

HERMISTON

# Bulldogs victorious in overtime thriller

## Rambo scores 21 as Hermiston holds off Dallas

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Suspense filled the Dawg House Friday night as the Hermiston Bulldogs possessed the ball while staring at a 49-47 deficit with just 12.5 seconds left to play against the Dallas Dragons.

As the seconds started to tick off the clock, the ball found its way into the hands of senior guard Xavier Rambo — who had been the go-to scorer for Hermiston in the game. As Rambo possessed the ball, he scanned the floor and saw an opening in the middle and drove past his defender toward the basket and avoided traffic to lay it in off the glass to tie the game at 49-49 and send it to overtime.

Then in the extra period with Hermiston ahead 52-51 with 50 seconds remaining, Rambo skied to grab a rebound off a missed Dallas 3-pointer and then sped down the court past two Dallas defenders for a wide-open lay-in to help Hermiston clinch a 54-51 non-league victory over the Dragons. Rambo said he knew once he got to half court he was going to make the shot.

“When I got to halfcourt, I knew I was gone and I’m not going to pass it since I’m going in and I’m a pretty fast guy,” he said with a smile.

Hermiston (9-3) coach Casey Arstein admitted that he thought about calling his final timeout after the rebound to set up a play, but quickly realized that Rambo had the game in his hands.

“We had one timeout and looking out there, I was thinking about pulling it out but as he (Rambo) kept going and he kept passing guys ... I knew we’ll take it,” he said. “He does a good job of attacking. Everyone made some interesting shot decisions tonight, including him, but when it counted he did the right thing and that’s go to the rim and I was proud of him.”

It was a pretty up-and-down game overall for Hermiston, who played their second game without star senior guard Chance Flores who is out indefinitely with a broken right hand. Rambo, who finished with a game-high 21 points, said that the team is still adapting to some new roles without Flores on the court.

“It’s a different game without Chance,” he said. “He’s a big help defensively and offensively but we’re all hard workers so we get it done.”

“And I’m the leader now. (Chance) is usually the leader but now I’m the leader and we have to go do big things.”

The game featured 14 ties and 14 lead changes as neither team could sustain a lead.

Boys Hoops



Dallas  
51



Hermiston  
54



Hermiston's Xavier Rambo shoots the ball over Dallas' Zach Wallace (24) and Jake Collins (00) in the Bulldogs' 54-51 overtime win against the Dragons on Friday in Hermiston.

Hermiston took the early momentum and turned it into a 15-9 lead after one quarter and pushed the lead up to 19-9 early in the second quarter.

But that's when Dallas (5-5) made its first real push, going on a 14-0 run to take a 23-19 lead with three minutes left in the half. Hermiston snapped the scoreless drought with a floater by Andrew James at the 2:31 mark, but still trailed 25-24 at halftime. The second half played out very back-and-forth, with neither team holding a lead larger than three points the entire way.

“It was an interesting night,” Arstein said of the game. “Dallas is better than their record and it was a good battle and I just thought we played sloppy, but we’ll take the win at home

and in overtime.”

Along with Rambo's 21 points, Andrew James pitched in 10 points, while Kody Moss and Jordan Ramirez each had six.

Perhaps the moment Arstein was most proud of was the final 30 seconds of the overtime period, as Hermiston's defense put together its best stand of the game. The Bulldogs defenders stayed right in the faces of the Dallas players, not allowing an open look from the 3-point line for nearly the entire 30 seconds until Dallas attempted a prayer shot from the corner as time expired.

“In the huddle we talked about that they (Dallas) gotta go for a three,” he said. “I was mainly concerned with getting slipped on a screen or not fouling, but I thought the guys



Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez shoots the ball guarded by Dallas' Jaret Stewart (44) and Evan Courtney (3) in the Bulldogs' 54-51 overtime win against the Dragons on Friday in Hermiston.



Hermiston's Kody Moss shoots the ball guarded by Dallas' Aaron White in the Bulldogs' 54-51 overtime win against the Dragons on Friday in Hermiston.

did a good job of grinding one out.”

DHS	9	16	10	14	2	—	51
HHS	15	9	12	13	5	—	54

DALLAS — J. Richey 14, E. Courtney 9, J. Ronco 7, C. Weisensee 7, J. Collins 4, A. White 4, J. Stewart 4.  
HERMISTON — X. Rambo 21, A. James 10, J. Ramirez 6, K. Moss 6, C. Ortiz 5, H. Walls 4, A. Earl 2.  
3-pointers — DHS 3, HHS 3. Free throws — DHS 12-13, HHS 9-13.  
Fouls — DHS 14, HHS 20.

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MLB

# Mariners stay busy in trade market, acquire Gallardo, Dyson

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Mariners landed another option for their pitching rotation on Friday, acquiring right-hander Yovani Gallardo from the Baltimore Orioles for outfielder Seth Smith.

Seattle also will receive \$2 million from the Orioles, equalizing the 2017 salaries of the players, in a deal that may solve concerns for both teams.

“Gallardo gives us the veteran presence that we have been searching for,” Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said. “He has a track record of durability and success as a starting pitcher. After examining the free agent and trade market, Yovani is the best fit for our club as we move forward this offseason.”

The acquisition of another potential starter was high on Seattle's list of needs after the Mariners traded Taijuan Walker to Arizona in November. Gallardo was 6-8 with a 5.32 ERA in 23 starts last year with

the Orioles, a season that included a lengthy early season stint on the disabled list due to shoulder issues. Two seasons ago Gallardo was 13-11 with a 3.42 ERA in 33 starts with Texas.

“It was tough. Last year wasn't fun for me,” Gallardo said. “It was down for year for me. It didn't start off the right way. I showed up to spring training late after signing late and I got started a little bit later than normal. That injury early in the year, it was very frustrating. I think this offseason I've done everything I can to prepare myself to avoid that for the rest of my career. I'm looking forward to a bounce back year.”

Seattle is hoping Gallardo can revert to that past form. Prior to his one season with the Orioles, Gallardo had made at least 30 starts in seven straight seasons and had an ERA under 4.00 in six of those seven years. Gallardo's contract has an \$11 million salary this year and includes a \$13 million team option for 2018 with a \$2 million



Gallardo



Dyson

buyout.

“I started my normal offseason program, started working out three weeks after the season is over and trying to get stronger,” said Gallardo, who has yet to decide if he'll pitch for Mexico in the World Baseball Classic. “I'm doing all the work I can do to prepare myself.”

The cost for Seattle was significant but fills Baltimore's need for another corner outfielder. Smith was one of Seattle's more consistent hitters during his two seasons and was expected to be a platoon outfielder for them again this year. While he hit only .248 and .249 in his two seasons with Seattle, he had

an on-base percentage of .330 and .342 in both of those seasons.

“We dealt from an area of surplus,” Baltimore vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette said. “We had six starters to fill an area of need, and that was left-handed hitting, on-base capability and an outfielder. So we like the trade from that perspective. We re-allocated some of our resources and in the process we strengthened our team.”

Last season, Smith appeared in 137 games and had 16 home runs and a career-high 63 RBIs. He was also Seattle's best hitter with runners in scoring position, hitting .326 in those situations.

Seattle made a second trade later Friday, sending right-hander Nathan Karns to Kansas City for outfielder Jarrod Dyson and in part replenishing the loss of Smith. The addition of Dyson gives Seattle one of the quickest outfielders in baseball.

Dipoto said he envisions Dyson in left field, Leonys Martin in center field and Mitch Haniger in

right field, with Ben Gamel and Guillermo Heredia competing for playing time. But Dipoto was excited about the potential run protection and flexibility that Seattle's outfield will have this season.

“We feel we now have five legitimate center fielders,” he said.

Dyson, a former 50th-round draft pick, became a fan-favorite in Kansas City thanks primarily to his speed on the bases. He hit .278 while stealing 30 bases a year ago.

“We've had many conversations about Dyson specifically,” Dipoto said, “and what a good fit he was for our team. He's an elite-level defender. He's dynamic on the bases, a fearless base stealer. And the combination of Jarrod Dyson, Leonys Martin and Jean Segura hitting somewhere between the bottom and top of your lineup really creates a three-player dynamic on the bases for us that is probably different than the Mariners have had in a long time and perhaps most different than most teams in our league.”

Sports shorts

### Wagner named All-Pro linebacker

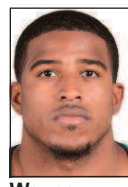
SEATTLE — After leading the NFL in tackles for the 2016 season, Seattle Seahawks' middle linebacker Bobby Wagner was named first team All-Pro by the Associated Press on Friday.

Wagner's 167 total tackles were also a franchise record. It's also the third straight season earning All-Pro status for Wagner.

“It still means a ton,” Wagner told the Associated Press. “It definitely means a lot to me. It means the hard work in the offseason is recognized.”

Also recognized by the AP was second-year player Tyler Lockett, who was named a second team All-Pro at kick returner. It's also Lockett's second straight year on the team, after earning first team honors last season as a rookie.

Lockett returned 23 kicks this season for an average of 26.3 yards, fourth best in the NFL.



Wagner

“There is a consensus, if not unanimity, the games need to be shortened, but there is also a strong belief that we don't want to reduce the number of plays in a game.”

— Karl Benson  
Sun Belt Conference commissioner and several others are interested in finding ways to speed up or shorten the times on college football games in the coming seasons. The average length of games has increased from 3:17 in 2013 to 3:24 this season.

### Grizzlies stun Warriors at home with overtime win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Golden State squandered a spectacular 40-point night by Stephen Curry with an awful fourth quarter as the Memphis Grizzlies stunned the Warriors 128-119 on Friday.

Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph each made two quick baskets as the Grizzlies hit their initial five shots in OT on the way to beating the Warriors for a second time this season and snapping Golden State's nine-game home winning streak.

Mike Conley scored 27 points and tied it on a 17-footer with 7.4 seconds left in regulation, and a heavily guarded Curry missed from way back before the buzzer.

Kevin Durant added 27 points and 13 rebounds in the Warriors' sixth loss of the season.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1992 — Pitchers Tom Seaver and Rollie Fingers are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Seaver receives the highest percentage of votes in history, which stood until 2015.

2004 — Brian Boucher becomes the first NHL goalie in almost 55 years to record four consecutive shutouts. His 27 saves carries Phoenix past Washington 3-0.

2006 — The New England Patriots set an NFL mark with 10 straight post-season victories by beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-3, surpassing the nine straight playoff victories by Green Bay in the 1960s.

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