

# SWIMMING: Hermiston gains valuable experience

Continued from 1B

that Jennings could be a two-time state swimming champion.

"I felt good in warm-ups and so I expected to swim really good in the 50 and everything else just went my way today," said Jennings, who has qualified for state all four years. "I was expecting to win, because I know Casey McEuen (of Lebanon) and I knew what his strategy would be, but I didn't expect him to go so fast. We've been racing together for a long time and we're best friends, but he's a really fast swimmer."

"Anything can happen in the finals. I'm sure Casey and I will both get PR's again on Saturday in both events. I love swimming here, the water is always the perfect temperature and being here at state really helps motivate you to swim your best."

Jennings nearly qualified for a third finals event as he helped his Buckaroo teammates Avery Madril, Rylan Headley and Shane Miltenberger have a stellar performance in the 200 freestyle relay. Swimming the anchor leg of the race, Jennings swam hard at the end as Pendleton clocked a time of 1:36.00 and took seventh place, just six one-hundredths of a second behind sixth place finals qualifier Corvallis (1:35.94).

Pendleton, guided by assistant coach Nick Lapp, recorded another impressive top-10 finish in the boys 400 relay with the same Buckaroo quartet taking ninth at 3:34.38.

"I'm pretty happy with the performance we had from everyone and I think that they all competed hard and had fun," said Lapp. "They did everything that we could ask of them. I'm always impressed with how well Jon swims. He just has an amazing effort every time he's in the water and it's going to be exciting to watch him in the finals. The kids all did a great job and I'm really proud of them."

Headley, a junior, also took 12th in the 100 backstroke (1:07.82). Miltenberger, a junior, took 12th in the 500 freestyle (5:22.55).

Pendleton's girls squad took 11th in the 200 relay as seniors Oceane Schreier, Sam Schmitz, junior Abby Williams and sophomore Landry Huth timed in at 1:51.51. Schmitz, a



**Pendleton's Shane Miltenberger competes in the 500-yard freestyle preliminaries at the OSAA state swimming championships on Friday at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham.**

East Oregonian photo by Mike Weber



East Oregonian photo by Mike Weber

## Hermiston's Ryan Barnard competes in the 200-yard individual medley preliminaries on Friday in Gresham.

two-time state qualifier, also took 12th in the 100 freestyle (1:00.18).

The Columbia River Conference champion Hermiston Bulldogs boys swim team, led by 10th-year coach Kevin Hamblin, notched two top-10 finishes. The Hermiston quartet of senior Ean Buck, sophomore Seth Buck, junior Carson Wrathall and sophomore Ryan Barnard took ninth in the 200 relay (1:38.16).

"This was just wonderful and it was

the best season I've ever had in over 30 years of coaching," said Hamblin, who led Hermiston to its first-ever league title. "The kids performed well in every event. They didn't lose any places and they finished at the same spot or higher than where they qualified at. We didn't have anybody qualify for finals, but we'll have a really good chance of bringing our boys team back here again next year. It was huge for the boys team to qualify for state and

we just had a very successful season."

Barnard took ninth in the 200 individual medley (2:10.64) and Wrathall took 11th in the 200 freestyle (1:57.26). Hermiston also took 11th in the 400 relay, with Seth Buck, Ean Buck, Wrathall and Barnard clocking a time of 3:37.70.

"I didn't do my best in the 200, but I tried my hardest and I had a good time," said Wrathall. "I fulfilled the goal I had at the beginning of the season to qualify for state. I really wasn't too concerned about where I finished, because I just wanted to enjoy the experience of being here for the first time ever. I hope to come back next year and be more competitive. ... It was fun to come here and perform with the best swimmers in the state."

- Pendleton Placers (preliminaries)**
- Boys**  
 100 freestyle — 1st, Jon Jennings, 47.61.  
 50 freestyle — 1st, Jennings, 21.43.  
 100 backstroke — 12th, Rylan Headley, 1:07.82.  
 500 freestyle — 12th, Shane Miltenberger, 5:22.55.  
 200 freestyle relay — 7th, Madril, Headley, Miltenberger, Jennings, 1:36.00.  
 400 freestyle relay — 9th, Madril, Headley, Miltenberger, Jennings, 3:34.38.
- Girls**  
 100 freestyle — 12th, Sam Schmitz, 1:00.18.  
 200 freestyle relay — 11th, Oceane Schreier, Abby Williams, Landry Huth, Schmitz, 1:51.51.
- Hermiston Placers (preliminaries)**
- Boys**  
 200 individual medley — 9th, Ryan Barnard, 2:10.64.  
 200 freestyle — 11th, Carson Wrathall, 1:57.26.  
 200 freestyle relay — 9th, Ean Buck, Seth Buck, Wrathall, Barnard, 1:38.16.  
 400 freestyle relay — 11th, Ean Buck, Seth Buck, Wrathall, Barnard, 3:37.70.

# BUCKS:

Continued from 1B

"(The Dalles) fought, they played hard," said Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder. "We kind of had a slow start. Caden (Smith) got hot right away and scored our first eight points, but then we were kind of stagnant the rest of the way. Defensively we weren't rotating like we usually do, we weren't communicating like we usually do."

"Things have been going well lately, and I think we had a bit of a wake-up call."

The Bucks (12-4, 7-0 CRC) came out in the second half re-energized and got another boost when senior Johnny Stuvland threw down a dunk in transition during a 23-point third quarter.

"That really fired us up," Tedder said. "With this team it's all about energy."

Stuvland finished with 19 points, and Smith had a game-high 28 to lead Pendleton to its ninth-straight win.

Dakota Murr scored 11 points to lead The Dalles (4-15, 1-7).

The Bucks still have two games left in the CRC season, but can't be caught because they've already beaten second-place Hermiston twice.

"I told them they would have to outwork every opponent every night to get where you want to get," Tedder said. "It's a great accomplishment but we've still got a lot of work to do to finish out."

Pendleton hosts Hermiston for their final meeting on Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

<b>PHS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>TDHS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49</b>

PENDLETON — C. Smith 28, J. Stuvland 19, R. Russell 7, S. Jerome 6, D. Thomas 4, K. Curtis 3, J. Szumski 2, T. Newsom 2, W. Morris 1, R. Scott, C. Sandford, D. Jackson.

THE DALLES — D. Murr 11, J. Miller 10, J. Nisbet 10, E. Flores 8, D. Seufalema 4, D. Hoffman 2, Jac. Hernandez 2, Jav. Hernandez 2, O. Fernandez, J. Bonham.

3-pointers — PHS 6; TDHS 5. Free throws — PHS 10-19; TDHS 8-15. Fouls — PHS 12; IHS 11.

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