

PREPS: Pilot Rock girls cruise to lopsided win over Umatilla

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from the beginning and it snowballed from there.”

The Vikings pushed their lead to 23-13 at the end of the first quarter and never let it dip below double digits with guards Sebastian Garcia (18 points) and Kaden Webb (11 points) leading the way. Forward Justin Marret added 10 points, Cranston chipped in nine, and wing Tyrone Morris had four.

Cranston and Morris have been seeing more playing time with starting posts Trent Durfey (injury) and Sean Miller (personal) missing time in recent weeks, and combined with Marret and wing Shane Hartung to dominate the glass on Wednesday.

“That’s one thing we’ve been working on recently is being physical, our practices have been more like football practices,” said Lete. “I was happy to see us control the key and the tempo.”

One thing Lete still wants to see more out of the Vikings is consistency. After Garcia hit a three-pointer in the corner to make it 40-18 early in the third quarter, neither team scored for the next four minutes as the turnovers began to mount on both sides. The lead hit its largest margin at 58-22 midway though the fourth quarter.

“We’ve been a roller coaster all season, and I’m still looking for more consistency ... but we’ve been winning the games we should be winning,” Lete said.

“I think we’ve been doing OK, but we have some pretty high bars that we want to set,” Crantson said.

The Vikings will try to string together three wins for the first time this season when they host Nixyaawii tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Pilot Rock, which was led on Wednesday by Bryson Pierce’s nine points, won’t play again until Friday, Dec. 30, when it faces Irrigon in the Irrigon Invitational with a 6 p.m. tip-off.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Umatilla's Sebastian Garcia drives past Pilot Rock's Brayden Postma on Wednesday in Pilot Rock.

UHS	23	14	9	16	—	62
PR	13	5	3	9	—	30
UMATILLA — S. Garcia 18, K. Webb 11, J. Marret 10, S. Cranston 9, T. Morris 4, M. Garcilazo 3, J. Garcia 3, G. Armenta 2, S. Hartung 2.						
PILOT ROCK — B. Pierce 9, C. Weinke 8, L. Thieme 6, T. Denny 3, D. Hasher 2, R. Lankford 2, S. Simmons, J. Willingham, B. Postma.						
3-pointers — UHS 6; PR 2. Free throws — UHS 10-18; PR 12-18. Fouls — UHS 17; PR 17.						

WESTON-MCEWEN 57, ENTERPRISE 35 — At Athena, despite suiting up just nine players due to various illnesses and injuries, the TigerScots were able to outlast Enterprise to snap a three-game skid in non-league action on Wednesday.

Brett Speed scored a game-high 17 points, Ethan Reger added 12, and Shaw Broncheau came up big with six points, nine rebounds, eight steals and six assists. Reger added eight rebounds for the TigerScots (4-3).

Enterprise (3-5) jumped out to a 7-0 lead to start, but Weston-McEwen overtook

them by the end of the first quarter and never trailed again. Trent Walker paced the Outlaws with 11 points.

Up next for the TigerScots is a non-league game against Imbler tonight at 7:30 p.m.

EHS	15	8	6	6	—	35
W-M	17	14	13	13	—	57
ENTERPRISE — T. Walker 11, J. Wells 7, K. Ketcher 7, B. Greenshields 5, C. Bathke 4, W. Isley 1, B. Lepper.						
WESTON-MCEWEN — B. Speed 17, E. Reger 12, G. Hungerford 7, S. Broncheau 6, J. West 6, J. Speed 3, B. Rudolph 2, D. Froese 2, K. Broncheau 2.						
3-pointers — EHS 2; W-M 3. Free throws — EHS 9-18; W-M 10-20. Fouls — EHS 20; W-M 19. Fouled out — B. Greenshields (EHS).						

STANFIELD 79, WALDPOR 52 — At Toledo, the Tigers finished up play at the Toledo Beach Bash with their eighth win in a row on Wednesday. No details were available.

Stanfield (9-1) will go back on the road for its next games and begins play at the Salem Academy Crusader New Year’s Invitational on Wednesday, Dec. 28, against Catlin Gabel.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pilot Rock's Jacey Wilson wrestles for the ball with Umatilla's Tamilex Ortiz in a non-league girls basketball game on Wednesday in Pilot Rock.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
PILOT ROCK 49, UMATILLA 20 — At Pilot Rock, Bekah Roe and Sara Weinke turned in strong all-around performances to guide the Rockets (7-1) to their third straight win in non-league play on Wednesday.

Both players scored 10 points to which Roe added eight rebounds, five steals and three assists, and Weinke added seven rebounds and five steals.

It was just the second time this season the Rockets had run set plays on offense, and they scored 15 points in the first quarter.

“The girls came out really aggressive and were looking to draw the defense and make the extra pass,” said Pilot Rock coach Butch Wilson. “They executed the game plan.”

Aleesha Watson scored 12 points to lead Umatilla (3-4), which hosts Nixyaawii in non-league play tonight at 6 p.m.

Pilot Rock plays next on Friday, Dec. 30 at Irrigon at 6 p.m.

UHS	7	4	5	4	—	20
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PR	15	11	15	8	—	49
UMATILLA — A. Watson 12, C. Alvarez 2, K. Lorence 2, L. Jurnot 2, J. Ortega 2, P. Picker, Y. Ortiz, C. Macias, N. Soto, A. Maldonado, A. Ford, A. Reyes, G. Gonzalez.						
PILOT ROCK — S. Weinke 10, B. Roe 10, J. Wilson 7, K. Deist 7, R. Willingham 6, G. Austin 3, M. Sutherland 2, B. Balezina 2, R. Oates 1, K. Evans 1.						
3-pointers — UHS 1; PR 3. Free throws — UHS 3-6; PR 6-14. Fouls — UHS 15; PR 8.						

STANFIELD 65, WALDPOR 27 — At Toledo, Brittin Braithwaite had another double-double and Kendra Hart scored a game-high 19 points to lead the Tigers to a runaway win at the Toledo Beach Bash on Wednesday.

Braithwaite had 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Hart added six steals to boost Stanfield (2-8). Anna Lemmon added five steals and five points.

That does it for 2016 for the Tigers, whose next game is Tuesday, Jan. 3 when they host Umatilla at 5:45 p.m.

SHS	11	17	16	11	—	65
WHS	6	7	10	4	—	27
STANFIELD — K. Hart 19, B. Braithwaite 12, A. Carrillo 7, A. Griffin 6, A. Lemmon 5, N. Esquivel 4, S. Sharp 2, S. Connell, J. Garcia, C. Neasham.						
WALDPOR — C. Leon 8, C. Topete 4, J. Haines 3, J. Blair 2, E. Remund 2, K. Villarreal 2, T. Rodgers 2, C. Walsh 2, B. Smith 2, M. Tokar, R. Villarreal, K. Pickner.						
3-pointers — SHS 4; WHS 1. Free throws — SHS 9-18; WHS 2-4. Fouls — SHS 18; WHS 20. Fouled out — A. Griffin (SHS); C. Topete (WHS).						

ENTERPRISE 57, WESTON-MCEWEN 47 — At Athena, Chelsea Quaempts poured in a game-high 16 points for the TigerScots, but with their leader hampered by foul trouble in the second half Weston-McEwen scored just nine points total to fall to Enterprise.

Weston-McEwen (4-3) played what coach Eric Jensen called a perfect first half to lead 38-35 at intermission, but was shut out in a slow third quarter to fall behind for good.

Ashley Hill added seven points and six rebounds for Weston-McEwen, which hosts Imbler today at 6 p.m.

Reagan Bedard paced Enterprise (6-1) with 15 points, Darby Gassett added 14 and Tiffanie George contributed 10.

EHS	18	17	4	18	—	57
W-M	20	18	0	9	—	47
ENTERPRISE — R. Bedard 15, D. Gassett 14, T. George 10, S. Aschenbrenner 8, A. Exon 4, R. Gray 2, R. Christman 2, G. Carlsen 2.						
WESTON-MCEWEN — C. Quaempts 16, K. Vesio 9, A. Hill 7, A. Schroeder 5, A. Finifrock 4, S. Finifrock 3, B. Hillmick 2, M. Mullenburg 1, R. Penney, S. Von Borsiel, A. Coffman, L. Powers, J. Lambert, E. Scheibner.						
3-pointers — EHS 4; W-M 8. Free throws — EHS 11-23; W-M 9-19. Fouls — EHS 17; W-M 19. Fouled out — S. Finifrock (W-M).						

FREEMAN: 44 rushing touchdowns trails only James on all-time list

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return for his senior season.

Freeman was the Ducks’ leading rusher this season with 945 yards in 11 games. He has rushed for 4,146 yards over three seasons with the Ducks, second only to LaMichael James (5,082 yards) on Oregon’s career rushing list.

“After consulting with my family and giving this considerable thought, I feel this is the best decision for me in regards to my future on and off the field,” said Freeman, a crime, law and society major. “My education was one of the most important reasons I chose to come to Oregon and that priority hasn’t changed.”

Freeman was widely considered a candidate for the Heisman Trophy going into the season, but he was injured three weeks into the season at Nebraska and missed Oregon’s game against Colorado the next week.

Oregon finished 4-8 overall and at the bottom of the Pac-12 North standings at 2-7 — snapping a run of nine straight winning seasons in conference play.

Following a loss to rival Oregon State in the final game of the season, Freeman said he had not made up his mind about whether he would leave school early for the NFL draft.

Three days after the Civil War loss, Oregon dismissed coach Mark Helfrich. The Ducks have since hired Willie Taggart, head coach at South Florida for the past four years, to replace Helfrich.

In a statement released Wednesday by the Ducks, Freeman thanked Helfrich and running backs coach Gary Campbell.

“However, the prospect of playing for Coach Taggart my final year here was certainly a factor in my return,” Freeman said. “His enthusiasm and vision for



AP Photo/Young Kwak, File

In this Oct. 1, 2016, file photo, Oregon running back Royce Freeman (21) runs with the ball during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Washington State in Pullman, Wash.

this program are contagious. I am certainly excited to be coached by him and enhance my development.”

Taggart likewise said he was excited at the prospect of Freeman’s return, calling it one of the “top recruiting

coups” of his first two weeks on the job.

“Royce represents the type of young man that we intend to build this program around,” Taggart said. “Not only does he stand out as one of the top running backs in

the country, he epitomizes the character of the type of student-athlete we are looking for as well as the work ethic of someone who truly wants to be here.”

In a post on Instagram, Crosby also credited Taggart with his decision to stay at Oregon.

“The NFL remains my ultimate dream, and I think this puts me in the best position to realize that dream,” he wrote. “I am excited to finish out my career at Oregon next year.”

Before his injury, the 6-foot-5, 310-pound Crosby was considered a possible 2017 NFL draft prospect. He started in 12 games his sophomore season. Crosby posted an image to Twitter of him lifting Freeman that said “Let’s Go Ducks. Comeback Season” and wrote: “Looking forward to 2017 season.”

In his first three seasons, Freeman has epitomized the speed in Oregon’s hyper-

drive offense. The 230-pound power back ran for 1,836 yards as a sophomore last season to break James’ season record at Oregon.

Freeman, who hails from Imperial, California, burst on the scene as a freshman, rushing for 1,365 yards — a Pac-12 true freshman record — and 18 touchdowns. He also caught a touchdown pass. As a result, he was named the league’s freshman of the year on offense.

Freeman has 44 rushing touchdowns for his career, trailing only James with 53. Earlier this season Freeman spoke about making his way up Oregon’s record lists.

“It’s pretty amazing,” he said. “It’s a good feeling knowing the previous backs that came before me and all the hard work they put in at this university. Knowing of those guys and actually talking to some of them personally, to have the ability to pass them makes me feel good.”

BLAZERS: Crabbe scores 14

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because of a strained right Achilles, but the 13-time All Star is nearing a comeback. Nowitzki could return as early as Friday night against the Clippers.

Dallas will ease him back slowly.

“He’s made gradual but steady gains in his recovery,” Carlisle said.

Portland was without reserve Evan Turner, who has an ankle injury and was wearing a boot before the game. But the Blazers did get back Aminu, who had been out the previous four games with a sore back.

The Mavericks built a 12-point lead in the first quarter and Seth Curry hit a 3 at the second-quarter buzzer to send the Mavericks into halftime with a 62-38 advantage.

In the second half, Barnes’ 18-foot fadeaway put the Mavs up 69-44. Crabbe’s 3 narrowed Portland’s deficit to 88-80 with 7:24 left.

TIP-INS

Mavericks: J.J. Barea played 9 minutes in the first half but left the game because of left Achilles soreness. ... Barnes has scored 20 or

more points 15 times this season.

Trail Blazers: Maurice Harkless fouled out with 4:34 to play. ... Crabbe led all reserves with 14 points. ... Portland outscored the Mavericks by 23 points in the second half.

MCCOLLUM CARES

Blazers guard CJ McCollum was honored with the NBA Cares Community Assist award for November. In an effort to promote literacy and career development, McCollum collaborated with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland to open the CJ McCollum Dream Center. The space will host different clubs, programs and speakers to inspire kids.

SIMILARITIES

Carlisle said in many ways the Blazers are similar to the Mavericks, in that both teams are struggling with early-season losses and establishing an identity. He emphasized that there’s a lot of season left: “We have to look at this as a big-picture situation and get better every day,” he said.

UP NEXT

Mavericks: Visit the Los Angeles Clippers on Friday.

Trail Blazers: Host the San Antonio Spurs on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today’s Games
Nixyaawii at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.
Helix at Lone, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today’s Games
Nixyaawii at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
Helix at Lone, 6 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Today
Hermiston at Best of West (at Pasco, WA), 10 a.m.

Football

NFL

Week 16
Thursday’s Game
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 5:25 p.m.
Saturday’s games
Atlanta at Carolina, 10 a.m.
Washington at Chicago, 10 a.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 10 a.m.
San Diego at Cleveland, 10 a.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 10 a.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 10 a.m.
Indianapolis at Oakland, 1:05 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 1:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Los Angeles, 1:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 5:25 p.m.
Sunday’s Games
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 1:30 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.
Monday’s Game
Detroit at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA

Bowl Game Lineup
Tuesday’s Game
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Wednesday’s Game
Poinsettia Bowl
San Diego
BYU 24, Wyoming 21
Today, Dec. 22
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Idaho (8-4) vs. Colorado State (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 23

Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Eastern Michigan (7-5) vs. Old Dominion (9-3), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
Navy (9-4) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Ohio (8-5) vs. Troy (9-3), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Basketball

NBA

Wednesday’s Games
Cleveland 113, Milwaukee 102
Memphis 98, Detroit 86
Minnesota 92, Atlanta 84
Oklahoma City 121, New Orleans 110
Washington 107, Chicago 97
Houston 125, Phoenix 111
Sacramento 94, Utah 93
Dallas 96, Portland 95
Today’s Games
Boston at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Miami, 5 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA

Men’s Top 25
Wednesday
1. Villanova (12-0) beat American 90-48. Next: vs. DePaul, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
4. Baylor (12-0) beat Texas Southern 89-63. Next: at Oklahoma, Friday, Dec. 30.
5. Duke (12-1) beat Elon 72-61. Next: at Virginia Tech, Saturday, Dec. 31.
6. Kentucky (10-2) lost to No. 10 Louisville 73-70. Next: at Mississippi, Thursday, Dec. 29.
7. Gonzaga (12-0) beat South Dakota 102-65. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Friday, Dec. 30.
8. North Carolina (11-2) beat Northern Iowa 85-42. Next: vs. Monmouth (N.J.), Wednesday, Dec. 28.
10. Louisville (11-1) beat No. 6 Kentucky 73-70. Next: vs. No. 12 Virginia, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
12. Virginia (10-1) beat California 56-52. Next: at No. 10 Louisville, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
13. Butler (11-1) beat Vermont 81-69. Next: at St. John’s, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
15. Purdue (11-2) beat Norfolk State 91-45. Next: vs. Iowa, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
22. South Carolina (9-2) lost to Clemson 62-60.

Next: vs. Lander, Tuesday.

Women’s Top 25

Wednesday
1. UConn (11-0) beat Nebraska 84-41. Next: at No. 4 Maryland, Thursday, Dec. 29.
4. Maryland (12-0) beat Duquesne 77-57. Next: vs. No. 1 UConn, Thursday, Dec. 29.
6. South Carolina (10-1) beat Savannah State 70-30. Next: vs. Alabama, Sunday, Jan. 1.
7. Florida State (12-1) beat Mercer 83-40. Next: at No. 11 Miami, Thursday, Dec. 29.
8. Louisville (12-2) beat Vanderbilt 78-66. Next: vs. No. 19 Syracuse, Thursday, Dec. 29.
12. Ohio State (10-4) beat Winthrop 88-48. Next: vs. Minnesota, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
13. West Virginia (12-0) beat Mount St. Mary’s 77-45. Next: at TCU, Thursday, Dec. 29.
14. Stanford (9-2) beat George Washington 71-52. Next: vs. Yale, Wednesday, Dec. 28.
15. Colorado (10-1) lost to Wyoming 82-75. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday, Dec. 30.
17. Duke (11-1) beat Villanova 68-50. Next: vs. No. 18 Kentucky, Thursday, Dec. 29.
18. Kentucky (9-3) beat Washington State 69-67. Next: at No. 17 Duke, Thursday, Dec. 29.
19. Syracuse (9-4) lost to Texas A&M 105-84. Next: at No. 8 Louisville, Thursday, Dec. 29.
20. Oklahoma (9-3) beat Portland State 74-60. Next: at Kansas, Thursday, Dec. 29.
21. Arizona State (9-2) beat Holy Cross 63-33. Next: vs. No. 14 Stanford, Friday, Dec. 30.
21. South Florida (10-1) beat UNLV 77-42. Next: vs. Stetson, Friday, Dec. 30.
23. Virginia Tech (12-0) beat Radford 71-52. Next: vs. Delaware State, Friday, Dec. 30.

Hockey

NHL

Wednesday’s Games
Philadelphia 3, Washington 2, SO
Edmonton 3, Arizona 2
Today’s Games
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Anaheim at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m.
Boston at Florida, 4:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 7 p.m.