

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

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1B

## HERMISTON

# Bulldogs dismantle Pioneers

### Hermiston routs Sandy, advances to first round

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

The Bulldogs weren't falling for any of Sandy's tricks.

Hermiston never flinched when the Pioneers opened Wednesday's 5A play-in game looking nothing like they'd seen on film. If anything, the Pioneers just ended up outsmarting themselves and the Bulldogs never trailed on their way to a 53-29 rout.

Sandy (14-10), the No. 5 team from the Northwest Oregon Conference, opened in a zone defense and an offense that put all five players outside the three-point arc.

"That's not something we've seen (Sandy) do at all, ever," said Hermiston coach Juan Rodriguez. "It probably just had something to do with the fact that we're a more athletic team and they were trying to slow the ball down quite a bit and see if they could make it a shorter game. I was worried there for a while, but once we got in a groove and started scoring they had to come out of it, and try to score as well."

It took nearly three minutes to break the scoreless tie, but Sandy went 3:31 without even attempting a shot. By then senior post Maddy

See BULLDOGS/3B

### Girls Hoops



Hermiston's Kynzee Padilla shoots the ball surrounded by Sandy defenders in the Bulldogs' 53-29 win against the Pioneers on Wednesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## STANFIELD

# Tigers hungry for another run

### Stanfield eyes experienced bracket at 2A tournament

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

The key word for this week's 2A boys basketball state tournament is experience. Half of the eight teams that will tip off at Pendleton High School today are loaded with returning starters and players that saw minutes during previous state appearances. Three of the teams have little to no state experience to speak of.

Then there's Stanfield. The No. 2 Tigers don't fit in with either group, because although they bring just two players to Pendleton that have played in state tournament game in basketball, nearly the entire roster has been experiencing playoff success in some sport from the time they made their first varsity

roster. A title run in baseball in 2016 and a runner-up finish in football this past fall has the Tigers well accustomed to playing under pressure.

"Everybody's tough from here on out, there's no gimmes," said senior Dylan Grogan, who started as a freshman for the 2014 basketball team that placed third. "I can see from that team and this team, the thing that we have in common is we're

See TIGERS/2B

### Class 2A Quarterfinals



#7 Oakridge Warriors (20-6)



#2 Stanfield Tigers (20-1)

• Today, 8:30 p.m.  
• at Pendleton High School

## ATHENA

# TigerScots embracing underdog role

### Weston-McEwen gunning for upsets as state begins

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

The Weston-McEwen TigerScots are no strangers to the underdog role.

Just four months ago, the majority of the TigerScots basketball players made the state tournament in volleyball as a No. 5 seed and proceeded to pull of three statistical upsets over the No. 4, No. 1, and No. 3 seed to capture the state championship. Now, starting today, the TigerScots girls basketball team will head to the state tournament as a No. 13 seed ready to make another run.

"It's kind of funny because we were in almost exact same position," senior Sarah Finifrock said before

See TIGERSCOTS/2B



#13 Weston-McEwen (17-8)



#5 Imbler Panthers (15-6)

• Today, 1:30 p.m.  
• at Pendleton Convention Center

## MISSION

# Golden Eagles ready to roll as top seed

### Nixyaawii girls ready to start run to state title

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

The Nixyaawii girls basketball team has been the premier team in Class 1A for the majority of the 2016-17 season, standing as one of only three unbeaten girls programs in the entire state of Oregon and dominating nearly every team that stood in its way.

The Golden Eagles (24-0) have won only three games by 10 points or less, including a 54-51 victory over defending state champion Country Christian on Dec. 3, but have won their remaining 21 games by an average of 31.4 points. However, the Golden Eagles know that they have the target on their backs as the No. 1 overall seed in the Class 1A state tournament starting tomorrow, and that the previous 24 games mean nothing at this point.

"It doesn't matter who the opponent is, we're just trying to take it one game at a time," Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said prior to practice on Wednesday.



In this Jan. 5, 2017 file photo, Nixyaawii's Milan Schimmel (24) dishes off a pass during a game against Echo Schimmel and the Golden Eagles head to the 1A state tournament today as the No. 1 seed in the bracket.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

### 1A Quarterfinals



#9 Powder Valley (21-5)



#1 Nixyaawii Golden Eagles (24-0)

• Today, 1:30 p.m.  
• at Baker High School

Oregon League this season and faced off three times with Nixyaawii winning all three games by an average of 21 points, the most recent a 46-27 win in the district championship on Feb. 18.

However, Nixyaawii knows that they cannot get too cocky knowing those previous results.

"Any team can beat us at any moment," senior Stacy Fitzpatrick said, "so you have to go into every game not knowing what the outcome might be. We have to go in confident, but not too confident."

"We've talked about it a lot," Maddern added. "It's kind of hard, but I also think it's an advantage because if we get off to a good start, it'll be in their head a little bit. But for the most part, we're just trying to down there and get a win now matter how it happens, but we also understand it'll be a tougher game."

See NIXYAAWII/2B

## Sports shorts

### Sixers' Embiid to miss rest of season

MIAMI (AP) — Philadelphia center Joel Embiid's season is over because of left knee problems, including a torn meniscus that is worse than the 76ers first thought.

Embiid hadn't played since Jan. 27, and the 76ers had said in recent days that his return was likely later this week. But an MRI performed Monday showed the meniscus problem was worse than the original diagnosis suggested, and after reviewing that information the 76ers decided to end his season.

Embiid missed his first two NBA seasons with right foot issues, then finally made his debut this season and appeared in 31 games with the 76ers. Embiid averaged 20.2 points and 7.8 rebounds this season, numbers that merited serious All-Star consideration.



Embiid

"My goal is to make our team the team of the Rockies. We want to be the team that broadcasts into Boise, Salt Lake City, all through Montana ... It's the Vegas Golden Knights, but we're going to be everywhere."

— Bill Foley

Vegas Golden Knights owner speaking on Wednesday after Vegas officially became the 31st NHL franchise after making the final expansion payment. The expansion draft is set for June 21.

### Mariners make yet another trade, pick up starting pitcher

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — The Seattle Mariners acquired right-hander Chase De Jong from the Los Angeles Dodgers for a pair of minor leaguers Wednesday.

The Mariners sent infielder Drew Jackson and pitcher Aneurys Zabala to the Dodgers, and designated infielder Mike Freeman for assignment to clear a spot on the 40-man roster.

De Jong, 23, is coming off a stellar 2016 season mostly spent at Double-A where he went 15-2 with a 2.82 ERA in 26 starts with Tulsa. He was promoted to Triple-A Oklahoma City for one game. He was named the Texas League pitcher of the year last season. Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto says the Mariners see De Jong as "knocking at the door," of being a starter in the majors.



### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1921 — Kentucky beats Georgia 20-19 in the Southern Intercollegiate men's basketball championship game in Atlanta. The 14-team conference does not keep formal regular season standings. It's college basketball's first tournament.

1962 — Wilt Chamberlain scores an NBA-record 100 points to lead the Philadelphia Warriors to a 169-147 triumph over the New York Knicks. Chamberlain scores 59 second-half points and 28 points from the free-throw line for records.

2012 — MLB expands its playoff format to 10 teams, adding a second wild-card in each league.

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