

Prep Rodeo

Sorey, Smith continue hot streak

Intermountain team ropers win title in Hermiston

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Team ropers Trent Sorey and Calgary Smith are getting hot at just the right time and continued their climb in the season standings by winning the aggregate title at the Intermountain High School Rodeo in Hermiston over the weekend.

Sorey, of Pendleton, and Smith, of Adams, were the fastest in each competition round to win with 12.83 seconds on two head. They started the weekend with a 5.56 to win the first half of the doubleheader rodeo, then posted a 7.27 to win the second half and give them a streak of three straight wins. The pair has shot up the season leaderboard with 37 points on their last four steers and trail event leaders Zach and Jake Raley by one point, 48-47, after the brothers from Brush Prairie, Washington, scored just nine points in Hermiston.

Smith also won the boys’ Papa Murphy’s All-Around title and the Boulet Boots that came with it. He also won one round

of tie-down roping to finish with 30 points and edge teammate Preston Pederson of Hermiston, who finished with 26.

Pederson won two event aggregate titles — tie-down, 24.24 on two, and steer wrestling, 7.6 on one. He was also the champion cow cutter for the boys with 284 points on two, but those points did not factor into the all-around standings.

Pederson’s finish in the cutting unofficially ties him for the season championship, but he’s still awaiting final word from the Oregon High School Rodeo Association’s number crunchers.

No other Intermountain team members won event titles in Hermiston, but Heppner’s Jacee Currin was the top girls’ rookie and finished with 40 total points while winning the second round of goat tying in 7.89 seconds.

Hope Luttrell of Carlton won the girls’ all-around with 54 points and was the aggregate champion in barrel racing with 35.102 on two, and breakaway roping with 5.93 on two.

Dawson Branton of Jefferson was the boys’ rookie champion with 23 points and won the first round of bull riding with an 81-point ride.

Chase Dougherty of Woodburn won the bull riding

aggregate with 154 on two, and other event winners were: Orrin Ouska of Dundee in bareback, 128 on two; Joe Scott in saddle bronc, 121 on two; Maria Millard of White City in pole bending, 41.050 on two; Kimmer Severance of Prineville in goat tying, 16.13 on two; Aimee Davis of Central Point in girls’ cutting, 286 on two.

Intermountain team coach Curtis Pederson said it was lot of work for the team to host the three-day rodeo, but he was happy to see their effort in working the rodeo as well as competing.

“We really tried to produce a good rodeo and we had a strong showing out of our own team while they were working at it and producing the rodeo, and that was nice to see,” he said, adding the team’s family members and sponsors also stepped up big to make it a successful weekend for all. “The sponsors that we have to represent the rodeo is really what makes the rodeo fly, and makes the weekend fly. (The team’s) got strong Umatilla and Morrow County support, from the whole nine yards we get a good support group and good sponsors.”

Next on the schedule for Oregon’s high school rodeo season is the Prineville doubleheader on May 7-8.

BLAZERS: Crabbe shakes from 3-point funk

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last season against Houston in the Western Conference semifinals.

Aminu opened the scoring for the Blazers with pair of 3-pointers and a pair of free throws, and Portland jumped out to an early 20-12 lead despite Lillard’s trouble seeing a clear shot.

The Clippers were cold except for Paul, who was 6-for-6 from the field in the first quarter for Los Angeles’ first 12 points. J.J. Redick went 0 for 6 before he was subbed out.

Both teams struggled from the field for much of the half. But Allen Crabbe, who had missed his first 10 3-point attempts in the series, finally hit one to put Portland up 34-26

with just under 6 minutes to go before the break.

DeAndre Jordan shot airballs on two free throws late and the Clippers trailed 47-43 at the half. The teams shot a combined 34.5 percent in the half.

The Blazers pulled ahead 77-68 on Maurice Harkless’ follow shot with 7:27 left, the largest lead of the game to that point, and cruised from there.

TIP-INS

Clippers: Redick has been bothered by a sore left heel that has limited him in practice. Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he’s not sure how much the injury has impacted Redick, because he hasn’t asked him. “I just don’t like asking because I think at the end of the day, if you are out on the floor, you’re healthy,” Rivers said.

Trail Blazers: The Blazers had 12 turnovers in the first half.

LOOKING AHEAD?

The winner of the series between the Blazers and the Clippers will face the winner of the series between Golden State and the Houston Rockets. The Warriors are up 3-1, but are expected to be without Stephen Curry for at least two weeks because of a sprained right MCL.

So both Portland’s Terry Stotts and Rivers were asked before the game if they were looking ahead at the possibility of facing the Curry-less Warriors.

“It’s pretty easy for me not to do the math,” Rivers said. “We have Damian Lillard and McCollum in front of us right now.”

BULLDOGS: Jones, Englebrecht power softball past Eagles in opener

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score didn’t reflect the Bulldogs’ hot start.

After being held to two runs in the first game, the Hermiston bats exploded for five runs in the first inning and four runs in the second.

Despite the strong showing at the plate, Hermiston (9-8, 2-3 CRC) wasn’t able to hang onto the lead against the third ranked team in the state.

After the Eagles (15-3, 5-0 CRC) went down 1-2-3 in the first inning, Hood River matched Hermiston with five runs in the second inning and four runs in the third.

The Bulldogs continued to get on base against Hood River pitcher Isaiah Enriquez, but didn’t score after the second inning.

Meanwhile, the Eagles continued to rack up runs, plating six in the fourth and four in the fifth.

The Hermiston coaching staff made several pitching changes, but neither Tyler Sexton, Slade Gritz, Andrew James or Kody Moss could solve the Eagles line-up.

The Bulldogs pitching staff also had to deal with a couple of fielding errors and gusty game conditions that led to some routine outs becoming hits.

Given that both teams dealt with the windy conditions, Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins didn’t buy the weather as an excuse for his team’s performance. “That isn’t an issue in my book,” Hawkins said.

Hood River is well known for its offense — the Eagles averaged 7.8 runs per game going into Saturday’s contest — and Hawkins said the Bulldog defense couldn’t allow them to extend innings.

“They teed off on us,” said R.J. Robles, who played outfield in the Game 2. Pitching for the Bulldogs in the first game, Robles kept the Eagles’ potent line-up at bay for most of the game.

Hermiston scored a run in the top of the first and Robles pitched a no-hitter through the fifth inning.

But opposing pitcher Patrick Harvey broke up the bid with a home run and also hit the decisive double that put the Eagles up for good.

Hermiston will try to bounce back with a third game against Hood River Tuesday at Armand Larive.

Softball

HERMISTON 9-0, HOOD RIVER 4-10 — At Hermiston, Ellery Jones hit a two-run home run in the fourth inning and Rebecca Englebrecht hit a three-run homer in the sixth to lift Hermiston to a 9-4 win over Hood River in the first half of their CRC doubleheader on Saturday.

The Bulldogs tallied 11 hits in the win, but couldn’t keep the production up in the second game and only had one runner past first base in a five-hit, 10-0 loss.

In Game 1, Hood River (9-9, 2-3 CRC) went up 4-0 after scoring three runs in the top of the third thanks to a couple of Hermiston (12-7, 3-2) errors and a Zoe Munn double, but Bulldogs pitcher Julissa Almaguer was able to lean on her defense from there.

Almaguer, who finished with three strikeouts and two walks, induced ground ball after ground ball in the later innings and the defense played clean ball to erase Hood River scoring chances in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings.

Jones’ two-run shot in the third began the comeback and Hermiston added seven runs on seven hits in the sixth.

Amanda Barron’s two-out single scored Mikayla Kopacz for the eventual game-winning run. Englebrecht (2 for 4), Jones (3 for 4), Kopacz (2 for 4) and Kylie Hinkley (2 for 2) led the Bulldogs hitters.

In Game 2, Hood River took the lead with a two-out rally in the first inning when Janessa Castaneda capped a string of four straight singles with a two-RBI hit to left field.

Hermiston pitcher Taylor Betz struck out five and walked none, but gave up 14 hits and the Hermiston defense committed six errors behind her.

The Bulldogs will meet the Eagles again today at 4:30 p.m. in Hood River.

Game 1				R	H	E
HRV	013000	0	—	4	8	3
HHS	000207	X	—	9	11	4
W — Julissa Almaguer, L — Lauren Decker.						
2B — Zoe Munn (HRV); Rebecca Englebrecht (HHS). HR — R. Engelbrecht, Ellery Jones (HHS).						

Game 2				R	H	E
HRV	202010	5	—	10	14	1
HHS	000000	0	—	0	5	6
W — Hannah McMerney, L — Taylor Betz.						
2B — Jamie Hinkley (HHS).						

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Personals 20

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