

The Honkers (4-3, 3-3 SD4) finished fourth in Special District 4 and outside of the playoffs.

ECHO 79, MONUMENT/DAYVILLE 6 — At Echo, the Cougars headed into the offseason with a bang on Friday after routing the Tigers in each team's season finale. Details were not reported.

The win snapped a five-game skid for Echo (3-6, 1-4 SD1), which improved to 3-2 at home this season. The Cougars scored just 68 total points during their losing streak.

Echo finished 10th in the 11-team Special District 1. Monument/Dayville (1-8, 0-5) was 11th.

IONE 77, SOUTH WASCO 14 — At Ione, the Cardinals (3-5, 2-4) finished on a high note with Friday's Special District 4 rout.

Ione led 46-0 after one quarter and was led by Cord Flynn and Alessandro Panozzo with three touchdowns each. Flynn rushed for two and returned and interception for the other. Panozzo rushed for two and caught the other.

"It was nice to finish up strong," said Ione coach Stan Weiper. "We didn't do as well as we'd hoped this year but we finished up strong and everybody got a chance to play and had fun."

Weiper also got a glimpse of next season when freshman Aaron Smythe took his first carry from scrimmage in a high school game and ran it 55 yards for a touchdown. He added another later in the game.

South Wasco (0-8, 0-6) was playing without its starting quarterback (concussion).

Ione finished the season fifth in SD4.