

2A State Tournament Roundup

Wolverines shoot past Pioneers, into state finals

Santiam boys beat league foe, No. 1 seed Western Mennonite

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Playing in its first final bracket since 1997, No. 4 Santiam proved experience is over-rated when it shot down No. 1 Western Mennonite and its plethora of tournament veterans 53-33 in the 2A basketball semifinals on Friday afternoon at Pendleton Convention Center.

Santiam (23-4), which evened the season series with the Tri-River Conference champions at 2-2 with the win, came out hot hitting three 3-pointers in the first quarter, never trailed, and went on a 10-2 run to start the fourth quarter that made it a 43-24 lead when Julian Downey hit a triple with 5:31 left to play.

Santiam made its first six shots in the fourth quarter and pushed the lead to its largest margin at 51-26 when Downey converted a pair of free throws with 2:07 left.

The Wolverines shot 17-for-36 (47.2 percent) for the game and 9-for-13 (69.2 percent) in the second half. Downey score 10 of his team-high 16 points after halftime and also had 10 rebounds for the double-double.

Austin Fawcett added 13 points, and a strong defensive effort limited the Pioneers' starting five to just 16 points total.

Western Mennonite (25-6) shot 13-for-47 (27.7 percent) included 2-for-20 from three-point range.

Payton Richardson had a team-high nine points, and Alex Nicoli added seven points to go with three steals.

Santiam reached the state final for the first time since 1976, and won its only title in 1974 in Class A.

The Wolverines will tip off against No. 2 Stanfield on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at the convention center.

The Pioneers are guaranteed their

11th straight state trophy and will play No. 6 Life Christian for 3rd/5th place starting at 3:15 p.m. at the convention center.

Scoreboard table for Santiam vs Western Mennonite

SANTIAM — Ju. Downey 16, A. Fawcett 13, Jo. Downey 8, J. Fawcett 7, N. Butler 7, J. Ballard 2, R. Nicot, A. Casner, D. Whitmore. WESTERN MENNONITE — P. Richardson 9, J. Williams 8, A. Nicoli 7, S. Hess 4, I. Rush 2, M. Hull 2, K. Hull 1, D. Berkay, C. Roth, J. Roth, H. Martin, C. Nofziger. 3-pointers — SHS 7; WM 2. Free throws — SHS 12-16; WM 5-8. Fouls — SHS 11; WM 15. Fouled out — P. Richardson (WM).

VERNONIA 47, IMBLER 36 — At Pendleton, a three-pointer by Brett Elliott gave No. 9 Vernonia its first lead at 27-25 with 6:12 left in the third quarter, and the Loggers held off No. 5 Imbler to earn a spot in the consolation finals on Saturday where they'll play for 4th/6th.

Imbler (18-4) tied the score one last time at 31-31 on a layup by Brandon McGilvray with 1:04 left in the third, but Clay Sullivan drained a three-pointer with two second left in the stanza to put Vernonia (23-6) back up for good.

Sullivan finished with a game-high 18 points on 7-of-13 shooting and five steals, and Elliott added 11 points for the Loggers, which shot 17-for-43 (39.5 percent) from the field.

McGilvray scored 14 points to with three steals to lead Imbler, Trayse Riggle added 10 points and three steals, and Hunter VanLeuven pulled in 13 rebounds.

A VanLeuven jumper pulled Imbler within one to start the fourth quarter, but Vernonia answered with a three by Sullivan, and another by Tristan Adams to make it 40-33. Imbler missed its next five shots and a jump shot by Luke McCallum pushed the lead to 42-33 with 2:10 to play.

Vernonia, last season's champion, will play 2A newcomer No. 3 Columbia Christian at 10:45 a.m. at the convention center.

Scoreboard table for Vernonia vs Imbler

VERNONIA — C. Sullivan 18, B. Elliott 11, T. Adams 9, L. McCallum 6, B. Clark 3, B. Jones, K. Sullivan, C. Tolonen, J. Handegard, G. Herral, A. Vazquez. IMBLER — B. McGilvray 14, T. Riggle 10, H. VanLeuven

6, M. Whitaker 4, R. Mullarkey 2, G. Tritchka, R. Patterson, G. Smith, C. Breshears, C. Gorham, A. Krife, W. McDonald. 3-pointers — VHS 6; IHS 2. Free throws — VHS 7-16; IHS 4-5. Fouls — VHS 11; IHS 16.

COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN 65, OAKRIDGE 45 — At Pendleton, No. 3 Columbia Christian assured itself a state trophy in its first season playing at Class 2A as it eliminated No. 7 Oakridge in their consolation semifinal on Saturday morning at Pendleton Convention Center.

Due to a technical error, stats were not available from the game.

Columbia Christian (25-3), which was runner-up at Class 1A last season, will face last season's 2A champion Vernonia for 4th/6th place on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. at the convention center.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

WESTERN MENNONITE 52, KENNEDY 37 — At Pendleton, the No. 2 Pioneers opened their semifinal game on a 7-0 run and made sure the girls' 2A bracket will have a new champion by beating defending champs No. 3 Kennedy for the third time this season.

Madison Hull was three points from a 2A tournament record with 35 on 7-of-14 shooting and 18-of-20 free throw shooting. She also had 13 points and four assists.

Annika Hess added 12 points and seven rebounds, and the Pioneers (20-7) turned the ball over just nine times while winning the rebounding battle 35-30.

Molly Jaeger scored eight points to pace Kennedy (16-11), and Kaylee Brown added seven points and five rebounds off the bench.

Western Mennonite never trailed and the game was never tied, but the Pioneers didn't pull away for good until the fourth quarter when a three-pointer by Hess capped a 10-2 run to make it 43-31 with 4:30 to play. The lead never dropped back below double digits from there.

Western Mennonite will face No. 1 Monroe in the championship on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Kennedy will play Imbler for 3rd/5th at 1:30 p.m.

Both games are at the convention center.

Scoreboard table for KHS vs WM

KENNEDY — M. Jaeger 8, H. Arritola 7, K. Brown 7, K. Cantu 6, K. Kleinschmit 4, S. Carley 3, C. Traeger 2, A. Frey, I. Gomez, Y. Gomez. WESTERN MENNONITE — M. Hull 35, A. Hess 12, P. Hopper 5, L. Foster, M. Choi. 3-pointers — KHS 1; WM 7. Free throws — KHS 8-15; WM 23-32. Fouls — KHS 23; WM 11. Fouled out — H. Arritola (KHS).

MONROE 41, IMBLER 28 — At Pendleton, No. 1 Monroe closed on a 10-2 run to punch its ticket to the 2A state finals on Friday afternoon at Pendleton Convention Center, sending No. 5 Imbler into the third-place game.

It'll be the first state title the Dragons (28-0) have played for in girls basketball, and they made it there despite a lower field-goal percentage and 10 fewer rebounds than the Panthers (16-7). They made up for it on defense, forcing Imbler into 28 turnovers led by the efforts of Kyndal Martin (4 steals) and Madison Ballard (3 steals).

Both teams shot below 30 percent from the field, but the Dragons drained six threes and only turned the ball over 10 times while the Panthers made just eight shots total in the game.

Ballard finished with 19 points, and Rose Gwillim pulled in 10 rebounds.

Imbler was led by Lexee Robertson with nine points and 10 rebounds, and Jacobi Rudd had 11 rebounds.

Monroe never trailed as Ballard hit two three-pointers in the first 3:08 to pace a 7-1 start. Imbler pulled within three at 10-7 when Kailey Smith hit a shot with 5:11 left before halftime, but the Dragons closed the half on a 10-1 run with inside baskets by Peyton Greene and Ballard, and a three-pointer by Martin.

The closest Imbler came in the second half was after Rudd scored in the paint to make it 25-21 at the end of the third quarter. A pair of free throws from Martin made it 29-21 with 5:44 to play.

Monroe will play No. 2 Western

Mennonite in the championship on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the convention center. Imbler will play No. 3 Kennedy for 3rd-5th place at 1:30 p.m.

Scoreboard table for IHS vs MHS

IMBLER — L. Robertson 9, K. Stirewalt 7, K. Smith 5, J. Rudd 3, H. Kipatrick 3, C. McGinness 1, M. Hassan. MONROE — M. Ballard 19, P. Greene 5, R. Gwillim 5, K. Martin 5, E. Stahl 4, C. Knaggs 3, C. May, P. Bodl, D. Langley, M. Lopez. 3-pointers — IHS 0; MHS 6. Free throws — IHS 12-21; MHS 13-19. Fouls — IHS 19; MHS 15. Fouled out — J. Rudd (IHS).

EAST LINN CHRISTIAN 45, GRANT UNION 29 — At Pendleton, the Eagles opened the game shooting 4-for-6 and scored seven points off turnovers to take an early lead they never gave up in Friday's consolation semifinals at Pendleton High School.

No. 7 East Linn Christian (17-11) shot 10-for-22 (45.5 percent) from the field in the first half and led by as many as 18 in the second half as No. 11 Grant Union (15-8) never got dialed in.

East Linn's shooting cooled to 15-for-42 (35.7 percent) by game's end, but the Prospectors managed just 11-for-52 (21.2 percent) that included a 2-for-22 (9.1 percent) behind the three-point arc.

Sydney Nichol paced the Eagles with 21 points, 10 rebounds and three steals, Grace Wilson added 10 points and eight rebounds, and McKayla Horner had eight points to go with 13 boards. East Linn out-rebounded Grant Union 44-32.

The Pros were paced by Mariah Moulton with 14 points, and Madi McKrola added eight points and 10 rebounds.

East Linn will play Regis in the consolation final for 4th/6th place on Saturday at 9 a.m. at Pendleton Convention Center.

Scoreboard table for GU vs ELC

GRANT UNION — M. Moulton 14, M. McKrola 8, J. Rude 3, T. Hutchinson 2, K. Wright 1, M. Smith 1, H. Wright, M. Culey, M. Wright, F. Weaver, D. Girvin, W. McClellan. EAST LINN CHRISTIAN — S. Nichol 21, G. Wilson 10, M. Horner 8, R. Busek 6, M. Christenson, A. Cade, M. Filis, A. Medford, M. Wilson. 3-pointers — GU 2; ELC 2. Free throws — GU 5-8; ELC 13-21. Fouls — GU 14, ELC 11.

BUCKS: Will head to Corvallis for Final 8

Continued from 1B

to take the final shot with the game tied at 65-65.

But then with approximately 10 seconds left, Newsom got his hand on the ball and forced it away from the Spartan player and while both players dove for the ball, Newsom's height and wing span gave him the advantage, possessing the ball and then somehow flipping it down to a wide-open Stuvland.

"Tyler, man, the way he got on the floor there, he showed his improvement on that one play," Pendleton's Caden Smith said. "I'm so happy for my guys right now."

And speaking of Smith, the Buckaroos had to play the second overtime session and the final minute of the first overtime without Smith on the floor, who fouled out with 23 points. While the Buckaroos surely missed Smith's ability to create shots and overall skill, to be able to pull out the win showed the team's true character.

"We've stressed all year that Caden's the engine that drives us, but we have so many other parts that are capable," Tedder said. "To see guys step up and have no lapse in energy, in confidence, it was pretty special."

Pendleton appeared to be on its way to an easier victory midway through the fourth quarter, as it led Corvallis 49-39 with 3:46 left to play. But then the Spartans found a rhythm from deep and made three straight 3-pointers to slowly chip away while Pendleton's offense went cold.

The Buckaroos then were up 54-52 with 28.7 seconds left and Smith went to the free throw line looking to nearly ice the game. But then Smith bricked both free throws and gave Corvallis a chance to tie, which they did on a free-throw line jumper by Derek Osenga to send the game to overtime.

Then in the first overtime, Pendleton again started to pull away, holding a 60-55 lead with 1:05 left. But free throws again cost the Buckaroos a chance to ice the game, and the Spartans' Dyshawn Hobson, who led Corvallis with 18 points, nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the key to knot the



Pendleton's Johnny Stuvland (14) goes up for a shot over Matthew Davis (21) and Hans Ellenson (23), of Corvallis, Friday in a 5A state championship quarterfinal game at Warberg Court. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

game at 63-63 and send it to the second overtime.

"Man, we won that game about four times, but we also lost it about eight times," Tedder said.

Things got chippy between the two teams in the second OT, as following Stuvland's breakaway lay-in, Hobson raced down the floor and pulled up just inside half-court to attempt a last-second shot. He was fouled on the play, but after a quick discussion the referees determined the foul was before the shot and therefore Hobson would be awarded two free throws instead of three.

Corvallis' coach was upset with the decision and was called for a technical foul, which set up Stuvland's game-winning free throws.

"We just find a way," Tedder said of his team's effort. "We're resilient and

we have trust in each other and we stay together. I'm pretty humbled and proud to be a part of this group and it was pretty cool to watch."

Pendleton will head to Corvallis for the Final 8 of the 5A state tournament next week, where it will take on the No. 2 seed Churchill on Wednesday at 8:15 p.m. at Oregon State University's Gill Coliseum.

Scoreboard table for CHS vs PHS

CORVALLIS — D. Hobson 18, M. Davis 15, H. Ellenson 11, G. Sather 9, C. Hixson 6, D. Osenga 4, L. Fulford 4, E. Reab. PENDLETON — C. Smith 23, J. Stuvland 17, W. Morris 9, T. Newsom 8, S. Jerome 6, K. Curtis 3, J. Szumski 2, R. Russell 1. 3-pointers — CHS 8; PHS 3. Free throws — CHS 15-17; PHS 28-48. Fouls — CHS 32; PHS 17. Fouled out — M. Davis, H. Ellenson, C. Hixson (CHS); C. Smith (PHS).

Contact Eric at esinger@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0839. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

GIRLS: Plagued by turnovers in first half

Continued from 1B

offensive work ethic, No. 8 seed Pendleton was not able to keep up with the No. 9 seed Kingsmen as Rex Putnam pulled away for a 55-38 victory at Warberg Court.

"We weren't at 100 percent obviously," Pendleton coach Kevin Porter said. "Not many teams are at 100 percent at this point, but not many teams have to go without an all-league player like Kalan. The score didn't go our way, but nobody can take away the season we had."

Putnam (18-7) scored the first basket of the game right off the opening tip, but Pendleton (12-8) answered back as Haley Greb putback her own miss to tie the game at 2-2 with 7:00 left to play. But from that point on, Putnam smothered Pendleton on the defensive end of the floor and overwhelmed them on offense and continuously built up its lead through the rest of the game.

Turnovers plagued Pendleton early in the first half, as the Buckaroos turned the ball over six times in their first seven possessions and at the 5:05 mark of the second quarter the Bucks

had 13 turnovers and a mere 12 shot attempts.

"The film we had (of Putnam), nobody tried to pressure them so we thought we could," Porter said. "We thought they were slower than they really were, so in this case we weren't prepared for their speed. But it is what it is, they won, they beat us."

Haley Greb led Pendleton with eight points and both Katie Bradt and Hunter Kiele had six points apiece to pace Pendleton. Porter said that Bradt's performance was one that stood out for him in the game.

"Katie did an outstanding job for us," he said. "She had to play a ton of minutes that she's not used to playing and I'm extremely proud of her. That's great experience for a sophomore to get."

After shooting just 5-20 (25 percent) from the floor in the first half which led to a 33-11 deficit at the break, the Buckaroos did clean things up in the second half and actually outscored the Kingsmen 27-22 in that span. Pendleton shot 10-25 (40 percent) in the half and held the Kingsmen to 8-24 (33 percent) and forced seven turnovers.

Margaret Batz led Rex Putnam with 12 points,

Megan Spaulding had 11 and both Haley Brandel and Abigail Paul contributed 10 points apiece for the Kingsmen.

The game marked the end of the road for Pendleton's three seniors of Greb, Tatum Fell and Kale'a Broker, and Porter said that he believes this group will be remembered for as long as he coaches the Bucks.

"One of the things we had as a team goal this year was to make girls basketball important in Pendleton," he said. "And I think part of accomplishing that goal is senior leadership, and these girls had it. One starts (Greb), the other two are reserves ... you hope the younger kids learn something from their leadership whether it's being a good bench teammate.

"You can see a lot of your team culture from the kids not in the game, and sometimes that's two seniors there and it's pretty hard for a kid to set aside their own goals for a team and these girls did that."

Scoreboard table for RP vs PHS

REX PUTNAM — M. Batz 12, M. Spaulding 11, H. Brandel 10, A. Paul 10, K. Kremers 9, E. Whittington 4. PENDLETON — H. Greb 8, K. Bradt 6, H. Kiele 6, H. Porter 4, T. Fell 3, M. Davies 3, E. Nirschl 3, L. Richards 3, J. Lemberger 2. 3-pointers — RP 2; PHS 2. Free throws — RP 17-27; PHS 6-8. Fouls — RP 7; PHS 21.

CHI St. Anthony Family Clinic advertisement with logo, hours (8am-7pm Mon-Thurs, 8am-6pm Fri, 10am-6pm Sat-Sun), phone number 541-966-0535, and address 3001 St. Anthony Way, Pendleton.

HAMLEY STEAKHOUSE & SALOON advertisement with logo, menu items (USDA Prime Steaks, Mom's Meatloaf, Baby Back Ribs, Fire Roasted Salmon, Bunkhouse Pasta), hours (Hamley Saloon open at 4PM, Dinner in Steakhouse at 5PM), phone number 541.278.1100, and address Main & Court, Downtown Pendleton.