

WRESTLING: Echo showing improvement in second season

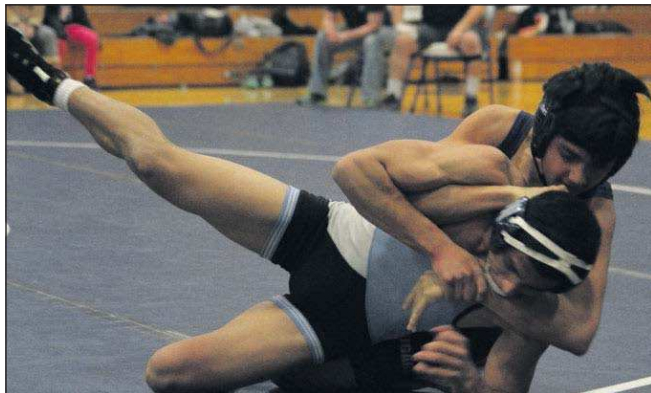
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going against the Echo sophomore. Down 5-0 after one round, Ranger came back to tie the match at five, but the two hand-locking penalties all but handed Romero the win.

"Kyle Ranger's come a long way," Raymon Smith said. "To lose it on a hand-locking is a mental error, but that toughness (is key). He came from way behind."

Andrew Barker of Riverside then easily handled Austin James 9-2 at 126 pounds to put Riverside up 6-0. Calvillo later defeated Echo's Damien Curiel 13-7 to put Riverside up 16-6, followed by a strong performance by Escobedo, topping Keith Wampler 19-3 to earn a technical fall and five points to put Riverside up 21-6.

Then at 182 pounds, Jason Fitzpatrick provided Echo's lone highlight against Riverside, pinning Ferguson in 12 seconds. Kernal followed up with a strong match, too,



Echo's Damien Curiel (top) looks to control the back of Riverside's Ulises Calvillo during a 3-way dual at Stanfield High School Thursday night.

easily pinned James Stradley to give Riverside the 33-12 dual win and end its day at 2-0.

Echo showed its program-wide improvement in its dual against Irrigon with several fun comebacks. Starting up 12-0, Wiggins pinned Sam Berry in the first period, then Curiel came back from a 6-2 first-period deficit to pin Sawyer.

Curiel scored eight points in the second period to turn

the 6-2 deficit into a 10-9 lead, then got an escape, takedown, and eventually the pin to put Echo up 24-0.

Then it was Walls and Wampler at 152 pounds, and it was arguably the most entertaining match of the night. The high-scoring first period ended with Walls up on Wampler 8-6 with each grappler earning a reversal. Walls extended his lead to 13-9 heading into the final period, and Walls eventually



Riverside's Gabriel Romero (left) tries to avoid a pin with his legs controlled by Echo's Kyle Ranger during a 3-way dual in Stanfield on Thursday.

pinned Wampler with one second remaining in that third round.

"That will be a perfect example (of what I'm looking for)," Irrigon coach Jason Dunsten said. "(Walls) is a freshman, he's had one year of experience in eighth grade, for him to come out and hit moves — I have seniors that can't even do stuff like that still."

Irrigon came within six at 24-18, but Fitzpatrick extended the Cougar lead back to 12 at 30-18 with another first-round pin, this one over Michaels. That left Stadley to try and avoid a pin from Kaleb Kendricks, but couldn't and was stuck in 1:50. Echo still won the dual, however, on the tie-breaker.

"I'm very pleased with the way we've been wrestling,

mainly because we're a very young team," Dunsten said. "Most of our team is made up of freshman and sophomores or first-year kids. For them to come out and almost beat Riverside and make a comeback to tie it up against Echo, I was very pleased."

RIVERSIDE 36, IRRIGON 21 Full results for this dual were unavailable

RIVERSIDE 33, ECHO/STANFIELD 12 113 — G. Romero over K. Ranger, 7-5 3-0 120 — A. Barker over A. James, 9-2 6-0 132 — Forfeit to Riverside 12-0 138 — Forfeit to Echo 12-6 145 — U. Calvillo over D. Curiel, 13-7 16-6 160 — I. Escobedo over K. Wampler, 19-3 21-6 170 — Forfeit to Riverside 27-6 182 — J. Fitzpatrick over Z. Ferguson, fall 1:42 27-12 285 — A. Kernal over J. Stadley, fall 1:13 33-12

ECHO 30, IRRIGON 30 (ECHO WINS 24-12 ON TIEBREAKER) 106 — Forfeit to Echo 6-0 126 — Forfeit to Echo 12-0 138 — G. Wiggins over S. Berry, fall 1:42 18-0 145 — D. Curiel over D. Sawyer, fall 5:25 24-0 152 — A. Walls over K. Wampler, fall 5:59 24-6 160 — Forfeit to Irrigon 24-12 170 — Forfeit to Irrigon 24-18 182 — J. Fitzpatrick over C. Michaels, fall 2:21 30-18 195 — Forfeit to Irrigon 30-24 285 — K. Kendricks over J. Stadley, fall 1:10 30-30

TRAVEL: Time spent on the road gave team additional bonding opportunities

Continued from 1B

but this (team) would do really well," he said.

When Hoffert broke the news to the girls in April of last year, he said they thought he was joking.

"I had been talking about it for three years so they didn't want to get too excited," he said.

But after he showed them the official invitation, the girls' excitement shot through the roof, especially for Edmiston and her senior teammates.

"I was super excited," she said. "It's my senior year and getting to travel, have a vacation and play basketball was pretty cool."

The tournament was a unique experience for the Bulldogs. It featured 90 total

teams originating from 18 different states split into six brackets for competition.

Hermiston competed in a bracket with schools from California, Arizona, and Colorado and won three out of the four games they played for a ninth place finish.

"It reminded me of playing AAU (basketball), but bigger," Edmiston said. "With staying in hotels, playing a lot of games with a lot of teams. It was cool."

The tournament also brought in more than 80 registered college basketball coaches, ranging from the NCAA level up to prestigious NCAA Division I schools such as Stanford, Michigan State, and Maryland — presenting a great opportunity for players to possibly

get noticed for the next level.

Hoffert said the tournament helped teach the team about where their skills stand right now as it got a taste of different styles and paces of play, something that Edmiston and her teammates enjoyed a lot.

"We got to see a lot of different defenses and things like that," she said. "The teams were quicker than a lot of the ones we face and it helps us get in better shape."

But aside from the on-court play, the Bulldogs also got to do some team bonding in Arizona. Hoffert took them to a Phoenix Suns NBA game and an Arizona State women's basketball game, as well as a few shopping trips to the local malls.

The girls also did some things by themselves in their

free time, often gathering to watch a movie, more shopping trips, or goofing around at the resort golf course.

More than 20 Bulldog family members traveled to both tournaments as well, making the experience that much better.

"It was way more relaxing," said Edmiston.

The lone drawback of the tournament was its proximity to Christmas, where the lacking holiday atmosphere and warm desert weather was a little different than the colder climate of Oregon the players were used to.

"It didn't feel like Christmas there," Edmiston said. "With no Christmas lights on houses and warm weather ... it felt odd."

Hermiston returned home

from Arizona just a few days before Christmas, and then hit the road again as quick as they got in for the three-hour drive west to Lake Oswego for the Nike Interstate Shootout tournament. There, Hermiston played some of the top 6A and 5A schools in the state of Oregon, finishing 3-1 in the tournament for a fifth place finish in its bracket.

Sophomore forward Maddy Juul — who has been a spark for the Bulldogs this season — said that while the travel was fun, the team is now ready for the stretch run of the season.

"They were a lot different than tournaments we usually experience," she said. "Tough competition, different types of teams, it really made us more physical and gave us

what we needed."

Hermiston has 10 games remaining on its regular season schedule — split down the middle with five road games and five home games — and only one game remaining before league play begins on Jan. 22. Hermiston appears ready to make another run through the CRC this season to secure one more game in front of its home fans in the postseason before a possible trip back to Corvallis for the state tournament.

"We now know what to expect, and we're ready for it," Edmiston said.

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EOL HOOPS: Viking girls grab first league win in low-scoring affair

Continued from 1B

while Abby Hernandez and Lacey Mashos led Riverside (3-9, 0-1) with five points with 12 points and Aaron Simmons with 11.

Costello said his team was just 5-of-9 at the free throw line when Umatilla turned to fouling them down the stretch, but a switch from zone to man-to-man defense kept Umatilla off the scoreboard as well.

"Defensively we played

really well the last two minutes," he said. "We didn't leave them any open shots."

Umatilla led 23-20 at halftime and extended its lead in the third quarter before a five-point spurt by Ricardo Rosales made it 35-30 headed into the fourth.

Both teams have more than a week off before their next games on Friday, Jan. 15. Riverside hosts Vale at 7 p.m. and Umatilla hosts

Nyssa at 7:30 p.m.

UHS (7-8, 0-11) 1013 12 4 - 39 RHS (5-8, 1-0) 114 6 10 14 - 44 UMATILLA — J. Ramirez 12, A. Simmons 11, J. Coria 7, T. Sanguino 5, K. Webb 2, S. Cranston 2, G. Armenta, D. Silverio, S. Garcia, T. Durfey, J. Maret. RIVERSIDE — E. Castillo 12, N. Madrigal 10, F. Aparicio 8, R. Rosales 5, M. Hegar 4, F. Olvera 3, D. Rodriguez 2, H. Lopez, J. Garcia, S. Navarro, J. Carmona. 3-pointers — UHS 4, RHS 4. Free throws — UHS 5-7, RHS 10-17. Fouls — UHS 21, RHS 16. Fouled out — K. Webb (UHS).

Girls Basketball

UMATILLA 28, RIVERSIDE 14 — At

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Culver, 4:30 p.m. Heppner at Irrigon, 6 p.m. Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 7:30 p.m. Echo at Joseph, 7:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Nixyaavii, 7:30 p.m. Saturday Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m. Summit at Hermiston, 3:15 p.m. Pendleton at Lebanon, 5 p.m. Stanfield at Heppner, 5:30 p.m. Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. South Wasco at Arlington, 5:30 p.m. Horizon Christian at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m. Lone at Sherman, 5:30 p.m. Nixyaavii at Echo, 5:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Helix, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m. Heppner at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Culver, 7:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 6 p.m. Arlington at Mitchell/Spray (at Spray), 6 p.m. Powder Valley at Nixyaavii, 6 p.m. Echo at Joseph, 6 p.m. Saturday Pendleton at Lebanon, 3 p.m. Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m. Stanfield at Heppner, 4 p.m. Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler vs. Horizon Christian (at Fossil), 4 p.m. South Wasco at Arlington, 4 p.m. Lone at Sherman, 4 p.m. Powder Valley at Helix, 4 p.m. Echo at Nixyaavii, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Today Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m. Riverside dual dual at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m. Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD Saturday Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m. Pendleton, Heppner, Riverside, Irrigon at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m. Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD.

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday Pendleton, Hermiston at The Dalles meet, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Today Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7:30 p.m. Saturday Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 4 p.m. Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Today Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 5:30 p.m. Saturday Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 2 p.m. Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 5:30 p.m.

Prep Standings

BOYS BASKETBALL

Columbia River Conference (5A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Hermiston 0-0 7-6 792 798 24 Pendleton 0-0 4-5 463 493 8 The Dalles 0-0 2-9 897 869 27 Hood River 0-0 1-10 624 733 33 Greater Oregon League (4A) Ovr.Conf. PS PARnk Baker 0-0 5-7 624 694 30 Mac-Hi 0-0 4-10 557 648 29 Ontario 0-0 3-7 553 655 17 La Grande 0-0 2-3 260 266 28 Eastern Oregon League (3A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Umatilla 1-0 7-7 723 751 17 Nyssa 0-0 4-8 600 630 15 Riverside 0-0 4-8 509 508 32 Vale 0-0 2-8 417 547 33 Columbia Basin Conference (2A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Hepner 0-0 10-1 612 484 7 Irrigon 0-0 8-3 600 472 4 Stanfield 0-0 7-1 482 383 17 Pilot Rock 0-0 6-8 594 614 29 Culver 0-0 4-7 448 534 36 Weston-McEwen 0-0 3-5 383 439 32 Big Sky League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk So. Wasco 0-0 8-1 525 296 6 Arlington 0-0 6-5 510 446 11 Sherman 0-0 5-4 554 522 11 Mitch/Spray 0-0 5-4 340 388 28 Condon/Wheeler 0-0 4-5 391 420 32 Dufur 0-0 3-5 414 418 30 Horiz. Christ. 0-0 2-4 259 312 10 Lone 0-0 1-7 215 477 50 Old Oregon League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Powder Val. 2-0 8-2 558 379 5 Echo 2-0 4-8 534 548 44 Nixyaavii 1-0 11-1 888 606 2 Wallowa 1-1 2-8 310 495 35 Joseph 0-1 4-6 408 491 24 Helix 0-2 2-10 366 552 66 Pine Eagle 0-2 1-8 317 513 52 GIRLS BASKETBALL Columbia River Conference (5A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Hermiston 0-0 11-3 779 615 6 The Dalles 0-0 6-5 499 445 16 Pendleton 0-0 4-7 510 561 25 Hood River 0-0 2-8 326 472 32 Greater Oregon League (4A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Mac-Hi 0-0 9-5 512 537 14 La Grande 0-0 7-4 644 525 9 Baker 0-0 6-6 521 534 18 Ontario 0-0 1-7 234 387 29 Eastern Oregon League (3A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Umatilla 0-0 10-4 686 491 13 Nyssa 0-0 9-4 556 458 10 Vale 0-0 7-4 472 461 12 Riverside 0-0 3-8 376 417 34 Columbia Basin Conference (2A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Pilot Rock 0-0 9-5 630 530 6 Culver 0-0 7-4 439 329 29 Stanfield 0-0 4-4 331 282 22 Weston-McEwen 0-0 3-6 378 376 25 Irrigon 0-0 3-7 354 399 25 Heppner 0-0 2-9 306 464 31 Big Sky League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Condon/Wheeler 0-0 9-1 432 312 6

Columbia River Conference (5A)

Hermiston 0-0 7-6 792 798 24 Pendleton 0-0 4-5 463 493 8 The Dalles 0-0 2-9 897 869 27 Hood River 0-0 1-10 624 733 33 Greater Oregon League (4A) Ovr.Conf. PS PARnk Baker 0-0 5-7 624 694 30 Mac-Hi 0-0 4-10 557 648 29 Ontario 0-0 3-7 553 655 17 La Grande 0-0 2-3 260 266 28 Eastern Oregon League (3A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Umatilla 1-0 7-7 723 751 17 Nyssa 0-0 4-8 600 630 15 Riverside 0-0 4-8 509 508 32 Vale 0-0 2-8 417 547 33 Columbia Basin Conference (2A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Hepner 0-0 10-1 612 484 7 Irrigon 0-0 8-3 600 472 4 Stanfield 0-0 7-1 482 383 17 Pilot Rock 0-0 6-8 594 614 29 Culver 0-0 4-7 448 534 36 Weston-McEwen 0-0 3-5 383 439 32 Big Sky League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk So. Wasco 0-0 8-1 525 296 6 Arlington 0-0 6-5 510 446 11 Sherman 0-0 5-4 554 522 11 Mitch/Spray 0-0 5-4 340 388 28 Condon/Wheeler 0-0 4-5 391 420 32 Dufur 0-0 3-5 414 418 30 Horiz. Christ. 0-0 2-4 259 312 10 Lone 0-0 1-7 215 477 50 Old Oregon League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Powder Val. 2-0 8-2 558 379 5 Echo 2-0 4-8 534 548 44 Nixyaavii 1-0 11-1 888 606 2 Wallowa 1-1 2-8 310 495 35 Joseph 0-1 4-6 408 491 24 Helix 0-2 2-10 366 552 66 Pine Eagle 0-2 1-8 317 513 52 GIRLS BASKETBALL Columbia River Conference (5A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Hermiston 0-0 11-3 779 615 6 The Dalles 0-0 6-5 499 445 16 Pendleton 0-0 4-7 510 561 25 Hood River 0-0 2-8 326 472 32 Greater Oregon League (4A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Mac-Hi 0-0 9-5 512 537 14 La Grande 0-0 7-4 644 525 9 Baker 0-0 6-6 521 534 18 Ontario 0-0 1-7 234 387 29 Eastern Oregon League (3A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Umatilla 0-0 10-4 686 491 13 Nyssa 0-0 9-4 556 458 10 Vale 0-0 7-4 472 461 12 Riverside 0-0 3-8 376 417 34 Columbia Basin Conference (2A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Pilot Rock 0-0 9-5 630 530 6 Culver 0-0 7-4 439 329 29 Stanfield 0-0 4-4 331 282 22 Weston-McEwen 0-0 3-6 378 376 25 Irrigon 0-0 3-7 354 399 25 Heppner 0-0 2-9 306 464 31 Big Sky League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Condon/Wheeler 0-0 9-1 432 312 6

Football

Arlington 0-0 7-4 474 322 29 So. Wasco 0-0 4-4 248 314 17 Horiz. Christ. 0-0 3-3 195 265 19 Lone 0-0 3-5 311 372 38 Mitch/Spray 0-0 3-6 265 294 52 Dufur 0-0 1-7 240 387 42 Sherman 0-0 0-7 168 397 59 Old Oregon League (1A) Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk Helix 2-0 9-3 515 416 10 Powder Val. 2-0 6-5 517 379 25 Nixyaavii 1-0 11-1 636 362 16 Echo 1-1 6-6 456 411 22 Joseph 0-1 4-6 448 417 36 Wallowa 0-2 1-10 171 536 45 Pine Eagle 0-2 0-9 159 490 50

NCAA

Monday, Jan. 11 College Football Championship Game Glendale, Ariz. Clemson (14-0) vs. Alabama (13-1), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

NFL Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday Kansas City (11-5) at Houston (9-7), 1:35 p.m. (ABC/ESPN) Pittsburgh (10-6) at Cincinnati (12-4), 5:15 p.m. (CBS) Sunday Seattle (10-6) at Minnesota (11-6), 10 a.m. (NBC) Green Bay (10-6) at Washington (9-7), 1:30 p.m. (FOX)

Basketball

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division Toronto 22 15 535 — Boston 19 17 528 2 1/2 New York 18 19 486 4 Brooklyn 10 25 286 11 Philadelphia 4 34 105 18 1/2 Southeast Division Miami 21 14 600 — Atlanta 22 15 595 — Orlando 19 17 528 2 1/2 Charlotte 17 18 486 4 Washington 15 18 455 5 Central Division Cleveland 24 9 727 — Chicago 22 12 647 2 1/2 Indiana 20 15 571 5 Detroit 20 16 556 5 1/2 Milwaukee 14 23 378 12 WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division San Antonio 31 6 838 — Dallas 21 15 583 9 1/2 Memphis 19 18 514 12 Houston 18 19 486 13 New Orleans 11 23 324 18 1/2 Northwest Division Oklahoma City 25 11 694 — Utah 15 20 429 9 1/2 Portland 15 23 395 11 Denver 13 23 361 12 Minnesota 12 24 333 13 Pacific Division Golden State 33 2 943 — L.A. Clippers 23 13 639 10 1/2 Sacramento 15 21 417 18 1/2

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOP 25

Thursday's Games Atlanta 126, Philadelphia 98 Chicago 101, Boston 92 Houston 103, Utah 94 Sacramento 115, L.A. Lakers 115 Today's Games Toronto at Washington, 4 p.m. Orlando at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m. Cleveland at Minnesota, 5 p.m. Indiana at New Orleans, 5 p.m. Dallas at Milwaukee, 5 p.m. Denver at Memphis, 5 p.m. New York at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m. Miami at Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Golden State at Portland, 7 p.m. Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

GP W L OT Pts GF GA Dallas 43 29 10 4 62 148 114 Chicago 42 25 13 4 54 117 100 St. Louis 43 23 14 6 52 106 107 Minnesota 40 21 11 8 60 108 96 Nashville 40 19 14 7 45 104 106 Colorado 41 20 18 3 43 117 114 Winnipeg 41 19 19 3 41 109 117 Pacific Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA Los Angeles 40 26 12 2 54 107 88 Arizona 40 20 16 4 44 112 125 Vancouver 41 16 16 9 41 100 115 Calgary 40 19 19 2 40 105 124 Anaheim 39 16 16 7 39 73 94 San Jose 38 18 18 2 38 102 108 Edmonton 41 17 21 3 37 102 122

Friday's Games

Boston at New Jersey, 4 p.m. Columbus at Carolina, 4 p.m. Buffalo at Chicago, 5:30 p.m. Nashville at Colorado, 6 p.m. Tampa Bay at Edmonton, 6 p.m. St. Louis at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

C.J. HENDON Junior, Hermiston Wrestling

Hendon was one of just two Bulldogs to go 6-0 at The Clash XIV in Rochester, Minnesota on Jan. 1-2. Competing at 138 pounds, Hendon won three matches by decision, two by major decision and one by pin. Hermiston went 5-1 as a team and won its round robin after placing fifth in bracketed action.



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