

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

2A State Tournament

Tigers claw into first final

Stanfield makes big plays down stretch to beat Life Christian

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Stanfield Tigers continued to thrive under pressure and came out of Friday's 2A state semifinals with another gem to knock off the Life Christian Lions 56-41 at Pendleton Convention Center.

No. 2 Stanfield started the fourth quarter 6-for-8 from the field and sealed the win during a 39-second stretch in the final minutes that all started when senior Jose Garcia held his ground to draw charge on Life Christian's Zeke Quinlan with 2:18 left and Stanfield up 47-39.

The Tigers (22-1) were only able to get two points out their next possession, but they made it last until the 1:39 mark by grabbing three offensive rebounds.

No. 6 Life Christian (23-7) scored its final points on a pair of free throws by Bo Quinlan with 1:30 left to play, and shot 3-for-10 in the fourth quarter as Stanfield earned its first championship berth in program history. It is the third straight sport the Tigers have reached the championship in after winning the 2016 baseball title and finishing second in football this past fall.

"Before the game we just calmed ourselves down. I don't think any of us were nervous," said senior Dylan Grogan. "We've been deep in the playoffs so we know how to take it. Some people break down and try to take it individually, we took it as a team and stepped up."

Grogan scored 10 of his team-high 20 points during the fourth quarter and played the final 4:44 with four fouls.

"When I was younger I used to get into foul trouble a lot, so I kind of knew how to play off, how to use it," he said. "It's tough, you have to play off, but it worked."

Grogan drained three straight shots during an 11-2 run that put the Tigers up for good, and his three-pointer with 4:13 left made it 43-37 to match their largest lead from the first half.

Boys Hoops



Stanfield's Dylan Grogan shoots the ball guarded by Life Christian's Zeke Quinlan and Zac Ross (25) in the Tigers' 56-41 win against the Lions on Friday in Pendleton.

The game was tied six times and had 13 lead changes, but Stanfield made more hustle plays to give it the edge after the game was tied at 30-30 after three quarters.

The Tigers finished with 14 offensive rebounds that led to 12 second-chance points, scored 14 points off turnovers, and came up with key defensive stops to frustrate the Lions.

"All season we've been one hand-length away and keeping the pressure tight," said senior Tyler Monkus. "This team (Life Christian) plays slow, so we wanted to play our tempo game, and that's what we did all game."

Monkus came up with his fourth steal of the game with 1:03 left when he ran down Zeke Quinlan at midcourt. He also had a block and four assists.

"We just had to hustle after everything," he said. "No matter if we're down by a lot, up by a lot, we just have to give 100 percent, and it can change the momentum pretty fast. That's what we've worked on all year."

Brody Woods came off the bench to score 13 points with nine rebounds, and two blocks

See STANFIELD/3B

5A State Tournament



Pendleton's Caden Smith (23) goes up for a shot Friday during a 5A state championship quarterfinal game against Corvallis at Warberg Court.

Bucks are state bound

Pendleton advances to Final 8 with 2OT thriller

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder has raved about senior Johnny Stuvland's improvement throughout this season, and with good reason.

Stuvland showed why on Friday night.

With a packed house at Warberg Court, Stuvland put up 17 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and sank the game-winning free throws with just 2.2 seconds left to send his Buckaroos to the state tournament with a thrilling 69-67 double overtime victory over the Corvallis Spartans in the Class 5A first round.

"I feel high on life right now," Stuvland said minutes after the game. "It's a great feeling to get a team win, everybody did their part from defense to offense and got it done."

Stuvland scored all six of Pendleton's points in the second overtime, including a key breakaway lay-up with five seconds left that put his Bucks on top. Stuvland gave all the credit on that play to sophomore Tyler Newsom, who set him up for the lay-in. Prior to the play, Corvallis was content on dribbling down the clock

Boys Hoops



See BUCKS/2B

5A State Tournament

Pendleton ousted by Putnam

Shorthanded Buckaroos struggle against Kingsmen

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After the Pendleton girls basketball team won the program's first league title in 12 years and clinched a home first round playoff game, the Buckaroos had high hopes at making a state tournament run.

But those hopes were dashed even before the Bucks took the floor for the playoff game, as starting forward and first team all-CRC player Kalan McGlothlan had to have emergency gall bladder surgery on Tuesday. The procedure kept her out for the Buckaroos first round game against Rex Putnam on Friday and the Buckaroos surely missed her presence.

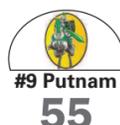
Without McGlothlan's rebounding abilities and

See GIRLS/2B



Pendleton's Lauren Richards (5) drives to the basket past Kanani Kremers (3), of Putnam, Friday in a 5A state championship quarterfinal game at Warberg Court.

Girls Hoops



1A State Tournament

Golden Eagles soar to state championship game

Nixyaawii puts away Arlington in semifinals

East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — For the second time in school history, the Nixyaawii girls basketball team will play for a state championship.

Nixyaawii was able to put away the Arlington Honkers with ease in the Class 1A semifinals on Friday afternoon with a 51-27 victory at Baker High School, advancing to the state finals for the first time since 2011.

Kaitlynn Melton had a big game on offense for the No. 1 seed Golden Eagles (25-0) with 17 points on 6 of 9 shooting to go with seven rebounds and three steals. Behind her, Mary Stewart finished with 16 points on 8 of 25 shooting with 10 rebounds, eight steals and five assists and Milan Schimmel added eight points and nine rebounds.

The Golden Eagles' defense kept the No. 12 Honkers (22-6) offense very quiet in the game, as Arlington shot a meager 14 percent from the floor and made just 8 of 57 shot attempts. Nixyaawii also forced 24 Honker turnovers.

Megan Hauer finished as Arlington's leading scorer with 17 points and added 10 rebounds, and Emily Kirby also added

11 boards.

The Honkers were the ones that drew first blood on Friday, as Joely Patnode was fouled in the act of shooting a 3-pointer just 30 seconds into the game and then sank all three free throws to give her team a 3-0 lead. But that lead was short-lived as Nixyaawii put together an 11-1 run over the next five minutes in the first quarter to take control of the game.

Arlington got the lead back under double digits late in the second quarter with a 25-17 deficit, but that was as close as it could get as the Golden Eagles proved to be too strong.

Nixyaawii will now play the winner of No. 3 Country Christian and No. 10 Adrian to be played tonight at 6:30 p.m. for the state championship. The Golden Eagles won a state title in their only appearance in 2011, beating Hosanna Christian 75-50.

Arlington will play for third place tomorrow morning against the loser of the Adrian/Country Christian game at 11:30 a.m.

Girls Hoops



AHS	9	11	2	5	-	27
NCS	18	13	12	8	-	51
ARLINGTON	— M. Hauer 17, S. Collins 5, J. Patnode 4, E. Kirby 1, S. Grady, S. Weatherford, K. McClure, H. Davidson, R. McClure.					
NIXYAAWII	— K. Melton 17, M. Stewart 16, M. Schimmel 8, T. Melton 6, S. Fitzpatrick 2, K. Mountinchief 2, E. Butler, T. Broncheau, S. Patrick, S. Fuentes, A. Tonasket, E. Looney.					
3-pointers	— AHS 0, NCS 0. Free throws — AHS 11-20, NCS 9-14. Fouls — AHS 13, NCS 20. Fouled out — K. Melton (NCS).					