

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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PENDLETON

Buckaroos rally, stop rivalry skid

Pendleton girls beat Hermiston for first time since 2006

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

For the past 11 years, the Hermiston girls basketball team has reigned supreme over the Pendleton Buckaroos, winning each and every one of the previous 28 meetings.

But the Buckaroos wiped away that decade of misery on Tuesday night, as Pendleton outscored Hermiston 30-11 in the fourth quarter to stun the Bulldogs with a 53-48 victory at Warberg Court — the first win for Pendleton since Feb. 17, 2006. Haley Greb hit a 3-pointer with 44.2 seconds left to give Pendleton a 49-48 lead and its first since 2-0, and the Buckaroos (7-6, 3-0 CRC) were able to hang on the rest of the way.

“The excitement is just crazy,” Greb said after the game with a wide smile on her face. “My teammates found me the ball, it went in and every single play contributed to this win and I couldn’t be more proud of my teammates tonight.”

“You like to tell kids that Hermiston is just another ball game, but it isn’t for those kids,” Pendleton coach Kevin Porter added. “Hermiston is the gold standard around here and we’re trying to get there. I’m so proud of my team, I’m just speechless.”

A comeback victory didn’t seem feasible for Pendleton throughout the early part of the second half, as the Bucks scored just five points in the



LEFT: Pendleton’s Lauren Richards, Elli Nirschl and Haley Greb celebrate after the Bucks’ 53-48 comeback win against Hermiston on Tuesday in Pendleton.

BELOW: Hermiston’s Hannah Thompson and Pendleton’s Hallie Porter dive for a loose ball on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Girls Hoops



Hermiston
48



Pendleton
53

third quarter on 2-15 shooting and Hermiston held a commanding 37-23 lead after three quarters. Hermiston (8-9, 2-1) was able to boost that lead to as much as 16 early in the fourth quarter, but the Buckaroos soon began to chip away.

“Our motto is we’re never giving up, no matter how much we’re down we’re going to give as much effort as we can every single play,” said Greb, who finished with a game-high 20 points and added five boards, “and we kept chipping away, chipping away there in the fourth. We didn’t look at the scoreboard and we just kept going

and it turned out in our favor.”

Pendleton also turned to some crafty rotations in the fourth quarter, rotating in Tatum Fell, Jaden Lemberger and Elli Nirschl for defensive purposes and then Lauren Richards, Hallie Porter, and Katie Bradt for offensive purposes. Coach Porter said he had to get creative because Hermiston was content just holding on to the ball.

“We subbed the girls in for defense because they’re all quick, athletic, and have ability to tip some passes and that was the strategy because we had to do something,” he said. “You could see

See GIRLS HOOPS/2B



Jerome guides Pendleton to victory

Junior’s career night pushes Bucks past Hermiston

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Pendleton junior Shaw Jerome was all smiles following Tuesday night’s game against the Hermiston Bulldogs, and he had a good reason to be.

Pendleton’s starting point guard scored a career-high 16 points on 5-8 shooting and dished out five assists as his Buckaroos knocked off their rival Bulldogs 64-43 to claim sole possession of first place in the Columbia River Conference.

“Yeah something must’ve gotten into me before the game,” Jerome said with a big grin, “but it feels great to get the dub. We had a couple tough days of preparation and we brought it tonight.”

The Buckaroos (8-4, 3-0 CRC) put together a very balanced and efficient scoring effort in the game as star senior Caden Smith was held to single digits (eight points) for the first time all season. Wyatt Morris followed Jerome with 14 points and Tyler Newsom



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton’s Shaw Jerome cuts through the lane in the Bucks’ 64-43 win against Hermiston on Tuesday in Pendleton.

added nine points for the Buckaroos, who shot 48 percent as a team.

“It’s great to have more people on our team than just one guy,” Jerome said. “We can all shoot it and can all handle the ball, and it’s nice

to play like this.”

“We had contributions all over the place,” Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder added. “It takes guys stepping up in big games like this and I’m real proud of this group. They’re kind of figuring it out now

Boys Hoops



Hermiston
43



Pendleton
64

and the commitment’s there and it was a good win for us.”

After a fast-paced first quarter that saw the Buckaroos holding an 18-12 advantage, the game swung mightily into Pendleton’s in the second quarter. The Bucks outscored Hermiston 15-1 in the second to sprint to a 33-13 halftime lead, as the Bulldogs went an ice cold 0-10 from the floor. Their lone point came on a made free throw by Thomas McCullough.

“Scoring one point in a quarter isn’t going to win you many games,” Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. “I thought we were impatient there, jacking up shots early when we could’ve gotten to the rim or a ball reversal ... but scoring one point we were going to have to play extremely well in the second half and we played average at best so we’ll have to make some adjustments.”

Tedder added that while he was ecstatic with his

See BOYS HOOPS/2B

PENDLETON



Photo courtesy of Oregon Tech Athletics

OIT’s Beard named NAIA Player of Week

Oregon Tech senior forward Bryan Beard (43), seen here going for a rebound against College of Idaho in a game this season in Klamath Falls, has been named the NAIA National Player of the Week for Division II men’s basketball. Beard, a 2012 Pendleton High graduate, averaged 22.5 points and 10.5 rebounds in a pair of wins for the Hustlin’ Owls. It is the first time Beard has earned the distinction. Beard finished with eight points, six rebounds, two steals and block in Oregon Tech’s 99-85 win over Southern Oregon on Tuesday night.

Sports shorts

No. 22 Creighton back on track

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Creighton spent the last two weeks looking for ways replace their star point guard.

Coach Doug McDermott found the perfect solution Tuesday night.

Justin Patton, Marcus Foster and Khyri Thomas all scored 15 points Tuesday night and No. 22 Creighton regained its 3-point shooting touch as it ran away from No. 16 Butler, 76-67.

Initially, the Bluejays (20-3, 7-3 Big East) struggled without Maurice Watson Jr., who tore the ACL in his left knee Jan. 16.

But after losing three of their previous four and sliding from the top 10 almost out of the Top 25, Creighton has reverted to its early season form.

It has won two straight and moved into second place in the conference standings after going 13 of 21 from 3-point range, a season-high 61.9 percent.



“I’m not the one who threw somebody through a window. I never spit on a kid. I never had unpaid debt in Las Vegas.”

— LeBron James

Cleveland Cavaliers forward responding to criticism from TNT analyst Charles Barkley that the NBA superstar was being “whiny” by airing his frustrations with the team’s roster. Barkley laughed off James’ comments during a radio appearance Tuesday saying, “Some of the stuff he said about me is correct — doesn’t make the message I said about him incorrect.”

MLS considers spurned cities

NEW YORK (AP) — Dropped by the NFL, St. Louis and San Diego are among bidders from 12 areas applying for four Major League Soccer expansion teams.

Two of the teams, which have \$150 million expansion fees, will start play in 2020. MLS Commissioner Don Garber said Tuesday that having stadium financing in place is a condition for selection.

“In the past, we weren’t in a position to demand that every new market came in with all their I’s dotted and T’s crossed,” Garber said. “Now we’re at a point where there are so many cities looking for so few market opportunities that we can do the right thing by everyone and ensure that every aspect of their expansion plan is fully in place.”

The expansion committee, led by New England’s Jonathan Kraft, will start to review applications in February.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1913 — Jim Thorpe, star of the 1912 Olympics, signs to play baseball with the New York Giants.

1995 — Utah guard John Stockton becomes the NBA’s career assist leader, setting up Karl Malone with 6:30 left in the first half of the Jazz’s 129-88 victory over Denver. Stockton’s 9,922nd assist moves him ahead of Magic Johnson.

2010 — UConn is No. 1 in The Associated Press women’s basketball poll for a record 37th straight week, surpassing Louisiana Tech (1980-82) for the longest run atop the Top 25.

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