

Prep Roundup

Grizzlies volleyball splits last day of regular season

East Oregonian

HELIX — The Helix Grizzlies ended the 2016 regular season schedule with an up-and-down day, upsetting the Powder Valley Badgers 3-1 before losing to the Wallowa Cougars 3-1.

Against Powder Valley, the Grizzlies (17-9, 8-6 Old Oregon League) won 25-23, 25-20, 13-25, and 25-20, getting revenge from a 3-0 sweep by the Badgers earlier this season. In the match, Ari Krol (14-14) and Charmayne Bennett (12-12) each were perfect from the serving line, and Kailey Mize had a big performance with 12 kills and 14 blocks.

“(Powder Valley) is kind of our rival and the girls were well-prepared for them, came out and worked hard,” Helix coach Dianna Anderson said. “It was prob-

ably one of our best games of the year.”

Then against Wallowa, which had won just five games all season, Helix fell 16-26, 25-20, 17-25, and 22-25. It was also the second time the Grizzlies fell to the Cougars this season.

“We just kind of fell apart,” Anderson said.

Krol had another great match from the serving line, going 17-17, and Mize pitched in eight kills to lead the team.

Helix will now host Cove on Tuesday evening at 5 p.m. for an Old Oregon League district play-in game.

VALE 3, IRRIGON 0 — At Vale, the Irrigon Knights lost for the fifth time in the last seven games with a sweep from the Vale Vikings 25-7, 25-4, 25-14 on Saturday afternoon.



Photo courtesy of John Braese/Malheur Enterprise

Irrigon junior Mya Chapman waits to hit the ball as teammates Jada Burns (5), Taylor Davis (10) and Leticia Ramirez (1) look on against Vale on Saturday. Vale won the match 3-0.

The Knights (15-13, 4-6 Eastern Oregon League) also fell to Nyssa 3-1 on Saturday to end the regular season slate.

VALE 3, RIVERSIDE 0 — At Vale, the Riverside Pirates ended the regular season getting swept by the Vale Vikings 25-9, 25-11, 25-9 on Saturday afternoon. The Pirates also were swept by Nyssa earlier in the day.

Riverside finishes the season at 3-18 overall and 1-9 in the Eastern Oregon League.

BURNS 3, UMATILLA 0 — At Vale and Burns, Umatilla ended its 2016 season on the road on Saturday, getting swept by the Vale Vikings and Burns Hilanders.

Against Vale, Umatilla lost 25-7, 25-14, 25-9, and then against Burns the Vikings fell 25-13, 25-12, 25-13.

Umatilla ends the season at 2-22 overall and 1-9 in Eastern Oregon League.

ONTARIO 3, MAC-HI 0 — At Milton-Freewater, the Pioneers ended the 2016 season with a tough loss to the Ontario Tigers on Saturday afternoon but went down fighting, 25-9, 25-19, and 25-18.

“I was proud of how well they played (in the second and third set) and that they didn’t give up on the ball,” said Mac-Hi coach Amanda Nelson. “They really came together as a team (Saturday).”

Team leaders were Cynthia Flores and Brooke Smiley with three kills each, and Anney Banek with two kills and eight assists. Smiley added six digs and two aces, and Flores also had two blocks and an ace.

Mac-Hi finished the year at 1-12 overall and 0-6 in the Greater Oregon League.

BLANC’S BOXING: Club saving up to purchase its own ring

Continued from 1B

consists of 15-20 kids from middle school age to high school learning the basics of the sport of boxing. The club has since transformed a small weight gym at Sunridge Middle School into a boxing gym, complete with a few punching bags hanging from the ceiling.

The club practices four times per week Monday through Thursday after school, working on the fundamentals such as footwork and bag work and also focusing on endurance with plenty of jogging and jump rope exercises. Blanc says that sparring, which is essentially practice, is not allowed until the fighters have reached a certain experience and training level, which is a reason he believes the sport is unjustly labeled as dangerous — to a point.

“The kids never just go slug it out all the time, they’re not just taking blow after blow to their heads,” he said. “You’re not really getting hit more or harder than you are in football or any other contact sport.

“Honestly I’d say football is more dangerous than boxing, at least amateur boxing,” Blanc added. “It’s only three minutes and three rounds, they have protective headgear ... amateur boxing is all about safety so they

learn. But at the (professional) level, yeah they just try to knock each other out.”

But why does Blanc go through all the trouble to teach a sport that often times is described as a dying sport?

“Boxing shows who people really are,” he said. “It’s an outlet for some of these kids ... it teaches them discipline, it teaches them respect. Anyone who steps in a ring gets respect and any kid who thinks they’re tough will learn they’re really not when they get in the ring for the first time.”

Mike Brooks is one of those kids that has learned a lot about himself since starting the sport and joining the club at its inception.

“My dad was former military and we moved a lot, so I kinda was bullied when I was younger, always being the new kid on the block,” Brooks said. “But with boxing I can just go in the ring and take it all out. I like having the mental state of I can do anything if I just put my heart into it.”

Brooks, a 16 year old and sophomore at Pendleton High School, just completed his 10th fight of his career in the 16-year-old novice class, and is also joined by his younger brother Josh in the boxing club, with Josh competing in the 13-year-old novice class. Their father, Robert, also

assists Blanc with coaching at the gym.

“(Robert’s) kids were some of the first that started coming, and so then he started coming often,” Blanc said. “I needed the help so I asked and him ... with practices I can’t always be there and he’s been a huge, huge help.”

Blanc and Brooks recently got to showcase some of their coaching skills on Saturday, when Blanc’s Boxing hosted its first-ever boxing event, Meet in the Middle invitational, on Saturday at the Pendleton Convention Center. After two-plus years of constant travel to cities such as Portland, Bend, Seattle, Spokane, Washington, or Boise, Idaho to compete, the duo wanted to attract all of those clubs to their hometown and put on a show for the hometown crowd. They also wanted to start raising some more money for the club to help grow it in the years to come.

“We’re saving up for our own ring,” Blanc said, as the club has to travel to Kennewick to train in a ring and had to borrow one for the event. “We’re going to start putting on more events here to get some money, and ideally we’d like to have our own gym space, too, and hopefully (Saturday) could spark some interest and community support.”



Coach Michael Blanc counsels his boxer Randy Davis between rounds Saturday during the 2016 Meet in the Middle Invitational at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

MEET IN MIDDLE: Murillo wins main event

Continued from 1B

bummer that I lost though.”

Brooks, in his second year of boxing, took on Eduardo Colon from Fearless Boxing in Central Point in a 145 pound bout, which Colon won with a unanimous decision. The three-round fight started off pretty even through the first round, however Colon jumped on Brooks at the start of the second round and carried the pace the rest of the way to the win.

“I could’ve done more, but I just didn’t have enough energy today,” Brooks said. “My mental state was telling me to get in there and throw some more hits, but my body was saying give up, but I stuck with my head and pushed as much as I could.”

The other local competitors included Josh Brooks in

the 14 year old novice class and Randy Davis in the 13 year old novice class. Brooks sparred with Santiago Franco from Rip City Boxing in Portland in a 120 pound bout, which Franco won with a unanimous decision, and Davis battled Jevon Rodriguez from Nampa PAL club in Nampa, Idaho in a 118 pound fight, which Rodriguez also won with a unanimous decision.

“The guys just didn’t perform to their best,” Blanc said.

To finish off the evening, Boardman native Omar Murillo, training at Wildcat Boxing in Salem, made a trip back to eastern Oregon to fight in the main event. Murillo’s faced off against Drenta Vasile of Azteca Boxing Gym near Seattle in the Senior-Open class, and battled for every minute of the

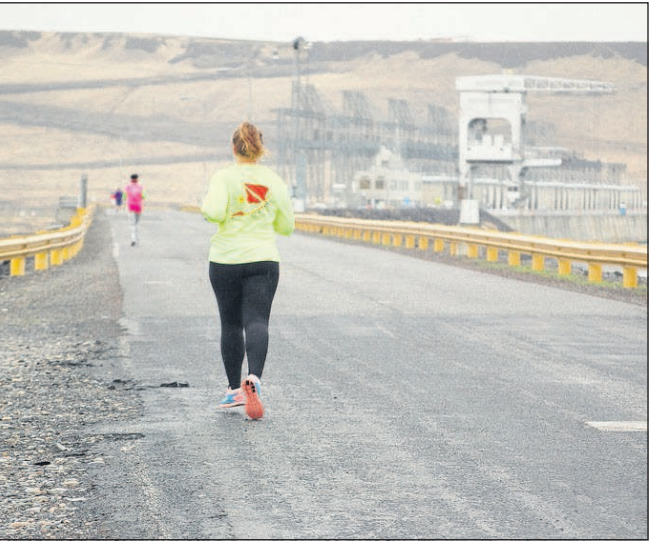
three, three-minute rounds.

Murillo and Vasile spent the first round pretty even before Murillo started making his move in the second round, landing numerous heavy punches. The 22-year-old Murillo picked up the pace even more in the third round and finished out the match with the clear victory, earning a unanimous decision win from the judges.

Following the conclusion of the event, Blanc stood in the center of the ring and thanked the crowd and fighters for coming out to the event and sent them home with one final thought.

“We will do this again next year,” he exclaimed.

Contact Eric at esinger@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0839. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Participants in Saturday’s Columbia River “Best Dam” Power Run head across the access road on top of McNary Lock and Dam near Umatilla.

DAM RUN: Still room for entrants in last ‘A Very Poplar Run’

Continued from 1B

respectively. Hodge stopped the clock in 44 minutes, 19 seconds, and Holt cross the finish line after 46:21.

Winners in the men’s and women’s 5K were Crispin Garza of Selah, Washington in 22:20 and Mary Renteria Castellanos of Hermiston in 26:32.

Also a fundraiser for Agape House, which provides assistance with basic necessities for the needy, people can still register for Saturday’s A Very Poplar Run. Held at the tree farm at Greenwood Resources in Boardman, it’s the last time

the event will be held as the property has been sold.

The event features a 1-mile kids’ run, and 5K, 10K and 15K runs. The cost is \$25, if pre-registered at www.eost.biz/averypoplarrun or at Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. Also, people can register and pick-up race packets Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Oxford Suites, 1050 N First St., Hermiston.

All participants will receive a finisher’s plaque, and a slice of poplar tree unique to the event. The venue features warming stations and free hot dogs and beverages.

On-site registration is Saturday from 7-9:45 a.m. at the tree farm, 77200 Poleline Road, Boardman. The kids’ race begins at 9:45 a.m., the 15K at 10:30 a.m., 10K at 10:45 a.m. and 5K at 11:15 a.m.

Money raised from both events help Agape House in providing services and programs to people in need. For more information or to volunteer for a 2-hour shift at Saturday’s race, call 541-567-8774.

“Best Dam” Power Run Finishers and their times:

10K - Male:

Joe Hodge (Hermiston) 44:19
Hector M. Garza (Umatilla) 45:08
Dan Winters (Pendleton) 46:55
Jacob Zumwalt (Hermiston) 53:47

Buz Olson (Hermiston) 1:00:56

10K - Female:

Rosa Holt (Stanfield) 46:21
Emily Ernst (Hermiston) 47:00
Marcy Wattenburger (Hermiston) 57:51

Michelle Fain (Benton City) 1:11:35
Ellyannah Brown, 13, (Stanfield) 1:17:46
Lily Volger, 13, (Echo) 1:17:48
Heather Demos (Hermiston) 1:21:16
Marilee Cottrell (Hermiston) 1:24:49

5K - Male:

Crispin Garza (Selah, Washington) 22:20
Divan Felton, 11, (Umatilla) 29:44
Dan Daltoso (Boardman) 30:11

5K - Female:

Mary Renteria Castellanos (Hermiston) 26:32
Alaina Lemmon (Heppner) 26:46
Hailey Daltoso, 12, (Boardman) 33:43
Sandy Renteria Castellanos (Hermiston) 34:08

Gina Phillips (Hermiston) 38:40
Katie Henskal (Kennewick) 39:13
Lynne Uitto (Hermiston) 46:22
Marlene Prather (Hermiston) 1:01:29
Lori Abbott (Hermiston) 1:01:29
Ibbet Radant (Hermiston) 1:05:21

Family Fun Walk:

Roberto Huato, 9, (Umatilla) 1:18:09
Nancy Stice (Umatilla) 1:18:10

ALCS: Miller strikes out three batters in relief, Cleveland extends winning streak to nine games

Continued from 1B

for the Indians, who took a 3-0 lead in the AL Championship Series. They are unbeaten in six playoff games this year and can complete their second consecutive sweep on Tuesday.

Six relievers combined for 25 outs and 128 pitches, limiting Toronto to two runs and seven hits. Miller got four outs for the save.

“If anybody has a hiccup, we probably lose,” Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

Indians ace Corey Kluber is scheduled to start Game 4 on short rest after Bauer’s drone-related finger injury created more upheaval in a rotation that’s been short-handed all postseason. Bauer faced only four batters before getting pulled in the first inning after his stitched-up right

pinkie began dripping blood.

Enter the stingy Cleveland relievers, who pitched the Indians to a Division Series sweep over Boston and have them on the verge of another.

“It’s a good feeling,” Kipnis said. “We’ve still got one more to get there, and it’s going to be tough. We know these guys. Just kind of like the Boston series — we don’t want to wait around for them to figure it out. We want to get to them now.”

After Bauer left with two down and two on in the first, the final 25 Toronto outs were distributed as follows: four each for Dan Otero and Jeff Manship, three for Zach McAllister, five each for Bryan Shaw and Cody Allen, and four for Miller.

“We’re having a blast. Just watch us play. Watch all the smiles. Guys are loose.

Guys are having a good time, and you’re seeing the play out there kind of reflect that attitude,” Kipnis said.

The Blue Jays have never led in the series. And when Kipnis led off the sixth with a home run to right-center field, Cleveland went up 3-2 and was suddenly just a few outs from being able to turn the game over to Allen and Miller.

They appeared in that order, yet another instance in which Francona has maneuvered his bullpen unencumbered by the idea of rigid roles. Allen, who usually closes for the Indians, came on in the seventh with a runner on and nobody out. A two-out walk to Jose Bautista led the potential tying run on, but Josh Donaldson’s liner to left field stayed up long enough for Coco Crisp to make a sliding catch.

Miller, who struck out 10

in 3 2/3 innings through the first two games of the series, fanned three batters this time.

“We knew that we could do this, where we could piece together bullpen arm by bullpen arm and go one inning, two innings and still get a win,” Kipnis said. “We’ve done it before. We have the experience.”

Cleveland has won nine straight games dating to the regular season.

Napoli entered 2 for 18 this postseason and in an 0-for-25 slump against right-handers dating to the regular season. He opened the scoring with an RBI double off righty Marcus Stroman in the first — Napoli’s long fly popped out of Bautista’s glove before both the ball and Bautista bounced off the wall in right field.

Bauer made it through only 21 pitches. He’d been pushed

back two days to Game 3 after cutting his finger last week repairing one of the drones he enjoys flying as a hobby. He received stitches and tried to pitch, but couldn’t make it through the first inning without blood dripping from his hand.

“Trevor got a little leak,” Kipnis said. “A couple of us had seen the wound kind of inside and knew it was a possibility of happening. He can deal with the pain, but it’s getting something like that to close up. It’s hard to do in a short amount of time.”

It’s yet another injury problem for a Cleveland team that couldn’t include starting pitchers Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar on its ALCS roster. Even with the Indians up 3-0, their rotation for the rest of this series isn’t a sure thing for the Indians, with Kluber coming back for Game

4 (and presumably any Game 7) on short rest and lightly used rookie Ryan Merritt lined up for Game 5.

Michael Saunders tied it for Toronto with a solo homer in the second, matching the scoring total by the Blue Jays over the first two games in Cleveland. Napoli’s solo homer in the fourth put the Indians up 2-1, but Ezequiel Carrera led off the Blue Jays fifth with a triple and scored to tie it on a grounder by Ryan Goins.

Kipnis answered with his first hit of the series, a home run that put Cleveland back ahead. And after Napoli drew a walk from Stroman and advanced to second on a wild pitch, Jose Ramirez added an RBI single off reliever Joe Biagini.

“Tito did a masterful job running that bullpen today,” Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. “They shut us down.”