

BUCKS: Davies leads team with 13 kills

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especially senior Shae Duffy and junior Katie Kennedy. The Eagles overwhelmed Pendleton’s defense with fast, thundering spikes, with Kennedy tallying 15 kills and Duffy with 11 in the match.

“When the ball’s moving that fast, it’s hard to get far enough back to where you can effectively pass it,” Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said. “We needed to be bigger at the net to be able to take some speed off the ball and that’s where we kind of fell apart, not having as much of a presence as we normally do.”

All three sets were a battle for both teams. In the first set, the Buckaroos and Eagles traded points back-and-forth to start but then the Eagles gained some momentum and went on a run, building up a 19-11 lead. Pendleton battled back, cutting the deficit to 21-17 before the Eagles finished off the first set victory.

In the second set it was the Buckaroos that started out fast for a 6-2 lead but Hood River later went on a 10-0 run to grab a 15-11 lead. Once again, Pendleton battled back. Helped by three kills from Maureen Davies, the Buckaroos got within 23-22 and 24-23 before Kennedy finished off the set with a kill for the win.

“It’s good to see them fight and hang in,” Lapp said. “We struggled with that over the weekend, but we fought in tonight and it was good to see that grit when we got down. But at the same time, there are those little things that can kick you in the head and keep their leads and we ended up falling short tonight.”

Hood River got the advantage to start the third set for an early 8-5 lead and eventually turned that into a 20-15 lead. However once again, Pendleton was not ready to wave the white flag. Davies turned in four more of her 13 total kills as Pendleton went on a 5-1 run to make it a one-point game at 21-20. But Kennedy stepped in for the Eagles again with three kills to help Hood River finish off the match.

“We always come back,” McGlothran said. “When it looks like we’re going to lose, nope, we go until the very last



Pendleton’s Maureen Davies attempts to block a shot from Hood River’s Katie Kennedy in the Bucks’ loss to the Eagles on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Pendleton’s Kalan McGlothran attempts to block a strike from Hood River’s Shae Duffy.

second and think we can win. We never give up and it’s not in us or Bucks these days.”

Behind Davies’ performance, Pendleton’s offense was quiet with Jaiden Lemberger and Rylee Gentner each contributing two kills and Elli Nirschl and McGlothran each had one. Kirah McGlothran led the Buckaroos with eight digs while Aspen Garton and Lauren Richards had four. Other team

leaders included Richards with 14 assists and Talia Lunny with three aces.

While the Buckaroos are still in a good position to reach the postseason down the road, Lapp hopes that Tuesday’s loss and the loss on Saturday at the Oregon City tournament to Canby, refocuses her team.

“I walked in here tonight and told them ‘You have to believe in yourself and believe and know that you can do it and just have to show and mentally think it,’” Lapp said. “That’s kind of what we’re getting away from a little bit is they’re resting back a little bit like ‘We’ve done this, excelled at it over the first round of league play’ and they just kind of walked into tonight like that so hopefully we’ll see some turnaround and see them come back and fire up just like they used to.

UP NEXT

Pendleton heads back to the west side of the state for more tournament action, this time heading to Westview on Saturday morning.

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PREPS: Heppner volleyball topples Weston-McEwen

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The Rockets (12-5, 1-2 CBC) shook of their troubles and came back to win the final two sets 25-16 and 25-9, respectively.

“Continuing on our long road trip schedule, our girls continued to remain focused on one point at a time,” head coach Elainna Howland said. “We have really worked on not focusing on the last play and playing as if every point is game point.”

The Rockets did just that and put up some big numbers to prove it. Pilot Rock finished with 23 aces, eight of which came from Rhyanne Oates.

“Rhyanne had a great night leading in aces, followed by 21 digs, and 10 kills,” Howland said. Grace Austin also had a good night recording five blocks and 11 kills. Abby Rigby trailed with seven kills.

“When we are on we are deadly,” Howland said. “It’s nice to be able to distribute the ball to multiple players, keeping the defense on their toes.”

Pilot Rock still has some traveling to do before it can host another match. Up next, a 5 p.m. match against Weston-McEwen on Thursday to bring back league play.

THE DALLES 3, HERMISTON 2 — The Bulldogs fought for five sets against the Riverhawks at The Dalles High School, but the young team came out on the losing end of the battle. The Dalles traded wins with Hermiston in the first four sets.

The Riverhawks (3-6, 2-2 CRC) took the opening set 25-16, but the Bulldogs (2-11, 0-4) played aggressively in the next three sets. Hermiston took the second 25-22 and would drop the third set by that same score (22-25). The Bulldogs grinded out a close fourth set to tie the match at 2-2, but then fell 9-15 in the fifth and final set.

“We played hard tonight and we finally got really scrappy with our defense,” head coach Amy Dyck said. “We stayed aggressive with our swings and really dialed it in on our serves.”

Kendall Dowdy led Hermiston with four aces, six assists, and racked up 12 digs. Ireland McDonough had four kills and 13 digs on the night. Halee Stubbs finished with a team-high 17 digs, and Daisy Maddox with a team-leading six kills.

The Bulldogs will return home in search of their first league win against the Hood River Valley Eagles at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

“We are young so we are still

learning how to compete in tight sets like the 5th set tonight,” Dyck said. “Overall, I’m proud of the progress we made tonight and I’m eager to get in the gym to prepare for our next match this week.”

HEPPNER 3, WESTON-MCEWEN 1 — At Athena, the Heppner Mustangs earned a huge league victory on Tuesday by upending the Weston-McEwen TigerScots 3-1.

Weston-McEwen (12-7, 1-2 CBC) won the second set 25-16, but it was all Mustangs (12-5, 2-1) the rest of the way with Heppner winning its three sets 27-25, 25-15, 25-23. Morgan Correa led Heppner with 10 kills and five blocks and Jacee Currin had 16 assists.

“This was a battle till the end,” Heppner coach Mindy Wilson said. “Neither team was willing to give in. We had some times that we struggled, but we dug deep as a team and fought for it.”

For Weston-McEwen, Alyssa Finifrock had 15 kills and five blocks and Hailey Weaver had nine kills and four blocks to lead the way. Other team leaders included Bryce Thul with 18 assists and Eli Scheibner with 11, Chelsea Quaepts with 19 digs and Keree Graves with 11, and Jesse Manning had two aces.

“Heppner played very well,” Weston-McEwen coach Shawn White said. “It was the old adage — they out-coached us, out-hustled us, and out-played us. They wanted the game more and just took it. We just got to keep improving.”

Both teams play again on Thursday, with Heppner hosting Stanfield at 5 p.m. and Weston-McEwen hosting Pilot Rock at 5 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

HOOD RIVER VALLEY 9, PENDLETON 0 — At Pendleton, the Buckaroos began league play in a tough manner as they hosted the stout Hood River Valley Eagles and were handed a 9-0 defeat on Tuesday.

Pendleton (1-5, 0-1 CRC) next plays on Saturday when it travels to Sandy for a 1 p.m. start.

GIRLS SOCCER

HOOD RIVER VALLEY 10, PENDLETON 0 — At Hood River, the Pendleton Buckaroos were shutout for the second straight game, this time in the league opener to Hood River on Tuesday.

Pendleton (0-4-1, 0-1 CRC) next plays on Thursday at Irrigon with a 4:30 p.m. start.

COLLEGE: Payments to athletes from financial advisor go back as far as 2000

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NCAA President Mark Emmert condemned the alleged misconduct, saying in a statement, “Coaches hold a unique position of trust with student-athletes and their families, and these bribery allegations, if true, suggest an extraordinary and despicable breach of that trust.”

Since 2015, the FBI has been investigating the influence of money on coaches and players in the NCAA. Kim noted that a special FBI hotline has been set up and asked anyone aware of additional corruption to come forward.

Prosecutors said the coaches took bribes to use their “enormous influence” to steer players toward certain financial advisers and agents.

Most if not all of the 10 defendants were under

arrest. Lawyers for Gatto and three of the coaches did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It was not clear whether Evans had an attorney.

Adidas said it was unaware of any misconduct by an employee and vowed to fully cooperate with authorities.

In one case, Gatto and others are accused of funneling \$100,000 to the family of a high school athlete to gain his commitment to play at Louisville, and to sign with Adidas once he became a professional. Louisville and Adidas announced a 10-year, \$160 million extension of their sponsorship deal over the summer.

The player’s name was not released, but details in the criminal complaint make it clear investigators were referring to Brian Bowen. He did not return messages

seeking comment, and Louisville declined to make coach Rick Pitino available.

The development comes as Louisville is appealing a four-year NCAA probation over a scandal involving escorts hired for players and recruits. The scandal could cost the school its 2013 national championship.

In court papers Tuesday, the FBI said it recorded a meeting in July where an assistant coach at Louisville was briefed on a plan to funnel thousands of dollars to a potential high school recruit. The participants in the meeting noted that they had to be careful because Louisville was already on probation.

“We gotta be very low key,” said the coach, according to the FBI.

Investigators said agents also wiretapped a call in which Gatto and another defendant discussed an

unnamed coach at Miami requesting that Adidas pay as much as \$150,000 to another recruit, in part to prevent him from accepting a similar offer from a rival apparel company.

Louisville interim President Gregory Postel confirmed the university has been informed it is part of the investigation and said it will cooperate fully. “Any violations will not be tolerated,” he said.

Miami likewise said it will cooperate, while USC said it appointed former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh to conduct an internal investigation.

The investigation began after Martin Blazer, a Pittsburgh-based financial adviser to pro athletes, began cooperating with authorities in 2014. Blazer, accused by Securities and Exchange Commission of taking money from clients without

permission, pleaded guilty this month to fraud and other crimes.

He admitted making payments and loans to NCAA athletes as far back as 2000 to get them to hire him.

Person, associate head coach at Auburn, was drafted by the Indiana Pacers in 1986 and played for five NBA teams over 13 seasons.

Prosecutors said Person accepted about \$91,500 in bribes from Blazer in 2016 to steer clients to him when they reached the NBA. Some payments were alleged to have been arranged by Michel, a former NBA referee turned high-end clothier.

Person was quoted by prosecutors as telling one player: “The most important part is that you ... don’t say nothing to anybody ... don’t share with your sisters, don’t share with any of the teammates, that’s very important

‘cause this is a violation ... of rules. But this is how the NBA players get it done.”

As for the suit-maker, Person told the same player: “Rashan can get you suits and stuff. ... You’ll start looking like an NBA ball-player, that’s what you are.”

He also warned his player to be careful: “Don’t flaunt the stuff you get.”

Prosecutors said Evans solicited at least \$22,000 over the past two years, while Richardson in February was paid \$20,000 in bribes, some of which he kept for himself and some of which he gave to at least one high school athlete to get him to play for Arizona.

Between July and September, two advisers arranged at least \$13,000 in bribes to Bland, who boasted, “I can definitely mold the players and put them in the lap of you guys,” prosecutors said.

BULLDOGS: Mendez scores twice, Silva gets goal

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pace. But it would soon catch up with them.

“Unfortunately for (the Riverhawks), they were a little tired — had some tired legs in the second half,” Harshberger said. “So they were dropping off and just trying to maintain the tie there and that gave us all the space we needed to attack.”

Hermiston bounced back mentally, which according to Harshberger was the missing piece to the first half’s puzzle.

“We played our game a little bit better there in the second half,” he continued. “That was definitely important — being able to change our mentality from that first half, because it was just purely mental and that can be the toughest thing to change. Tactically we can switch some stuff up and that’s easy but getting them to change their mentality can



Hermiston’s Oliver Peredes shoots on goal as The Dalles’ Jaime Castro (1) defends in the Bulldogs’ 3-1 win against the Riverhawks on Tuesday in Hermiston.

be really tough.”

Hermiston got back into the game and took back the lead in the 60th minute. Senior midfielder Noe Silva weaved his way through multiple defenders and crossed his shot to the opposite corner of the goal, past Castro to push the score

to 2-1.

The Bulldogs didn’t stop there, and added an insurance goal with two minutes left. It was Mendez’s second goal of the night.

“I knew they were going to be tough, you can’t underestimate The Dalles. They’ve got soccer players, and that’s



Hermiston’s Coleman Solano jockeyes with The Dalles’ Pedro Lopez.

pretty clear,” Harshberger said. “I knew it was a winnable game but I knew we just couldn’t walk out on the field and they would roll over and give it to us.”

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ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Isaac Sanchez
Hermiston • Senior - Cross Country Runner

Sanchez ran a new personal best time of 15 minutes, 52 seconds to win first place in the men’s cross country race at the Footrace to Valhalla on Friday in Umatilla.

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