

PENDLETON
Pendleton ends drought

Bucks capture first league title since '05

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Tuesday's Pendleton-Hermiston girls basketball team had more hype surrounding it than usual. Not only was it the rubber match between the two schools, but it was also the de facto Columbia River Conference championship game, with the Buckaroos playing for a chance at its first league title since 2005.

"I told the girls before the game that they had 32 minutes, and those 32 minutes could erase 11 years," Pendleton coach Kevin Porter said.

And after all 1,920 seconds ticked off the scoreboard, the Buckaroos did just that.

After holding a four point halftime lead, Pendleton outscored Hermiston 44-26 in the second half to run away with a 59-37 victory to clinch the CRC championship. When the buzzer sounded, Pendleton students rushed the court and celebrated with the team, with each girl and coach wearing a smile that was 11 years in the making.

"Oh my goodness!" Haley Greb exclaimed after the game. "This has been our goal for this entire season and I knew this team could do it. I'm so proud of my teammates ... it's just so crazy."

"It's so overwhelming but

See PENDLETON/2B



Pendleton's Maureen Davies shoots the ball over Hermiston's Jazlyn Romero in the Bucks' 59-37 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Pendleton's Wyatt Morris blocks a shot by Hermiston's Xavier Rambo in the Bucks' 62-42 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

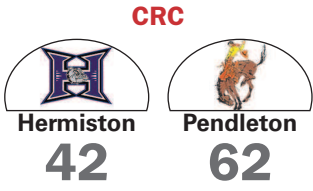


Bucks celebrate in style
Pendleton beats Hermiston, then commemorates league title

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

For a game featuring several irregularities during its build-up, Tuesday night's match-up with Hermiston sure played out in familiar fashion for the Pendleton boys basketball team.

It took the Buckaroos about nine minutes to get into the swing of things, but after senior Johnny Stuvland gave them their first lead of the game with a low post-up early in the second quarter, they never gave it back and took turns coming up with big plays



for a 62-42 win at Warberg Court.

An all-senior starting lineup on Senior Night, some new "3-peat" warm-up shirts and a preplanned net-cutting ceremony that would follow the game to commemorate the team's third-straight Columbia River Conference title all added to Pendleton's desire to put a strong foot forward against the cross-county rivals they never need any extra motivation to beat.

But, like they had before in the season series Pendleton swept, it was the Bulldogs coming out strong and getting

See BOYS BASKETBALL/2B

MLB
Mariners' Martin tells tale to jury

Seattle outfielder testifies Tuesday in Cuban smuggling trial

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — Seattle Mariners outfielder Leonys Martin told a Miami jury Tuesday he crossed the U.S.-Mexico border without any valid papers because he feared being kidnapped or worse after he was smuggled from Cuba by a group linked to a sports agent and a baseball trainer.

Martin's testimony came in the federal trial of Bartolo Hernandez and Julio Estrada, who are charged with conspiracy and alien smuggling. Martin told jurors he crossed at Laredo, Texas, in April 2011 after agreeing to a five-year, \$15.5 million contract with the Texas Rangers.

"My life was in danger in Mexico," Martin testified. "My safety was at risk."

Like other Cuban players who have testified in the case, Martin said he was whisked away from Cuba in 2010 by speedboat to Cancun, Mexico. Cuban players must establish residency in a third country in order to sign lucrative free agent contracts with Major League Baseball in the U.S.

While in Cancun, Martin said "eight or nine" men who said they were armed

broke into his apartment with a crowbar and pressured him to leave with them. Martin refused and the men eventually left, but he said the alleged smuggling ring decided after that to relocate a group of players to Monterrey, Mexico.

"The people were looking for us so we had to put some distance between them and us," Martin testified. "It was a difficult moment. We knew what bad things could happen."

While in Monterrey, a kidnapping attempt was made against one of the smugglers but he managed to escape out the back of his house,

See MARTIN/3B



AP Photo/Alan Diaz
Seattle Mariners outfielder Leonys Martin walks out of the federal courthouse with his attorney Paul Minoff, left, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, in Miami. Martin told a Miami jury Tuesday he crossed the U.S.-Mexico border without any valid papers because he feared being kidnapped or worse after he was smuggled from Cuba by a group linked to a sports agent and a baseball trainer.

Sports shorts

Lakers hire Magic Johnson in major front office shakeup

LOS ANGELES (AP) The Los Angeles Lakers have fired general manager Mitch Kupchak and put Magic Johnson in charge of basketball operations in a major shake-up of the struggling franchise's front office.

Lakers owner Jeanie Buss also removed her brother, Jim, from his job as the Lakers' executive vice president of basketball operations Tuesday.

Jeanie Buss then promoted Johnson, the Hall of Fame point guard who returned to the franchise earlier this year in an executive role.

Mitch Kupchak has been the 16-time NBA champion franchise's GM since 2000, when Jerry West left the club.

The Lakers are mired in the worst four-year stretch in franchise history. They are 19-39 this season.



Johnson

"I'm trying to get my life back in order. I'm trying to manage my daughters and, most of the time, they are managing me."

— Alex Rodriguez
Retired MLB player who is serving as a special advisor for the New York Yankees this season. A-Rod, 41, said he was uninterested in returning to play this season, and turned down offers after his playing days were over with the Yankees in 2016.

Cline's three-pointers lift No. 14 Purdue to overtime win

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Ryan Cline scored six of his 11 points in overtime to lift No. 14 Purdue to a 74-70 victory over Penn State on Tuesday night.

Cline hit consecutive 3-pointers to secure his team's sixth straight win in a game the Boilermakers led for just 9:16.

Vincent Edwards added 14 points, Isaac Haas chipped in 13 and Dakota Mathias scored 12 for the Boilermakers (23-5, 12-3 Big Ten).

Tony Carr scored 21 points, Lamar Stevens added 18 and Mike Watkins finished with 11 for Penn State (14-14, 6-9).

Penn State led for all but 7:35 of regulation and by as many as 10 points midway through the first half. But they surrendered the lead on a dunk by Haas with 10:13 left. The Nittany Lions used a 10-2 run to send the game into overtime.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1980 — The U.S. Olympic hockey team stuns the Soviet Union with a 4-3 victory in the medal round of the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Captain Mike Eruzione scores the winning goal midway through the final period.

2010 — Caltech ends its 310-game conference losing streak in men's basketball beating Occidental College 46-45 in its season finale. The Division III school had lost every Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference game they had played since Jan. 23, 1985.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com