

# HERMISTON: Strong defense leads to easy baskets

**Continued from 1B**  
committed four transgressions in the first two minutes, though still only trailed 6-5 after Maddy Juul's layup. The score sat at 7-7 with around three minutes to go and La Grande made an early move, taking a 17-9 lead on an 10-0 run that saw two 2-pointers from Albrecht and 3-pointers from Collman and Lacey Miles. Hoffert took a full timeout immediately following Miles' bucket, and the game really swung from there.

Edmiston hit a 3-pointer at the first quarter buzzer, starting a 15-0 run that lasted all the way until halftime.

"I think today things started to click again like they were before the long trip," Edmiston said. "We got our legs back."

After those first five turnovers, Hermiston's offense settled down, though it still struggled to score. Hermiston shot just 27 percent (10-36) from the floor in the first half and 16 percent (3-18) from behind the 3-point arch. Hampered by an 0-10 from the floor in the second quarter, La Grande wasn't much better, shooting 22 percent (5-23) and

29 percent (2-7) from deep. "Honestly, I think if we put our minds to it then we're pretty good at playing defense (and) getting baskets," Edmiston said. "And if we play good defense, we get easy baskets."

But Hermiston did enough offensively to pull away. La Grande sank into a zone, daring Hermiston to shoot the Tigers out of it. Normally that's a dangerous proposition against a good 3-point shooting team, but Tuesday night — for whatever reason — the shots weren't falling. Raleigh Andreason, Shaelynn Gilbert and Kiana Heehn — none of whom forced any deep shots — could hit from range while Edmiston and fellow senior sharpshooter Sara Ramirez were a little off, as well. Ramirez finished with 16 points, and the shooting was just good enough to force La Grande back into a man-to-man defense in the second half.

The Bulldogs took a 24-17 lead into the second half, and it moved quickly to 25-17 when a La Grande was penalized with a scorebook error and assessed a technical foul. The lead

stretched to eight at 31-23 after Ramirez made a layup and was fouled and made the free throw, and La Grande came within five at 31-26 after Albrecht's one three-point play. Minutes later, Collman was assessed a technical after she disagreed with a foul call on Juul. The Hermiston sophomore made two of the four attempts. That pushed Hermiston's lead back to eight at 34-26, and it was 40-28 at the end of the quarter.

Hermiston milked the clock most of the fourth quarter and led by as many as 19 in the final frame.

The Bulldogs get a week off before traveling to the Yakima area for a game against Sunnyside next Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. The Grizzlies beat the Bulldogs 55-49 last season at the Dawghouse.

LHS (7-4)	17	0	11	14	—	42
HHS (11-3)	12	12	16	16	—	56

La Grande — A. Albrecht 15, K. Collman 11, M. Wilcox 7, K. Avila 4, L. Miles 3, B. Givens 2, D. Lester, M. Orton, C. Conrad, L. Jensen, K. Schelin, M. Tussey.  
Hermiston — M. Juul 16, S. Ramirez 16, J. Edmiston 11, R. Andreason 5, K. Padilla 4, H. Meyers 2, S. Gilbert 2, R. Meyers, K. Heehn, H. Thompson, J. Thomas.  
3-pointers — LHS 3, HHS 5. Free throws — LHS 13-15, HHS 9-15. Fouls — LHS 12, HHS 10. Technical fouls — K. Collman (LHS)

# NFL Dalton has cast removed, could be backup QB vs Steelers

By **JOE KAY**  
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Andy Dalton's passing hand was finally free on Tuesday, liberated from the black cast that has covered his right forearm and his spirits for the past three weeks.

And his coach held out the possibility he might have a backup role for the Bengals' playoff game.

Call it one for the thumb. Dalton ran a couple of plays early in practice on Tuesday and threw a pass — with his left hand — before raising his arm in celebration and heading back to the sideline to continue his conditioning work.

What are the chances he could be on the active roster when the Bengals host the Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday night?

"I'd love to be in there playing," Dalton said.

His right thumb will likely prevent it.

The AFC North champions are getting AJ McCarron ready to play against their division rival. Dalton broke the thumb on his passing hand while making a tackle during the Steelers' 33-20 win at Paul Brown Stadium on Dec. 13. McCarron went 2-1 as a starter in the past three games.

Although Dalton got the cast removed on Monday, he has to rebuild the strength in his hand.

Also, he hasn't practiced in three weeks, leaving him rusty — a bad combination for playoff time. So the Bengals are heading into the playoffs with McCarron as the starter.

"This team's built for this kind of stuff," Dalton said. "AJ's going to do a good job when things happen."

Coach Marvin Lewis indicated on Tuesday that there's a possibility Dalton could be active as a backup, depending upon how his hand feels. The Bengals don't have an experienced backup should McCarron get hurt. Receiver Mohamed Sanu has taken snaps in wildcat formations and could be an emergency quarterback.

So McCarron will get a chance to overturn a lot of bad history in his fourth NFL start.

The Bengals haven't won a playoff game in 25 years, the sixth-longest postseason drought in NFL history. They're the only team in league history to lose an opening-round game four years in a row. And no quarterback with so little starting experience has won a playoff game since 1979, when Gifford Nielsen led the Houston Oilers to a win in San Diego, according to STATS.

# PENDLETON: Bucks gain advantage with aggressive rebounding

**Continued from 1B**

comfortable doing that so we were able to help the person who was on her the whole time working their tail off and then she didn't look so open, those lanes didn't look as open."

Sand didn't score again after the break in action, and Pendleton went on a 19-5 run the rest of the way for their third win in a row.

"We realized she was scoring most of their points and we don't want to get beat by a one-man team," said Pendleton junior Haley Greb of Sand, who scored 17 of her game-high 22 points in the first half. "She had a good drive ... she could go both ways so you couldn't really play her to the left ... so we had to play her up and try to keep her off the foul line too."

Greb and sophomore Rylee Gentner drew the responsibility of guarding Sand most of the game, and both were also key scorers for the Bucks with Gentner's 13 points coming in as the team high and Greb's 11 a close second.

Also big for the Bucks was senior Cece Hoffman, who jump started a 10-2 run to close the third quarter and finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

Hoffman sank a mid-range jumper, then came up with a steal and hit Gentner on the fast break to extend Pendleton's lead to 44-38 within a minute of

that momentum-changing timeout. Baker's Jayme Ramos scored on a fast break, but Pendleton's Lauren Richards then added all of her five points with a 3-pointer from the corner and later a pair of free throws to push the lead back to double digits for the first time in the second half.

Then a 7-0 run to start the fourth gave Pendleton its largest lead of the game at 57-42 with 5:33 to play.

"Lately our focus has been if we can polish up our defense that the offense will come to us and it really has made a difference," Gomez said. "We really focus on being good aggressive defensive players and I think that had a lot to do with it."

Pendleton scored its points in spurts throughout the game, and used a 12-0 run in the first quarter to take the lead for good.

A drive from Sand gave Baker its second lead at 8-6 three minutes into the game, but Shelby Greb answered with a 3-pointer to give the Bucks the game's final lead change.

Another key for Pendleton was excellent offense rebounding and the team finished with 21 offensive boards, 19 on defense.

Kalan McGlothan led those efforts with 10 rebounds to go with seven points, Maureen Davies added eight boards and Gentner chipped in six.

"We're not that tall but we're aggressive," said

Hoffman, a 5-foot-5 guard.

"They did a great job and they always do a good job rebounding," Gomez said. "There's obviously things we can get better at, some little things, but they're aggressive. They're a good group of kids, they work very hard. Hustle is never a question in our game plan."

The win improved Pendleton to 4-1 in its last five games, and Hoffman said a recent tournament in Bend where they won two out of three really seemed to be a turning point in the season for a team that started the year with a completely new starting five and seven straight losses.

"I think those three game and our team bonding then got us to where we played (Tuesday)," she said.

"I feel like we are getting better," said Greb. "We're young but we're going to get there. We're getting better every game and I'm excited for the rest of the season."

Pendleton gets three more tune-ups before the start of league play, including a Jan. 19 date at Baker, and will play its next game on Saturday at Lebanon with a 3 p.m. tip.

BHS (6-6)	13	19	10	3	—	45
PHS (4-7)	20	16	14	9	—	59

BAKER — B. Sand 22, K. Severson 6, J. Ramos 4, G. Huggins 4, R. Hughes 3, H. Collard 3, C. Bruce 2, S. Phillips.  
PENDLETON — R. Gentner 13, H. Greb 11, C. Hoffman 10, S. Greb 7, K. McGlothan 7, M. Davies 6, L. Richards 5, J. Lemberger, H. Porter.  
3-pointers — BHS 3, PHS 3. Free throws — BHS 4-12, PHS 14-31. Fouls — BHS 25, PHS 17. Fouled out — S. Phillips, H. Collard (BHS).



**Pendleton's Maureen Davies grabs a rebound in the Bucks' 59-45 win against Baker on Tuesday in Pendleton.**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

# PREPS: Neal, Flores lead Hermiston boys to landslide win over La Grande

**Continued from 1B**

WESTON-MCEWEN — A. Broncheau 11, S. Finnick 8, C. Quampts 7, B. Hillmick 6, A. Hill 4, A. Finnick 4, S. von Borstel 2, J. Lambert 2, M. Muilenburg, A. Schroeder, K. Vesco.  
LIBERTY CHRISTIAN — Souve 22, Godwin 15, Loera 14, Steel 2, Gregg, Bush, Home.  
3-pointers — WM 3, LC 4. Free throws — WM 11-26, LC 15-20. Fouls — WM 19, LC 19. Fouled out — B. Hillmick (WM).

**TOUCHET (WA) 53, HELIX 36** — At Touchet, Wash., the Helix Grizzlies struggled shooting the ball on the road against Touchet, resulting in the Grizzlies' third loss of the season on Tuesday night.

"It was just one of those nights where the ball just did not fall for us," said Helix coach Kirk Flerchinger. "They're a good team and we held our own, but just couldn't hit shots."

Sadie Wilson led Helix with 10 points, while Charmayne Bennett and Bethany Newton added six points apiece. Helix won big in the battle of the boards, though, out-rebounding Touchet by 22 total rebounds.

Helix next plays on Saturday at 4 p.m. when they host Powder Valley.

GHS (9-3)	7	12	10	7	—	36
THS (6-1)	18	12	8	15	—	53

HELIX — S. Wilson 10, C. Bennett 6, B. Newton 6, M. Mize 5, P. Flerchinger 4, M. Tullis 4, E. Fehrenbacher 1.  
TOUCHET — C. Jo McKeown 20, D. Jaggar 12, K. Skramstad 11, A. Grudzinski 6, R. Miller 2, H. Kromm 2, J. Aceves.  
3-pointers — GHS 0, THS 4. Free throws — GHS 10-18, THS 7-13. Fouls — GHS 12, THS 19.

## Boys Basketball

**HERMISTON 62, LA GRANDE 39** — At La Grande, the Hermiston Bulldogs rebounded from a weekend loss with a win on the road on Tuesday, pummeling La Grande by 21 points.

The win makes it three wins in four games for Hermiston (6-6), getting the Bulldogs back to .500 on the season.

Tre Neal led Hermiston's offensive charge with 17 points, and Chance Flores was close behind with 13 points. Austin Naillon and Andrew James each added nine points apiece.

Hermiston dominated the game from start to finish jumping out to a 23-10 lead after just the first quarter, and later holding a 39-23 lead at halftime. Hermiston also won the free throw battle, hitting 14-22 shots while La Grande hit 8-15.

Hermiston next hosts Summit on Saturday with tip-off set for 3:15 p.m.

HHS (7-5)	23	16	13	3	—	62
LHS (2-3)	10	13	13	10	—	39

HERMISTON — T. Neal 17, C. Flores 13, A. James 9, A. Naillon 9, D. Neal 5, H. Walls 4, C. Ortiz 3, P. Peterson 2, J. Garcia.  
LA GRANDE — J. Jacobs 12, E. Siltanen 9, A. Peasley 5, J. Schiller 4, G.T. Blanken 3, B. Travis 3, I. Cranford 2, C. Brandt 1.  
3-pointers — HHS 6, LHS 3. Free throws — LHS 14-22, LHS 8-15. Fouls — HHS 19, LHS 21.

**STANFIELD 52, RIVERSIDE 38** — At Boardman, the Stanfield Tigers notched their seventh

win of the season defeating the Riverside Pirates 52-38 on Tuesday night.

Ryan Bailey paced Stanfield's (7-1) offense with a game-high 16 points and Antonio Flores added nine points. For Riverside (4-8), Noe Madrigal led the team with 12 points and Eon Castillo netted nine points.

"We played hard in the first half," said Riverside coach Clair Costello. "Second half we didn't play well enough on defense and let (Stanfield) get to the basket too much."

Riverside held a 15-13 lead after the first quarter, but the Tigers battled back to grab a 26-23 lead at halftime and didn't look back after that.

"We're struggling to score," said Costello, "we ran the offense well in the first quarter, but it just deteriorated after that."

Riverside begins league play on Thursday when they host Umatilla at 7:30 p.m. Stanfield begins league play on Friday when they host Pilot Rock at 3 p.m.

STAN (7-1)	13	13	14	12	—	52
RHS (4-8)	15	8	4	11	—	38

STANFIELD — R. Bailey 16, A. Flores 9, J. Garcia 7, B. Woods 6, T. Monkus 4, J. Camillo 4, L. Moreno 3, A. Nunez 3.  
RIVERSIDE — N. Madrigal 12, E. Castillo 9, J. Carmona 6, F. Olvera 4, F. Aparicio 4, D. Rodriguez 2, S. Navarro 1.  
3-pointers — STAN 4, RHS 5. Free throws — STAN 16-25, RHS 9-15. Fouls — STAN 18, RHS 23.

**LIBERTY CHRISTIAN (WA) 47, WESTON-MCEWEN 43** — At Athena,

the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots fell just short of their fourth win of the season, losing to Liberty Christian (WA) on Tuesday night.

"We had plenty of chances," said TigerScots coach Brian Pickard. "We had some good looks late, just couldn't hit them. The kids played hard and played together tonight."

One area that hurt the TigerScots (3-5) on Tuesday was free throw shooting, as the team hit just 3-12 attempts in the game, which is unusual for a team that shot well from the stripe this season, said Pickard.

"We had been shooting 71 percent as a team until tonight," he said, "and in a four point game, that's huge."

Shyler Mikesell led Weston-McEwen with 12 points, and nailed two of the teams' four 3-pointers. Brett Speed was close behind with nine points.

Weston-McEwen will now move on to league play starting on Friday, when they travel to Culver for a 4:30 p.m. tip-off.

WM (3-5)	12	13	8	10	—	43
LC (6-2)	11	11	13	12	—	47

WESTON-MCEWEN — S. Mikesell 12, B. Speed 9, J. Patrick 7, S. Broncheau 6, E. Reger 5, K. Scott 2, A. Finnick 2, X. Bailey, K. Rodriguez, R. Betts.  
LIBERTY CHRISTIAN — C. Kelly 18, C. Goodwin 12, N. Olsen 9, P. Eder 4, M. Goodwin 2, R. Utley 2.  
3-pointers — WM 4, LC 2. Free throws — WM 3-12, LC 11-17. Fouls — WM 19, LC 14.

**DESALES (WA)**

**61, MAC-HI 43** — At Milton-Freewater, the Mac-Hi Pioneers could not keep up with the DeSales Irish on Tuesday night, falling into a second half hole that the Pioneers could not climb out of on their way to the loss.

Mac-Hi (4-10) trailed 13-12 at the end of the first quarter and 27-19 at halftime, but DeSales opened it up in the third quarter to pull away.

"They pressed us, turned us over, and started controlling the tempo," said Pioneers coach Jordan Poyner. "They had an eight point lead at halftime and then scored eight unanswered to start the third quarter real fast."

Hunter Yensen was the top scorer for Mac-Hi yet again, netting 24 points on 8-13 shooting and a team-high four 3-pointers.

"He's doing everything for us," said Poyner. His athleticism is way up there, he's dominating opponents, scoring every which way, and carrying us and providing a lot of offense. We've been in a lull offensively as a team, but Hunter's been carrying the load."

Mac-Hi plays again next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. when they host Waitsburg (WA).

DHS (5-2)	13	14	19	15	—	61
MHS (4-10)	12	7	9	15	—	43

DESALES — C. Midema 20, J. Crowley 12, J. Montero 12, Z. Lahey 8, I. Standard 6, J. Wiley 3.  
MAC-HI — H. Yensen 24, Ar. Garcia 6, A. Martinez 4, A. Delgado 3, E. Garcia, 2, L. Garcia 2, R. Walton 2.

3-pointers — DHS 3, MHS 7. Free throws — DHS 8-12, MHS 6-10. Fouls — DHS 9, MHS 9.

**TOUCHET (WA) 46, HELIX 19** — At Touchet, Wash., the Helix Grizzlies could not overcome an aggressive press defense in the first half, leading to a defeat at the hands of Touchet on Tuesday.

"The press just killed us in the first half," said Helix coach Ben Maney. "We weren't ready for it and you could see it reflected in the score."

Helix (2-10) trailed Touchet 22-4 after the first quarter, and later trailed 33-11 at halftime. The Grizzlies did, however, win the battle of the boards, out-rebounding Touchet 27-24.

Justin Williams led Helix with nine points, while five other players netted two points each.

Helix next plays on Saturday when they host Powder Valley at 5:30 p.m.

GHS (2-10)	4	7	2	6	—	19
THS (1-0)	22	11	7	6	—	46

HELIX — J. Williams 9, C. Marks 2, L. Preciado 5, G. Newton 2, C. Dunn 2, T. Wilson 2.  
TOUCHET — C. Rinein 15, J. Kates 9, L. Butler 7, L. Garcia 5, J. Preciado 5, Acedado 3, L. Preciado 2, T. Wilson.  
3-pointers — GHS 0, THS 2. Free throws — GHS 1-6, THS 10-21. Fouls — GHS 14, THS 17.

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