

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

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1B

HERMISTON

Dawgs can't hold off Braves

Hermiston falters down the stretch in first loss of season

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

For one half on Saturday night, everything went the Hermiston Bulldogs way.

The Bulldogs were driving to the basket with ease and finishing at the rim. They were defensive stalwarts at the other end of the floor, keeping their hands in the passing lanes and forcing turnovers that kept the opposing Kamiakin Braves off the board more often than not.

Boys Hoops



58



51

In the end, the Bulldogs didn't have enough in the tank as Kamiakin left town with a 58-51 victory, the first loss for Hermiston this season.

"I give it up to Kamiakin," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said after the game. "They've got athletes, they're smart, they're well-coached and it was a good game to have for our preseason for sure. It was kind of a playoff atmosphere with a good crowd, we just have to be able to execute in the half court and get stops, which are things to build on now."

Hermiston (5-1) was boosted by an especially strong first quarter on See DAWGS/2B



Kamiakin's Garrett Paxton (11) and Thomas McCullough (32), of Hermiston, fight for a rebound Saturday during a non-conference game at the Dawg House.

Hermiston girls lose 4th straight

Bulldogs come up short against Kamiakin

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Bulldogs girls basketball team was handed its fourth straight loss on Saturday night, as the Kamiakin (WA) Braves came to The Dawghouse and left town with a 59-40 victory.

Girls Hoops



59



40

But even with those circumstances, Bulldogs coach Juan Rodriguez wasn't all that disappointed.

"Actually I'm pretty happy with the performance tonight," he said. "This last week has been kind of rough and it hasn't been anything basketball-wise, we've just been lacking leadership when we get to the tough moments. Yesterday we challenged the girls to come out and be leaders and play and compete hard and I thought they did that very well."

"I know the scoreboard doesn't reflect it and it's not something fans might see, but they came out and turned the corner psychologically and that's what's been affecting us the last few games. Sure there's lots of basketball mistakes out there, but our main concern was making sure that psychologically we are ready to play for the rest of the season."

The Bulldogs (2-4) started the game playing well, displaying great ball movement on offense and giving great efforts on the defensive end of the floor. Hermiston led for the entire first quarter and held a 9-7

See GIRLS/2B

Prep Roundup

Mustangs coast by Knights

Heppner uses aggressive defense to earn victory

East Oregonian

HEPPNER — The Heppner Mustangs and Condon/Wheeler Knights finally squared off on the basketball court Monday night after last week's snow storm canceled the previously scheduled Thursday night contest.

And the Mustangs were ready for it, using strong defense to get a good jump on the Knights early to cruise to the victory 70-33.

"We were really active defensively," Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said. "We worked on that in practice and the intensity was there all game and the defensive effort led to a lot of steals and easy shots in our favor."

Logan Grieb led Heppner (2-1) with 19 points while Nikolas Dias Martins had 13 and Jake Lindsay had 12. For Condon/Wheeler (4-1), Bryce Harrison led with 12 points.

Heppner has a quick turnaround as it hosts Irrigon tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Condon/Wheeler plays Enterprise on Friday at the Pilot Rock tournament at 3 p.m.

See PREPS/2B

Soccer

Sounders win MLS Cup on penalty kicks

By PAUL ATTFIELD
Associated Press

TORONTO — Roman Torres scored in the sixth round of penalty kicks to give the Seattle Sounders their first MLS Cup title, 5-4 over Toronto FC after 120 scoreless minutes Saturday night.

It was the first MLS Cup final to fail to produce a goal in regulation, setting the stage for a dramatic tiebreaker.

While Toronto's Michael Bradley and Alvaro Fernandez for Seattle had both seen their shots saved, the game went to sudden-death spot kicks. Toronto's Justin Morrow could only clatter his shot off the crossbar, setting the stage for Torres to win it with a high shot down the middle of the goal.

Former Toronto FC goalkeeper Stefan Frei was named the game's most valuable player.

Seattle became the first team in MLS Cup final history to fail to produce a shot on target throughout the game. Additionally, the Sounders' three shots overall were the fewest in an MLS title game, the first to feature two expansion franchises. Toronto was the first Canadian MLS Cup finalist.

After a fairly subdued 90



Seattle Sounders midfielder Osvaldo Alonso (6) hoists the MLS Cup with teammates after defeating Toronto FC in the MLS Cup soccer final over in Toronto, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016.

minutes of regulation, extra time produced a number of opportunities, but even with Toronto enjoying a 7-0 shot advantage in the 30-minute period, no breakthrough could be found.

Seattle's lone chance to score in extra time came from a defensive error. Toronto's Steven Beitashour saw Brad Evans' cross deflect goalward off his leg in the 112th minute, but Clint Irwin bravely dove on the ball to take it away from

Torres.

Toronto coach Greg Vanney removed former MLS most valuable player Sebastian Giovinco in the 103rd minute in favour of Tosaint Ricketts. The gutsy call almost paid off.

Following Ricketts' cross five minutes after coming on, it looked as if Altidore was going to give Toronto the lead in the 108th minute with a looping header, but an athletic save from Frei kept it scoreless. Leaping to his left, he scooped



the ball off the line with his left hand, allowing his defense to clear the ball to safety.

A minute earlier, Ricketts had had a great chance of his own when a defensive clearance fell to him 16 yards out, but with Frei flat-footed he could only drive his right-footed shot wide of the right post.

At the end of regulation, Toronto had a chance to win it in stoppage time when Nick Hagglund headed a Bradley corner kick toward Altidore in the 6-yard box, but Frei reacted bravely to punch the ball clear to end the threat and send the final to extra time.

Before that the game was very much in Toronto's control, with the home side unleashing 12 shots, three of which hit the target. Seattle couldn't even muster a shot until the 76th minute, when Osvaldo Alonso's effort from 25 yards out was charged down by Bradley, and though the Sounders finished the 90 minutes with three, none required Irwin to make a save.

Sports shorts

Rams fire head coach Jeff Fisher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jeff Fisher has been fired Monday by the Los Angeles Rams.

The team's coach since 2012, Fisher compiled a 31-45-1 record with the Rams and oversaw the move from St. Louis to Los Angeles this past offseason.

The lack of success on the field, capped by a 42-14 home rout at the hands of Atlanta on Sunday, spelled the end for Fisher.

The Rams are 4-9 this season and have scored a league-low 194 points.

"Making a decision such as this, especially during the season, is one of the most difficult in sports," Rams owner Stan Kroenke said.

Long respected in league circles for his work on the NFL's competition committee, Fisher never found success or a franchise quarterback with the Rams, who went 7-8-1, 7-9, 6-10 and 7-9 in his four full seasons.



Fisher

"I'd be lying to you if I told you none of this bothered me. Of course it did. I'm human ... My dream is to be a Pirate my whole career. My dream is still to win multiple World Series. We all have those dreams."

— Andrew McCutchen

Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder speaking at Pittsburgh's PirateFest over the weekend about the trade rumors involving himself during MLB's Winter Meetings.

Louisville's Lamar Jackson wins Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (AP) — Sophomore quarterback Lamar Jackson became the first Louisville player to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, beating out preseason favorite Deshaun

Watson of Clemson despite some late-season struggles. Baker Mayfield finished third and Oklahoma teammate and fellow finalist Dede Westbrook was fourth. Michigan's Jabrill Peppers was fifth.

In his first season as Louisville's full-time starter, Jackson accounted for 51 touchdowns and averaged 410 yards per game in total offense. He ultimately won going away, with 2,144 points to Watson's 1,524. By percentage of possible points, Jackson's victory was the sixth largest in history, and he became the youngest winner at 19 years, 352 days.



Jackson

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1983 — Detroit beats Denver 186-184 in triple overtime in the highest-scoring game in NBA history. Isiah Thomas scores 47 and John Long adds 41 for the Pistons.

1997 — Michigan's Charles Woodson becomes the first predominantly defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy in the 63 years of the award.

2010 — Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre, 41, is sidelined by a throwing shoulder too damaged for even him to overcome. The injury ended Favre's streak of 297 consecutive starts over 19 seasons.

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