

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Buckaroos to host Springfield on Saturday

PENDLETON — With the 5A play-in games now completed, the Pendleton Buckaroo boys basketball team now knows its playoff opponent.

The Bucks (15-7) are slotted as the No. 8 seed in the bracket, and will host the No. 9 seed Springfield Millers on Saturday evening at Warberg Court.

The Millers (17-7) finished second in the Midwestern League and are ranked at No. 7 by the OSAA.

Tip-off for the game is set for 5 p.m. The cost of tickets for the game is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students, and no passes or student body cards will be accepted.



Delgado qualifies for NCAA D-I Championships

TEMPE, Ariz. — Former Hermiston Bulldog and current Oregon State Beaver Joey Delgado helped his Beavers wrestling team to its fifth-straight Pac-12 title over the weekend with a third place finish at 149 pounds.

With that performance, Delgado also qualified for the NCAA Championships with his finish, where he will compete on March 17-19 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. It will be his second time competing at the championships, with his first appearance coming in 2014 when he lost both of his matches competing in the 141 pound bracket.

Delgado — a redshirt junior — finished the season with a 23-12 record, and recorded four wins by pin, one win by tech fall, seven wins by major decision, and 11 wins by decision.

FACES



Delgado

“It was a little frustrating. I was in the top six in scoring and assists and my team was in seventh place coming into the All-Star Game. I was like wow... I don’t know what happened. I don’t think it was a fair vote.”

— **Damian Lillard**
Portland Trail Blazers guard during an interview on ‘The Dan Patrick Show’ on Thursday morning discussing Lillard being left off of the 2016 NBA All-Star team. Lillard is currently fifth in scoring averaging 25.3 points per game and is eighth in the NBA averaging 6.9 assists.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1990 — Hank Gathers, one of two Division I players to lead the nation in scoring and rebounding in the same season, dies at 23 after collapsing during Loyola Marymount’s West Coast Conference Tournament game against Portland.
2013 — Gonzaga is No. 1 in The Associated Press’ Top 25 for the first time. Riding the best record in Division I at 29-2, the Bulldogs become the 57th school to be ranked No. 1 since the AP poll began in January 1949.

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

Boys Basketball

Golden Eagles breeze into semifinals

Nixyaawii outscores Hosanna Christian 44-19 in second half

East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — The Nixyaawii Golden Eagles were neck-and-neck with Hosanna Christian throughout the first half on Thursday night, but a few halftime adjustments blew the doors open in the second half as the Golden Eagles rolled to a 78-52 win.

Nixyaawii (26-1) led Hosanna Christian (25-5) by just one point at 34-33 at halftime, as both teams

were on fire from the floor. Nixyaawii was 14-35 (40 percent) and 5-15 from 3-point range and the Lions shot 12-26 (46 percent) and 6-11 from 3-point range. But Golden Eagles coach Shane Rivera noticed that the Lions weren’t too determined to work the ball deep in the post and instead were settling for jumpshots, prompting a tweak in the defense that slowed the Lions in the second half.

“We extended our zone and let our guards get out and pressure

SPORT	
	
Hos. Christ.	Nixyaawii
52	78

them some more,” Rivera said. “The kids worked a little harder and dialed up the pressure and it helped.”

In the second half, it was a completely different game. Nixyaawii outscored Hosanna Christian 44-19 on the heels of 16-26 shooting (51 percent) and knocking in 7-11 (63 percent) from 3-point range and held the Lions to just six field goals on 6-36 shooting.

Five Golden Eagles finished in double figures led by Fredy Campos with 17 points and four 3-pointers.

Angel Corona was the next highest scorer with 13 points off the bench, finishing 5-5 from the field and 3-3 on 3-pointers.

Nixyaawii advances to the 1A semifinals to play Sherman today at 8:15 p.m. The two teams are familiar with each other, as the Golden Eagles beat the Huskies 79-48 at Mission back on Dec. 7.

HC (25-5) 16 17 12 7 — 52
NCS (26-1) 14 20 21 23 — 78
HOSANNA CHRISTIAN — W. Cole 23, W. Sorg 10, H. Staub 8, N. Bustamante 6, S. Sanchas 3, D. Hamilton 2, M. Cole, N. Staunton, J. Drost, J. Elliott, T. Paul, H. Jensen, (18-62)
NIXYAAWII — F. Campos 17, A. Corona 13, H. McKay 12, H. Melton 12, I. Ashley 10, D. Kipp 8, C. Case 4, W. Oatman 2, J. Quaempts, D. Barley, T. Bushman, (30-61)
3-pointers — HC 9-26, NCS 12-26. Free throws — HC 7-14, NCS 6-12. Fouls — HC 14, NCS 9.

PENDLETON

Mustangs fall in quarterfinals



Heppner’s Caden Hedman (12) and the rest of the Heppner bench reacts after the Mustangs’ 41-33 loss to Bandon in their 2A quarterfinal on Thursday at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

No. 3 Heppner shoots under 30 percent in loss to No. 6 Bandon

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Boys Hoops

	
Bandon	Heppner
41	33

PENDLETON — The Heppner Mustangs thought they had the perfect game plan.

Their opponent, the No. 6 seed Bandon Tigers, deployed a fierce 2-3 zone defense and the Mustangs felt confident that they could beat the defense enough to win the game. For three quarters, the Mustangs did the best they could but in the end just couldn’t get enough shots to fall and lost to the Tigers 41-33 in the 2A quarterfinals.

“I can’t fault our kids tonight ... they gave everything they had,” said Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm. “The guys executed the gameplan exactly how we wanted to do but we just couldn’t get anything going offensively.”

See HEPPNER/2B

The No. 3 seed Mustangs (21-4) made just 14 of 49 shots (28 percent) in the game, knocked in just 2-18 from 3-point range, and went 0-9 from the field in the fourth quarter.

“We attacked the basket like we wanted to, but ultimately we just couldn’t get in a flow and get anything to fall,” Rosenbalm said. “Their zone was extremely good, but at this point there’s only good teams left and unfortunately we came out on the wrong end this time.”



Heppner’s Weston Putnam and Bandon’s Tristian Davidsons dive for a loose ball in the Mustangs’ 41-33 loss to the Tigers in their 2A quarterfinal on Thursday at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

2A Girls Basketball

Burns powers into semifinals

In teams’ fourth meeting, Burns’ size proves difference once again

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The No. 3 Burns Hilanders and the No. 6 Grant Union Prospectors had met three times previous to Thursday’s quarterfinals state playoff game, and Burns took all three.

Thursday was no different, with the Hilanders’ size causing problems all night en route to a 46-34 result at Warberg Court in Pendleton. Kori Pentzer and Mariah Moulton led Grant Union with

	
Grant Union	Burns
34	46



Kori Pentzer (23), of Grant Union, goes up for a shot against Catherine Clemens (10), of Burns, Thursday evening during a state 2A quarterfinal game at Pendleton High School.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

2A Boys Basketball

Pioneers secure another trophy

Western Mennonite moves into semifinals with win over Imbler

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Western Mennonite boys basketball will finish its season in Pendleton for the 11th straight year when the 2A tournament wraps up on Saturday.

With a 53-37 win over Imbler on Thursday, the Pioneers also assured themselves they’ll be bringing back a trophy for the 11th season in a row.

Playing in its first Pendleton bracket since moving up to the 2A ranks two seasons ago, Imbler (20-4) hung around through three quarters, but an 11-0 Pioneers run to start the fourth sealed their fate.

Western Mennonite (20-8) opened the See 2A BOYS/3B