

HERMISTON

Bulldogs floor Falcons

Big third quarter propels Hermiston into state quarterfinals

By MATT ENTRUP

East Oregonian

Going into halftime, the Liberty Falcons had to be feeling good about their chances of making a run at the Hermiston Bulldogs during the second phase of action in Friday's 5A girls basketball state playoff game.

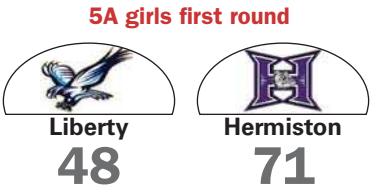
By the time Hermiston junior Hayden Meyers sank a jumper in the lane to close the third quarter, the only hope the Falcons had left was keeping the score respectable.

But even that, apparently, would be wishful thinking.

When the Bulldogs were doing their thing there was nothing the Falcons could do to slow them down, and Hermiston turned a dominant second half into a 71-48 rout for a return to Corvallis and the state bracket's final site.

"It's so exciting for all of us," said junior Kynzee Padilla. "Our seniors deserve it so much, and our whole team deserves it because we work so hard."

The Bulldogs (22-3) were in



control the entire way, but a lapse in the second quarter allowed the Falcons (13-12) to cut a nine-point lead to one when Kenzie Pimentel sank a three-pointer to make it a 24-23 ballgame with 3:39 left in the frame.

"We talked all week about the certain things we have to do," said Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert. "In the second quarter we didn't do those certain things. We did the things that allows Liberty to keep themselves in the basketball game."

Hermiston put its foot down there, though, and following a Liberty timeout went on a 10-2 run to regain their buffer before halftime.

Bulldogs junior Rileigh Andreason scored five of her team-high 15 points during the three-minute stretch, and Hermiston took a 34-25 lead into the locker room.

"We just needed to step up our defense," she said. "We had a lot of open looks and people on the boards the whole time."

The second half couldn't have

started much worse for the Falcons, or much better for the Bulldogs.

Hermiston senior Sara Ramirez stole a lazy inbound pass to open the third quarter, and when her three-pointer bounced out Andreason was there for the putback. Hermiston went on a 6-1 run over the first three minutes that prompted two Liberty timeouts, which did nothing more than delay the inevitable.

With Hermiston shredding the Liberty press and dominating the offensive glass the lead quickly ballooned, and Meyers' basket with four seconds left in the third made it 54-32.

"We cracked down on no turnovers and smarter shots in the second half," said senior Jansen Edmiston, who finished with 13 points and a team-high nine rebounds. "We'd been practicing for a couple days how to break (the press). We'd seen film on them, we watched them play Pendleton who they played in their play-in game, so we just studied them for a couple days and knew how to do it."

Hoffert said the third quarter, during which the Bulldogs outscored Liberty 20-7, went even better than he could have hoped.

"It was the game plan, two times better than we did it in practice," he said. "We executed everything See BULLDOGS/3B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

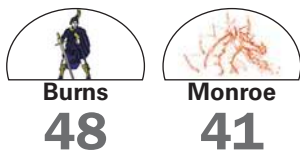
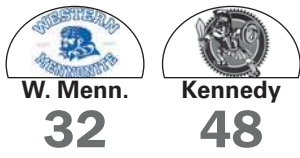
Hermiston's Jansen Edmiston shoots the ball guarded by Liberty's Andrea Gallegos in the Bulldogs' 71-48 win against the Falcons on Friday in Hermiston.

2A Semifinals

Boys Hoops

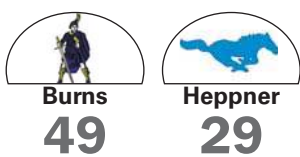
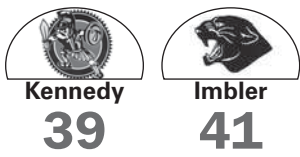


Girls Hoops

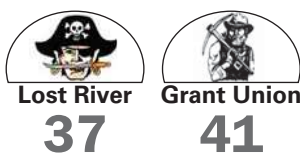
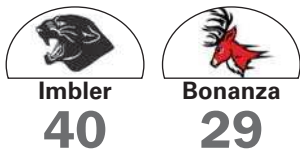


2A Consolation

Boys Hoops



Girls Hoops



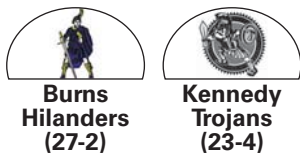
2A FINALS

Boys Hoops



• Today, 8:15 p.m.
• at Convention Center

Girls Hoops



• Today, 6:30 p.m.
• at Convention Center

PENDLETON

Hilanders bring the end for Mustangs



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Heppner's Patrick Collins hugs head coach Jeremy Rosenbalm after fouling out late in the Mustangs' 49-29 loss to Burns on Friday in Pendleton.

Heppner's offense off mark for second day in a row

By MATT ENTRUP

East Oregonian

Two games does not define the Heppner Mustangs' boys basketball team.

That was the message coach Jeremy Rosenbalm left his team with following their 49-29 loss to Burns in the consolation bracket of the OSAA 2A state tournament on Friday.

For the second day in a row, the Mustangs struggled to find their shot and finished a mere 10 for 43 (23.3 percent) from the field as the Hilanders pulled away with a pedestrian 17 of 48 (35.4 percent).

The loss brought a disappointing end to what could only be considered a successful season for the Columbia Basin Conference and district champions, and Rosenbalm made sure

See HEPPNER/2B

PENDLETON

Regis coasts into boys championship game

Rams use 20-2 run in first half to seal the win

By ERIC SINGER

East Oregonian

For the first time since 2008, the Regis Rams are back in the state championship game.

The No. 1 seed Rams defeated the No. 4 seed Western Mennonite Pioneers 47-25 in the semifinals on Friday afternoon in a game they never trailed, controlling every aspect of the game starting with the opening tip.

Rams coach Tony Miller said that the teams effort all around was outstanding, but emphasized that the defensive end is where the game was won.

"Knowing them as well as they know us and playing them for the fourth time this season I felt it was our team defense was amazing," he said. "We recognized what we needed to do and recognized what they were trying to attack and the guys preparation over the season just shifted right into it."

The last time the Rams reached the title game was as a 3A school in 2008, when they won the state title 49-36 over Horizon Christian. Senior captain Sam Nieslanik said that winning the title would be



Regis' Bryce Piete drives past Western Mennonite's Cobly Williams in the Rams' 47-25 win against the Pioneers on Friday in Pendleton.

Photo by E.J. Harris

inside to combat two quick lay-ins by the Pioneers to put the Rams up 6-4 — which is as close as the Pioneers would get.

The Rams went on a 20-2 run over the next 8:06 of game time to take a controlling 26-8 lead, and cruised into a 26-11 lead at the break. Romer there on out, the Rams focused on ball movement and running their offensive sets until they had an open shot, running a lot of time off the clock in the half.

Offensively, the Rams were very balanced with only one player breaking into double figures — Bryce Piete with 10 points. After that, four players added seven points or more to contribute to the teams' outstanding 20-35 (57 percent) shooting totals. Regis also dominated the glass, out-rebounding the Pioneers 28-15 — led by Nieslanik with eight.

On the other bench, the Pioneers were led by freshman Johnny Williams with nine points on three 3-pointers, as the team shot just 10-34 (29 percent) for the game.

Regis will take on Vernonia for the 2A title game today at 8:15 p.m. at the Convention Center, while Western Mennonite will play against Bandon for third place with tip-off set for 3:15 p.m.

See 2A BOYS/3B

the best way to end his basketball career.

"It's a state title and it's something you dream about," he said. "A lot of us won't be moving on to the next level, playing (Division I) sports or be in the NBA, so this is something we

all looked to and thought about and finally it's a reality and now we just have to finish it off." Regis came out from the start and delivered several blows to the Pioneers in the first quarter. In the early minutes, Regis started off with back-to-back 3-point plays