

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 18-19, 2017



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1B

UMATILLA

Vikings shock Knights

Sebastian Garcia plays hero with last-second shot to give Umatilla EOL crown

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Sebastian Garcia was a quiet contributor to Umatilla's offense through three quarters of their district championship game against Irrigon on Friday night.

But once the final buzzer sounded at The Pit, Garcia had elevated himself to hero status.

Garcia hit a 3-pointer in transition from the left wing with just 8.3 seconds to play which proved to be

the game-winning shot, as the Vikings pulled out a 61-59 victory over Irrigon to claim the district title.

"All I was thinking is man I have to make this," Garcia, who finished with 12 points, said after the game with a enormous smile on his face. "And when it went through, it was just a great feeling."

Umatilla (17-7, 8-2) junior guard Kaden Webb said he had no doubt that the shot was going in.

"Sebastian's a great shooter and we've always got confidence in him," Webb said. "He may miss five in a row, but there's no doubt he's going to make the big ones and he did."

The shot came just seconds after some luck fell the Vikings' ways, as Irrigon's Hayden White missed a fast-

Boys Basketball



break lay-in opportunity that would have put the Knights up by three points. Irrigon (15-8, 7-3) then had a chance for a last-second shot to tie or win, but the Vikings

defense didn't give the Knights a good look.

Daniel Vera's desperation shot from just inside halfcourt missed wide at the buzzer, and the standing room-only crowd at the pit exploded into a pandemonium.

"I just can't believe we won," Webb said. "It was a lot harder than we wanted it to be, but these are the games we live for and it's amazing ... it's just indescribable."

"This was the first time I've seen

See VIKINGS/4B

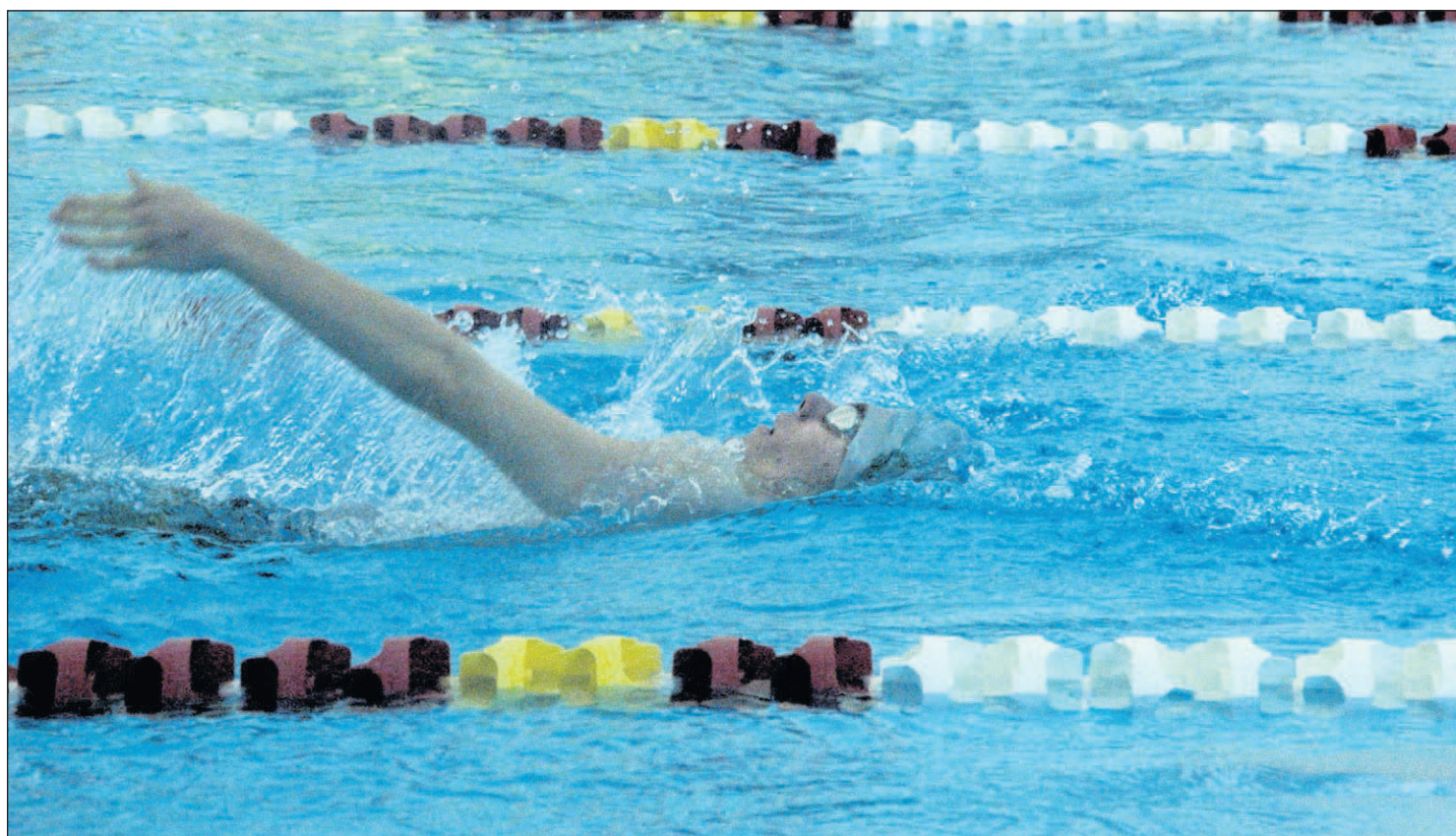


Umatilla's Kaden Webb shoots the ball between Irrigon's Johnny Phillips and Hayden White in the Vikings' 61-59 win against the Knights on Friday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

OSAA State Swimming Championships

Jennings speeds through prelims



Pendleton's Rylan Headley competes in the 100-yard backstroke preliminaries at the OSAA state swimming championships on Friday at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham.

Pendleton senior has top spot going into freestyle sprint finals

By MIKE WEBER
For the East Oregonian

GRESHAM — One of the largest combined contingents of swimmers in recent years from Pendleton High School and Hermiston High participated in the OSAA Swimming State Championships Friday at Mount Hood Community College.

The highlight of course, is that one out of 21 total Buckaroo and Bulldog Class 5A preliminary state qualifiers earned a prestigious position in the Class 5A finals. That standout swimmer is Pendleton High senior Jon Jennings.

Jennings, the defending 5A state champ in the boys 50-yard freestyle, swam to victories in both preliminaries of the 50 and 100 free to earn a spot in Saturday's 8 a.m. finals. Jennings swam to personal-best times twice in winning the 50 at 21.43 seconds and in the 100 at 47.61. If he continues swimming as strong as he did in Friday's prelims, there's a very good chance

See SWIMMING/5B

PENDLETON

Bucks clinch third straight CRC title

Pendleton turns in strong second half for rout

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THE DALLES — The Buckaroos claimed their third-straight Columbia River Conference boys basketball title on Friday with a 72-49 win over The Dalles.

It was the second time this week the teams had met after Pendleton won in a 41-point rout on Monday, but a determined Riverhawks had Pendleton a little on its heels going into halftime with the Bucks up 34-25.

See BUCKS/5B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs grind out victory

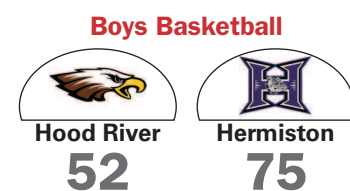
Hermiston overcomes sluggish pace to down Hood River

East Oregonian

Friday night's Hermiston boys basketball game against Hood River was not one of the more entertaining games of the season.

Sure, it was a high-scoring affair with 127 combined points scored, but there were also a whopping 49 fouls called in the game which slowed the game down for the spectators, and affected any rhythm and momentum for both Hermiston and Hood River.

"It's kind of tough to get in a rhythm ... you start to get on a run



and then a foul's called and on and on," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. "But I thought the kids did a good job holding their composure."

In the end, Hermiston's superior talent shined through as the Bulldogs put away Hood River Valley for the second time this season with a 75-52 victory on senior night at The Dawg House.

"I thought we played pretty hard defensively and smart for the most part," Arstein added. "I was proud of the kids that we got

See BULLDOGS/4B



Hermiston's Xaver Rambo shoots the ball over Hood River's Tanner Wells in the Bulldogs' 75-52 win against the Eagles on Friday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Sports shorts

Ex-NFLer Richardson arrested

HOOVER, Ala. (AP) — Former NFL player Trent Richardson is facing a misdemeanor domestic violence charge in Alabama.

Police in the Birmingham suburb of Hoover say the 26-year-old Richardson was jailed Friday with bond set at \$1,000.

A police statement says officers received a call about yelling coming from a guest room at a hotel Thursday night. It says police responded and found a woman with scratches and bruises on her face.

The statement says the two argued earlier at a Walmart store, and the dispute continued at the hotel. Paramedics treated the woman, but she didn't require further medical attention.

Richardson played football at Alabama before turning pro. He spent four seasons total in the NFL at Cleveland and Indianapolis.



Richardson

"It was just to (expletive) with everybody, because that is what I do ... You've got to have some fun with all of this. You can't take yourself too seriously. Some people do. I don't."

— Mark Cuban

Dallas Mavericks owner after the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game. Cuban wore jersey No. 46 — the number of the next U.S. President — as a tongue-in-cheek response to President Donald Trump, who tweeted on Feb. 12 that Cuban "is not smart enough to run for president!"

World squad beats US in NBA's Rising Stars Challenge

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 36 points and Buddy Hield, a New Orleans Pelicans rookie, added 28 to the delight of the locals as the World squad beat the U.S. 150-141 on Friday night in the Rising Stars Challenge.

The game featuring top rookies and second-year pros is the main event on the first night of NBA All-Star weekend.

Murray, a Canadian and Denver Nuggets rookie out of Kentucky, went 9 of 14 on 3-pointers and was voted the game's MVP. Hield, a Bahamian, was 11-of-22 shooting overall, but just 3 of 12 from deep.

Frank Kaminsky of the Charlotte Hornets scored 33 for the U.S. team and Karl-Anthony Towns added 24, highlighted by his dunk of Devin Booker's half-court lob.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1995 — Utah guard John Stockton becomes the first NBA player with 10,000 assists in a 108-98 victory over the Boston Celtics.

2001 — Dale Earnhardt, the greatest stock car star of his era, is killed in a crash on the last turn of the last lap of the Daytona 500 as he tries to protect Michael Waltrip's victory.

2006 — Shani Davis becomes the first black athlete to win an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history, capturing the men's 1,000-meter speedskating race.

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