

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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HERMISTON

Rodriguez takes his talents to Walla Walla



Staff photo by Eric Singer

Hermiston senior Freddy Rodriguez, left, signs his National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Walla Walla Community College on Tuesday at Hermiston High School, while Walla Walla coach Ben Rotert looks on.

Hermiston soccer star signs to play at Walla Walla CC

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Dozens of students and faculty gathered in the Hermiston High School commons following school on Tuesday to support a fellow Bulldog and chow down on some free cake.

All eyes were on senior Freddy Rodriguez, as the soccer star signed on with Walla Walla Community College to continue his athletic and academic career. Rodriguez spent nearly every moment of the approximately 30 minute party with a big grin on his face.

"It's honestly a great feeling," Rodriguez said Tuesday. "It's good to know

you're wanted and it feels good to be playing at the next level with friends and teammates, and they'll all just build on you and you'll build on them."

Rodriguez departs Hermiston as a four-year letterwinner at the varsity level, a four-year staple on the all-league teams, and a two-year team captain. Rodriguez capped his career with 24 goals and 12 assists this season — both team highs — plus a first team all-state selection in Class 5A as Hermiston went 12-4-1 overall and advanced to the state quarterfinals for the second straight year.

Walla Walla head coach Ben Rotert was in attendance for Rodriguez's signing on Tuesday, and said that he's had his eye on Rodriguez since the 2015 high school season.

"I came out to a match and his movement on and off the ball, the work rate he

See RODRIGUEZ/2B

Prep Roundup

Pirates halt losing streak

Riverside earns first league win

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — The Riverside Pirates' seven game losing streak came to a screeching halt on Tuesday night, as the

Pirates took care of the Vale Vikings 52-35 in an Eastern Oregon League match-up at Riverside High School.

"We played a lot better, we played with some urgency for the first time in a while," Riverside coach Clair Costello said. "It was a good game and a good win."

Eon Castillo and Felix

See PREPS/2B

Boys Hoops



Vale

35



Riverside

52

PENDLETON

Buckaroos take down Tigers

Stuvland's big board helps Pendleton hold on for win

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

In a game featuring two of the top scoring threats in their classifications, an offensive rebound may just have been the play of the game for the Pendleton Buckaroos on Tuesday night at Warberg Court.

With 30 seconds left in their non-league game against 4A No. 2 La Grande, Bucks senior Johnny Stuvland wedged himself between a pair of Tigers and ripped away the rebound from teammate Shaw Jerome's errant free throw, then kicked it out to Caden Smith on the perimeter.

Smith was fouled and hit both of his free throws for a seven-point cushion and what would be Pendleton's final points in a 63-59 win.

"Johnny had a huge rebound there at the end in that free throw situation," said Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder.

Stuvland had three of his four rebounds on offense and also came up with big stops on the defensive end with three blocks.

"I have a pretty big match-up during practice every day (teammate Jake Szumski) so I'm used to getting hammered," said Stuvland, who scored eight of his 10 points in the second half while playing most of the way with three fouls.

"Johnny was big," Tedder said. "He got three quick fouls early, and it's hard to keep him in the game, but I think it's him maturing a little bit from a junior to a senior. I left him in the game a little bit and gave him a chance and I thought he did a good job, and I thought we finished the game well."

La Grande (14-2) might have had a chance to tie when Jerome was called for a flagrant foul with .8 of a second left, but Andrew



Pendleton's Johnny Stuvland shoots the ball guarded by La Grande's John Schiller in the Bucks' 63-59 win against the Tigers on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Boys Hoops



La Grande

59



Pendleton

63

Peasley missed the front end of his trip to the free throw line and the Bucks wisely gave the Tigers plenty of room for a game-ending three-point attempt.

Smith scored 22 points to lead Pendleton (5-4) and Peasley scored a game-high 25 for La Grande, which was coming off a win over Pendleton's conference rival Hermiston on Monday.

"It gives us a huge confidence

boost," said Jerome, who scored all 10 of his points after halftime and also had three assists. "We just beat one of the best teams at the 4A level who just beat Hermiston, who's up there, so it was a great, great confidence builder for us."

It was another hot night for Bucks shooters and 5A No. 18 Pendleton finished 23 for 48 (47.9 percent) while La Grande wasn't far behind at 20 for 46 (43.5

percent). Smith scored 15 of his points in the first half, and drained a deep 3-pointer near the end of the first half that put Pendleton up for good 31-29.

That was where they went into the locker rooms at the break with Pendleton carrying momentum after a 7-2 run.

The Bucks opened the third

See BUCKAROOS/2B

Sports shorts

Serena advances to 10th straight Grand Slam semis at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) Serena Williams reached her 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal, and kept her bid alive for a record 23rd major title, with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Johanna Konta at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

Her opponent in the semifinals, Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, who beat fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, had a much longer wait to get back to this stage at a major nearly 18 years.

It's the second time in the last two years that three women in their 30s have reached the semifinals at a major: Venus Williams, 36, Serena Williams, 35, and Lucic-Baroni, 34. Serena also reached the semifinals at the 2015 U.S. Open, alongside 30-somethings Flavia Pennetta and Roberta Vinci.



Williams

"I don't know, I'm going to take this offseason to evaluate, to consider all options, to consider health and family and things like that ... I think that's, in my point of my career and my age, that's the prudent and smart thing to do."

— Ben Roethlisberger

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback in a radio appearance with 93.7 The Fan in Pittsburgh, wouldn't commit to playing a 14th NFL season, and hinted that he is considering retirement.

Michigan first school to pay three assistants \$1 million

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Michigan is committed to paying three of Jim Harbaugh's assistants \$1 million each per year.

Defensive coordinator Don Brown and offensive coordinator Tim Drevno have been retained with contracts worth more than \$10 million combined over the next five years. Passing coordinator Pep Hamilton was lured away from the Cleveland Browns with a \$4.25 million, four-year deal.

Brown's contract calls for him to make \$1 million annually in the first four years and \$1.4 million in 2021. Drevno's deal is worth \$1 million each year plus a \$150,000 signing bonus this month. Hamilton's salary will be \$1 million in the first three years before getting a bump to \$1.25 million in 2020.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1924 — The first Winter Olympics are held in Chamoni, France.

1960 — Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors sets a record for rookies with 58 points in a 127-117 triumph over the Detroit Pistons. Chamberlain also grabs 42 rebounds.

1998 — John Elway and the Denver Broncos win a Super Bowl for themselves and the AFC, by beating the Green Bay Packers 31-24. Terrell Davis, selected the MVP, rushes for 157 yards scores on three 1-yard touchdown runs, including the winner with 1:45 left.

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