2A Girls Basketball

Trojans make history with win

Kennedy advances to first state final in school history

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the first time in school history, the Kennedy Trojans are heading to the state championship game.

The No. 1 seeded Trojans punched their ticket with a 48-32 win over the defending state champion and No. 4 seed Western Mennonite Pioneers on Friday afternoon in the 2A semifinals at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Trojans co-coach Peter Hall said that getting that state championship banner to hang in the school gym is something he wants for this years' team.

"I think it would be nice to know that when you go into our gym, you'll have that banner up there, and it's up there forever," he said. "Everyone will remember that first one. I look forward to that a lot. That's the memorable moment because you think, we're changing history, we're changing our culture."

Senior Kenzie Ratliff was one of two players in double figures in the game for Kennedy, finishing with 15 points and 13 rebounds and fellow senior Lakin Susee added 14 points.

The Trojans (23-4) came out of the gates against the Pioneers strong, jumping to a 15-5 lead by the end of the first quarter, and kept the lead at 10 as the teams went into halftime.

The Pioneers made a push in the second half, eventually cutting the lead down to 32-27 with 6:45 left to play in the fourth quarter. The push forced a Trojans timeout as the coaches felt the team just needed to re-gather its composure.

"It's such a fast-paced game and both teams were very talented, so we knew we had to have that moment of composure to just take a breath," Peter Hall said. "We just had to take a moment, look at the clock and just think that we had to finish the game and be ahead, and it doesn't matter if its one point or 20."

The breather worked for the Trojans, as a 3-poitner by Susee out of the break sparked a 16-5 run to finish out the quarter and the game to advance the Trojans.

Maddie Hull led the Pioneers with 11 points and Maddie Hopper had 10 points and 12 rebounds. The Pioneers will play Monroe today at 1:30 p.m. for third place.

Kennedy will play today at 6:30 p.m. against the Burns Hilanders for the 2A state championship game.

"It feels pretty darn amazing, but we know we have one game left," said coach Kerry Hall. "I think it's going to take what it took today — teamwork, defense, hustle and leaving everything on the floor."

WMS (21-7)	5	8	10	9	—	32
KHS (23-4)	15	8	9	16	—	48

WESTERN MENNONITE — M. Hull 11, M. Hopper 10, K. Louthan 7, L. Pack 3, S. Mansour 1, A. Hess, B. Freeman.
KENNEDY — K. Ratliff 15, L. Susee 14, H. Arritola 7, T. Brown 6, K. Cantu 2, M. Jaeger 2, A. Frey 2, K. Brown, M. Sanchez.
3-pointers — WMS 1, KHS 4. Free throws — WMS 11-20, KHS 10-15. Fouls — WMS 16, KHS 16. Fouled out — T. Brown (KHS).

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The Kennedy Trojans celebrate their 48-32 win against Western Mennonite on Friday in the state 2A basketball tournament in Pendleton.

BURNS 48, MONROE 41 (OT) — The Burns Hilanders are back in the 2A state championship game for the second-consecutive season with a 48-41 win over the Monroe Dragons in overtime on Friday night at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Lindsey Taylor led the Hilanders (27-2) with 23 points on 8-20 shooting, nailing three 3-pointers and grabbing 12 rebounds. As a team, Burns shot 17-62 (27 percent) but grabbed an incredible 61 rebounds to Monroe's (26-2) 33. Catherine Clemens was the teams' high rebounder with 15.

The teams were even in the first quarter, with Burns leading 14-13 before the Hilanders blew the game open in the second quarter as they outscored the Dragons 12-2 to grab a 26-15 lead at halftime.

After a deadlocked third quarter that kept the Hilanders' lead at 10, the Dragons made a run in the fourth quarter to grab a 15-4 advantage, tying the game at 39-39 with just 11 seconds left in the game by Peyton Greene to send the game to overtime.

But in the extra period, it was all Hilanders as they outscored the Dragons 9-2 to grab the win.

Burns will play Kennedy today at 6:30 p.m. for the 2A title, while Monroe will play at 1:30 p.m. against Western Mennonite for third place.

BHS (27-2)	14	12	9	4	9	— 48
MHS (26-2)	13	2	9	15	2	— 41

BURNS — L. Taylor 23, C. Feist 7, M. Carson 6, C. Clemens 5, A. Nonnenmacher 5, O. West 2, S. Shelman.
MONROE — M. Ballard 24, R. Gwillim 8, P. Greene 4, K. Martin 3, K. Martin 2, E. Holmes, C. Knaggs, R. Ballard, E. Stahl.
3-pointers — BHS 3, MHS 3. Free throws — BHS 11-24, MHS 4-7. Fouls — BHS 14, MHS 21. Fouled out — P. Greene (MHS).

IMBLER 40, BONANZA 29 — The Imbler Panthers kept its season alive for one more day as the No. 12 seed Panthers knocked off the No. 9 seed Bonanza Antlers in a consolation game on Friday morning.

Imbler (17-8) featured three players in double figures on offense, as Lexee Robertson had 12 points to go with 11 rebounds, Katie Barry had 12 points, and Kailey Smith had 11 points. As a team, Imbler shot 14-38 (36 percent) from the floor and won the rebound battle 38-31.

Bonanza (21-7) shot 19 percent (11-56) from the floor and had no players reach double figures. Whitnee Dirk led the team with eight points on 3-13 shooting.

The Panthers trailed the Antlers 8-6 after the first quarter, but used a 14-7 advantage in the second quarter to grab a 20-15 lead at halftime and never looked back.

Imbler will now play Grant Union today at 9 a.m. for fourth place at the Pendleton Convention Center.

IHS (17-8)	6	14	6	14	—	40
BHS (21-7)	8	7	2	12	—	29

IMBLER — L. Robertson 12, K. barry 12, K. Smith 11, J. Rudd 4, W. Wilber 1, H. Kilpatrick, A. Felk, M. Hassan, B. Hassan, F. Burnette, M. Hoskin.
BONANZA — W. Dirk 8, K. Dirk 7, J. Batterman 5, B. Dirk 5, S. Woodworth 2, R. Banderas 2, R. Anderson, M. Pitcock, H. Lee, C. Munson.
3-pointers — IHS 0, BHS 1. Free throws — IHS 12-23, BHS 6-9. Fouls — IHS 12, BHS 24. Fouled out — B. Dirk (BHS), J. Batterman (BHS).

GRANT UNION 41, LOST RIVER 37 — The Grant Union Prospectors held off a furious second half comeback from the Lost River Raiders to advance further in the consolation bracket on Friday morning.

> "Everyone will remember that first one. I look forward to that a lot. That's the memorable moment because you think, we're changing history, we're changing our culture."
>
> **— Peter Hall,** Trojans co-coach

Grant Union (23-6) led Lost River (19-7) 29-16 at halftime before the Raiders flipped the switch out of the halftime break. Lost River out-scored Grant Union 21-12 in the second half, as the teams' offenses effectively switched places.

Grant Union shot 10-26 (38 percent) in the first half and then fell to 2-16 (12 percent) in the second half, while Lost River shot 6-24 (25 percent) in the first half and 8-18 (44 percent) in the second half. The Prospectors were able to nail 8-9 from the free throw line to hang on to the win.

Keri Pentzer led the Prospectors in scoring with over half the teams' points — 25 of them to be exact. Pentzer only shot 6-19 from the field, but hit 13 of her 15 free throw attempts. The teams' next highest scorer was Mariah Moulton with nine points.

Lost River's offense was carried by Rachel Parks with 19 points, as 15 of them came off of 3-pointers. She had three 3-pointers and 11 points in the second half.

The Prospectors will now play Imbler today at 9 a.m. for fourth place at the Pendleton Convention Center.

LRHS (19-7)	8	8	13	8	—	37
GUHS (23-6)	17	12	4	8	—	41

LOST RIVER — R. Parks 19, T. Aluskin 6, J. Coblan 6, M. Storer 4, M. Girtman 2, C. O'Grady.
GRANT UNION — K. Pentzer 25, M. Moulton 9, H. Mosley 4, S. Brock 3, K. Wright, M. Wilson.
3-pointers — LRHS 5, GUHS 4. Free throws — LRHS 4-7, GUHS 13-16. Fouls — LRHS 14, GUHS 8.

BULLDOGS: Liberty's Jaidyn Thomas led the game with 19 points

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defensively, offensively, and it just sort of clicked."

Ramirez added 12 points and eight rebounds and sophomore Maddy Juul chipped in 11 points. The Bulldogs out-rebounded Liberty 40-28 while causing 23 turnovers and committing just 14.

Liberty's Jaidyn Thomas led the game with 19 points and Pimentel added 16.

The win earned the Bulldogs a seventh-straight trip to the state quarterfinals and the bracket's final site, which will begin Wednesday at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

While the Falcons may not have given the Bulldogs much preparation in the way of a tightly contested game, they did help them prepare for the physical style of play they expect to encounter. Liberty was whistled for 24 fouls, a number most purple and gold clad fans in attendance felt could have been much higher — and they weren't wrong. The Bulldogs were able to match the Falcons in the physicality department, though, without racking up fouls of their own and finished with seven.

"Usually we don't play very physical teams and so playing a physical team was nice because now we're going to be playing more physical teams a state," Edmiston said. "So it's a good refresher of better teams than were in our conference."

The No. 5 Bulldogs will open the tournament bracket against hometown favorite No. 4 Corvallis at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

"We're excited because we've been working really hard in practice and we were kind of upset with last year's results," Andreason said of their 51-46 loss in the championship game, "so it's a good feeling to get back."

"They know that this game is the only way they're going to get back to have a shot," Hoffert said. "If we don't win that first game we don't get a shot at what we want. My seniors keep the team focused and they know that one game at a time was how we got to the finals last year, and so that's how we're going to approach it this year."

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Sara Ramirez shoots the ball in front of Liberty's Cami Smotherman in the Bulldogs' 71-48 win against the Falcons on Friday in Hermiston.

LHS (13-12)	11	14	7	16	—	48
HHS (22-3)	20	14	20	17	—	71

LIBERTY — J. Thomas 19, Ke. Pimentel 16, A. Grenfell 9, C. Smotherman 2, A. Gallegos 2, Ka. Pimentel, B. Romeo, K. Magera, M. Jobe, C. Estocapio, E. Maki, M. Williams.
HERMISTON — R. Andreason 15, J. Edmiston 13, S. Ramirez 12, M. Juul 11, H. Meyers 7, S. Gilbert 7, K. Heehn 3, K. Padilla 2, C. Wheeler 1, H. Thompson, J. Thomas.
3-pointers — LHS 7, HHS 4. Free throws — LHS 5-8, HHS 11-32. Fouls — LHS 24, HHS 7. Fouled out — E. Maki, A. Gallegos (LHS).

2A BOYS: Vernonia will play against Regis for the championship

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WMS (20-8)	6	5	7	7	—	25
RHS (24-3)	17	9	9	12	—	47

WESTERN MENNONITE — J. Williams 9, C. Williams 4, S. Hess 4, D. Domes 4, N. O'Neill 2, I. Rush 1, C. Nofziger 1, D. Gray, C. Roth, D. Berkey, M. Hull, K. Hull.
REGIS — B. Piete 10, B. Woodcock 8, S. Nieslanik 7, A. Schmitt 7, B. Piete 7, T. Williams 6, S. Kelley 2, C. Gescher, G. Minten, A. Moore, R. Boyd, G. Brown.
3-pointers — WMS 3, RHS 1. Free throws — WMS 2-5, RHS 6-11. Fouls — WMS 15, RHS 12.

VERNONIA 51, BANDON 39 — The Vernonia Loggers came into the 2A semifinal on a 26-game winning streak, and on Friday they extended that streak to 27 as they defeated the Bandon Tigers to advance to the state championship game.

The appearance on Saturday will be the first trip back to the title game since 1995, and the team will also be searching for its first championship since winning back-to-back titles in 1977-1978.

The Loggers (27-1) were paced on offense by Tristan Adams with 19 points on 7-10 shooting, including 5-8 from the 3-point line. As a team, Vernonia shot 39 percent from the floor (19-48) and nailed 8-22 attempts from 3-point range.

The game featured only one tie and two lead changes as the Loggers controlled the score for the majority of the game. Bandon tied the game and then took an 8-7 lead with one minute left in the first quarter on a 3-point play by Tristan Davidson, but then Vernonia took the lead back at 9-8 with 48 seconds left on a lay-up by Luke McCallum.

From there it was all Loggers, as they used a 10-2 run over the first four minutes of the second quarter to gather the momentum and the advantage and run away with the victory.

Vernonia will play today at 8:15 p.m. against Regis for the championship, while Bandon will play Western Mennonite at 3:15 p.m. for third place.

BHS (23-5)	8	8	12	11	—	39
VHS (27-1)	9	16	13	13	—	51

BANDON — A. Moore 13, T. Davidson 12, A. Smith 10, Z. Olive 2, T. Dyer 2, M. Brown.
VERNONIA — T. Adams 19, B. Jones 8, R. Connor 8, C. Sullivan 5, L. McCallum 4, B. Elliot 4, A. Schlemann 2, F. Mian 1, J. Medearis.
3-pointers — BHS 2, VHS 8. Free throws — BHS 7-14, VHS 5-8. Fouls — BHS 10, VHS 15.

IMBLER 41, KENNEDY 39 — The Panthers kept its season alive for one more day after they held off against a second half charge by the Kennedy Trojans on Friday to advance to the third-place game on Saturday.

Photo by E.J. Harris

Regis' Bryce Piete drives on Western Mennonite's Niko O'Neill in the Rams' 47-25 win against the Pioneers in Friday in Pendleton.

Imbler (21-4) led for the entire game, jumping on Kennedy early and often to the tune of a 12-4 lead by the end of the first quarter. The defenses took over in the second quarter as Kennedy got the score within 18-13 as the teams headed to break.

Kennedy (15-12) made a charge in the second half, outscoring the Panthers 26-23 but the Trojans simply ran out of time.

For the game, the Panthers shot 16-41 (39 percent) and won the rebound battle 35-29. Marshal Whitaker led the Panthers with 15 points, while Brandon McGilvray had 10.

For Kennedy, Jacob Lopez had 14 points, while Brett Traeger and Jack Suing each had nine.

Imbler next plays Burns today at 10:45 a.m. for third place.

KHS (15-12)	4	9	12	14	—	39
IHS (21-4)	12	6	12	11	—	41

KENNEDY — J. Lopez 14, B. Traeger 9, J. Suing 9, O. Seiler 3, B. Mitchell 2, T. Schmidt 2, R. Carley, D. Arritola.
IMBLER — M. Whitaker 15, B. McGilbray 10, T. VanCleave 8, G. Ryan 4, H. VanLeuven 2, J. Teeter 2, T. Riggle, A. Kanoho, I. Mowery.
3-pointers — KHS 3, IHS 2. Free throws — KHS 10-16, IHS 7-11. Fouls — KHS 16, IHS 16. Fouled out — J. Suing (KHS).