

PENDLETON

# Mathews, Harris lead Timberwolves over Yaks

## BMCC men get first league win

East Oregonian



YAKIMA, Wash. — Led by double-doubles from Jared Mathews and Isaiah Harris, the Blue Mountain men’s basketball team shot 55.2 percent from the field in the second half to hold off Yakima Valley 72-70 for its first NWAC East win on Thursday night.

Mathews finished with game-highs of 28 points and 18 rebounds, and Harris added 18 points and 13 rebounds as the Timberwolves (3-10, 1-2 East) enjoyed a 64-33 advantage on the glass.

Mathews and Harris, both sophomores, also led the T-Wolves in shooting efficiency going 13 for 23 (57 percent) and 7 for 12 (58 percent) from the field, respectively.

As a team BMCC shot 45.5 percent for the game and freshman Darien Davis added 13 points on 5-of-11 (45 percent) shooting and six boards. Sophomore La’Quan Hawkins led

**Men’s Basketball**

 Blue Mountain 72	 Yakima Valley 70
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the team with five assists and chipped in seven points.

Looking to focus on high-percentage shots, BMCC attempted just 10 three-pointers in the game and hit just one of those. The T-Wolves led 35-31 at halftime.

Three Yaks reached double digits in scoring

led by 13 points from Jalil Walker. Yakima Valley (7-8, 1-2 East) shot 37.7 percent from the field for the game and neither team was great at the free-throw line where YVCC was 14 for 26 and BMCC went 11 for 23.

Blue Mountain will try for its first back-to-back wins of the season when it hosts Columbia Basin on Saturday at 4 p.m.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**  
**YAKIMA VALLEY 71, BLUE MOUNTAIN 66** — At Yakima, Wash., the Yaks

used a 45-28 advantage in the second and third quarters to hand the Timberwolves their fifth-straight loss in an NWAC East game played Thursday night.

Blue Mountain (2-8, 0-3 East) kept itself in the game by hitting seven three-pointers, but Yakima Valley (12-3, 3-0) got to the line for 35 free throws and hit 20 — five more than BMCC in a game decided by five points.

Several T-Wolves had strong performances despite the loss with Sydney

Wammock notching a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Brook Haringa adding 18 points, six rebounds and three assists. Akira McGee chipped in 11 points, six rebounds and four assists, and Kimberly Munoz had 10 points.

Sammi Blodgett paced the Yaks with 20 points and six assists, and Sequoia Swan added 16 points and six rebounds.

The T-Wolves will host Columbia Basin on Saturday at 2 p.m.

## SEAHAWKS:

Continued from 1B

dominant pass rushers.

“Both teams now are a better version of themselves than when we played back then,” said Falcons coach Dan Quinn, a former defensive coordinator in Seattle.

The Atlanta offense has been on point all season. Led by quarterback Matt Ryan, one of the leading contenders for MVP, the Falcons (11-5) romped to the NFC South title and a first-round bye behind the league’s highest-scoring offense, averaging nearly 34 points a game.

Ryan has been especially accurate on his deep throws, an area of vulnerability for the Seahawks without their star safety. In the first meeting, Thomas had one of just seven interceptions Ryan threw all season.

“His accuracy is phenomenal,” Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. “He puts it in all of the right spots.”

Here are some things to watch for Saturday:

**POSTSEASON BLUES:** While Ryan is coming off the best season of his career, completing 69.9 percent for 4,944 yards and 38 touchdowns, his career mark in the playoffs is just 1-4.

In an interesting twist, that lone postseason win came against Seattle during the divisional round four years ago, when he guided the Falcons to a last-second, 30-28 victory after the Falcons blew a 20-point lead. Ryan said the past won’t be a factor in this game. “I feel like I’m playing my best,” he said, “better than I ever have.”

**RUNNING WILD:** Seattle’s inconsistent run game got a big — and surprising — boost out of Thomas Rawls in last week’s wild-card victory over Detroit. Rawls rushed for 161 yards, a franchise playoff record that caught everyone off guard after the running backs produced just two 100-yard games during the entire regular season and the Seahawks didn’t even rush for 100 yards as a team in the final three games. That 100-yard mark is a big number. Under Carroll, the Seahawks have just one playoff victory when failing to reach triple figures on the ground.

**SPREADING IT AROUND:** Julio Jones had seven catches for 139 yards against Seattle during the regular season, and Atlanta fans are still seething about an apparent pass interference penalty on Richard Sherman that wasn’t called late in the game. While the Jones-vs.-Sherman matchup is sure to be a focal point, the Falcons have shown they can win even when opponents double up on their All-Pro receiver. Ryan has thrown TDs to an NFL-record 13 players, and the passing game is at full strength with the return of speedy receiver Taylor Gabriel and tight end Austin Hooper from injuries that kept them out late in the season.

**WHERE’S JIMMY?** It would be a good time to get tight end Jimmy Graham reacquainted with the Seattle offense. In Week 6, he had six catches for 89 yards and took advantage of openings in the middle of Atlanta’s defense. But over the past five games including the playoffs, Graham has just 11 receptions and one touchdown. He’s always played well against the Falcons going back to his days in New Orleans, totaling 55 receptions, eight touchdowns and five games of at least 80 yards receiving over 11 matchups.

**KEEP AN EYE ON HESTER:** Devin Hester returns to the Georgia Dome for the first time since being released by the Falcons. Signed before the playoffs to jumpstart Seattle’s return game, he had the last of his NFL-record 20 touchdowns returns during a Pro Bowl season with the Falcons in 2014. He was released last summer after battling injuries, but Atlanta is mindful of his potential impact on special teams. “He’s had terrific history of making big plays, so we certainly know what Devin is capable of,” Quinn said.

# TIGERS: Hart’s 19 leads the way for Stanfield girls

Continued from 1B

and they did a great job of attacking us, I think they were prepared. We made a little bit of an adjustment in the second half, we drew up what they were doing and we knew what we were trying to take away. It felt like we did a lot better on that in the second half. Our whole team bought in and played hard.”

The second half began much as the first, but Woods started the Tigers’ run with a three-point play at the 3:47 mark that made it 41-37 for the largest lead to that point.

Steagall scored on a layup when Heppner beat the press on the next possession but a putback by Noe Sanchez answered that bucket, and then Woods elicited the largest crowd reaction of the night when he darted in front of a Heppner pass at mid-court and slammed it two-handed for a 45-39 lead with 2:55 left in the quarter.

“The crowd hadn’t really been into it at that point in the game, and then he dunks that and everyone gets crazy,” Bailey said. “I mean, we love that. We love to see that. It gets us all going.”

“We needed a momentum swing,” said Woods. “In the first half no one really did anything spectacular to get into the game, or get some intensity, so I think it helped a lot. Plus we hit a few threes right after that which helped a lot.”

Stanfield followed Woods’ dunk with an 8-1 run, finished the third up 55-44 and never let the lead slip below double digits again. The Tigers started the fourth quarter shooting 9-of-12 including 6-of-6 from close range before Sperr cleared the bench and the Tigers’ back-ups started hoisting three-pointers. Stanfield finished 25 for 64 (39 percent) from the field including 5 for 29 (17 percent) from distance, although the bench did miss six threes in the final two minutes.

Heppner shot 23 for 53 (43.4 percent) from the field and 2 for 9 from three-point range. The Mustangs also turned the ball over 22 times and was out-rebounded 35-28.

“Last year we came up short when we played them at home here,” Woods said. “We were kind of seeking redemption.”

In the girls game, Kendra Hart and Natalia Esquivel made good use of their looks from outside to help Stanfield (3-9, 1-0) pull away in the second half.

After Heppner (5-6, 0-1) pulled within 30-26 in the third quarter, Hart drained a trey in front of the Stanfield bench and Esquivel hit one from the opposite side a couple minutes later to get the lead to double digits for the first time at 36-26.

Heppner continued to struggle on its end in the fourth quarter, and Esquivel scored nine of her 13 points in the frame to seal the win.

Hart finished with a team-high 19 points of which she scored 11 after halftime.

The Mustangs were led by Jacee



Stanfield’s Kendra Hart drives on Heppner’s Jacee Currin in the Tigers’ 54-45 win against the Mustangs on Friday in Stanfield.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Currin with 20 points, but 11 of those were in the first quarter and she was limited to just one field goal after halftime. Kacie Gray added 11 points with nine of those in the second half.

Stanfield will be back in action today at Culver with the boys tipping off at 2:30 p.m. and the girls following at 4 p.m.

Heppner’s teams will play at Weston-McEwen today at 4 and 5:30 p.m. with boys up first.

**Boys**

HHS	16	15	11	22	—	66
SHS	15	16	24	26	—	81

HEPPNER — K. Murray 14, W. Steagall 14, J. Lindsay 12, N. Dias Martins 8, L. Grieb 8, C. Hedman 8, C. Dougherty 2, H. Nichols, B. Wolters, K. Smith, G. McCurry, A. Lindsay.

STANFIELD — D. Grogan 25, R. Bailey 12, B. Woods 9, T. Monkus 8, T. Flores 7, N. Sanchez 5, J. Garcia 5, E. Angel 5, J. Galarza 2, D. Allen 2, A. Gomez 1.

3-pointers — HHS 2-9; SHS 5-29. Free throws — HHS 18-29; SHS 17-24. Fouls — HHS 23; SHS 26. Fouled out — Grogan (SHS).

**Girls**

HHS	11	9	9	16	—	45
SHS	15	13	11	15	—	54

HEPPNER — J. Currin 20, K. Gray 11, M. Silvia 4, J. Mahoney 4, R. Dompier 2, M. Correa 2, M. Combe 2, N. Prohete, C. Grieb, T. McCurry.

STANFIELD — K. Hart 19, N. Esquivel 13, B. Braithwaite 9, A. Lemmon 5, A. Griffin 5, S. Sharp 3, A. Carrillo, S. Connell, J. Garcia, C. Neasham.

3-pointers — HHS 1; SHS 5. Free throws — HHS 16-25; SHS 11-35. Fouls — HHS 23; SHS 22. Fouled out — J. Currin, K. Gray (HHS); K. Hart, A. Griffin (SHS).



Heppner’s Jake Lindsey drives on Stanfield’s Thyler Monkus in the Tigers’ 81-66 win against the Mustangs on Friday in Stanfield.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

# PREPS: Pilot Rock boys overcome slow start in Culver

Continued from 1B

start in the Knights’ league home opener.

IHS	10	9	9	11	3	—	42
RHS	13	8	2	16	6	—	45

IRRIGON — J. Burns 20, T. Davis 8, A. Munoz 4, A. Zaccarias 4, K. Gilman 3, K. Wyrant 3.

RIVERSIDE — B. Avilos 14, L. Mashos 13, S. Wightman 11, F. Rosen 4, A. Caldera 2, A. Hernandez 1.

3-pointers — IHS 2, RHS 5. Free throws — IHS 13-26; RHS 8-15. Fouls — IHS 20; RHS 22. Fouled out — S. Wightman, A. Caldera (RHS).

**CULVER 35, PILOT ROCK 28** — At Culver, the Pilot Rock Rockets dropped their Columbia Basin Conference opener with a 35-28 road loss against Culver.

Pilot Rock (10-3, 0-1 CBC) next hosts Weston-McEwen next Friday afternoon.

PR	2	12	4	10	—	28
CHS	8	11	10	6	—	35

## BOYS BASKETBALL

**PILOT ROCK 62, CULVER 41** — At Culver, the Pilot Rock Rockets overcame a slow start to beat the Culver Bulldogs in their Columbia Basin Conference opener on Friday night.

“It was a long bus ride and we just took a while to get going,” Pilot Rock coach Mike Weinke said. “The kids turned it on in the second quarter and played good defense, which carried us through the rest of the way.”

Chris Weinke led the Rockets (8-5, 1-0 CBC) with 19 points, while Bryson Pierce added 14 points.

Pilot Rock has a week off until its next game, when it hosts Weston-McEwen next Friday at 3 p.m.

PR	12	15	18	17	—	62
CHS	16	3	11	11	—	41

PILOT ROCK — C. Weinke 19, B. Pierce 14, T. Denny 8, R. Lankford 6, L. Thieme 6, D. Hasher 4, T. Bates 3, J. Willingham 2.

CULVER — W. Basl 10, M. Davis 10, M. Krueger 6, K. Lamb 5, D. Gutierrez 4, I. Stevens 3.

3-pointers — PR 1; CHS 2. Free throws — PR 9-15; CHS 11-24. Fouls — PR 21; CHS 17. Fouled out — B. Postma (PR), M. Davis (CHS).

**IRRIGON 47, RIVERSIDE 35** — At Boardman, the Irrigon Knights won their debut game in the Eastern Oregon League, beating the Riverside Pirates 47-35 on Friday night at Riverside High School.

“We came out and played good, gave them (Riverside) trouble with our full court press and we just wore them down,” Irrigon coach Davy Salas said. “We like where we’re at and hopefully we keep playing well.”

Hayden White had a big game for Irrigon (8-4, 1-0 EOL) with a

game-high 15 points and Austin Rice added 10 for the Knights. For Riverside (4-8, 0-1) Daniel Rodriguez led the way with a team-high nine points.

“I think we did a good job defensively in spots, but in the third quarter we just kind of gave up,” Riverside coach Clair Costello said. “My bench played hard in the fourth quarter, but we have some things to work on.”

Both teams have quick turn-arounds now as Irrigon will host Umatilla today at 1 p.m. and Riverside will travel to Burns for a 3:30 p.m. start.

IHS	11	15	9	10	—	47
RHS	5	8	7	15	—	35

IRRIGON — H. White 15, A. Rice 10, J. Phillips 8, E. Carillo 5, K. Fleming 3, A. Roa 2, O. Vera 2, A. Gomez 2.

RIVERSIDE — D. Rodriguez 9, A. Martinez 6, A. Hernandez 5, D. Valenzuela 4, J. Garcia 4, M. Hegar 3, B. Altamirano 2, E. Castillo 1, F. Aparicio 1.

3-pointers — IHS 3; RHS 1. Free throws — IHS 4-7; RHS 6-15. Fouls — IHS 12; RHS 10.