

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

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## PENDLETON

# Bucks stun Bulldogs with draw

Pendleton snaps long losing streak to Hermiston

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton boys soccer team walked off the field on Tuesday evening with big smiles on their faces, something that's been a rarity for the struggling Buckaroos program.

The Buckaroos played perhaps their best game of the season and it came against their rival Hermiston, a team that has beat up on them over the past seven-plus years, and earned a 1-1 draw. The game snapped a 15-game losing streak to the

Bulldogs, dating back to a 4-3 win over Hermiston on Sept. 15, 2009.

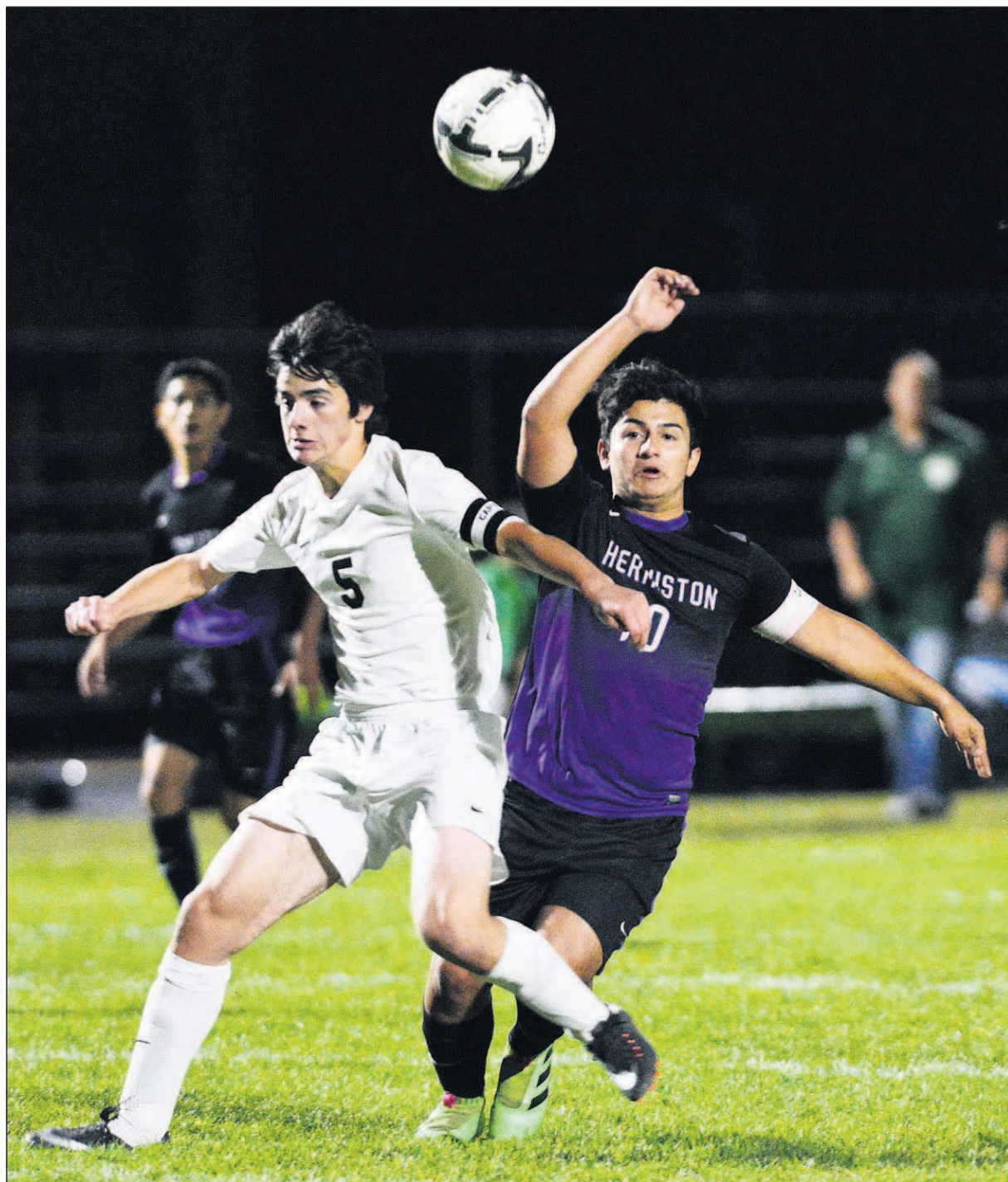
"This feels really good," said Pendleton senior Nick Oja, who scored the Buckaroos' lone goal. "I just feel grateful for my team, my coach and the crowd out here cheering tonight, it just feels good."

Pendleton (1-7-1 overall, 0-2-1 CRC) went after Hermiston (6-3-2, 1-0-2) with a physical defensive approach to try and slow down the fast-paced Bulldogs offense. It worked for much of the game, as the Bulldogs could rarely work into a quality scoring opportunity without a Buckaroo defender stealing the ball or getting a body on a pass.

"We definitely wanted to slow them down because we know they're an outstanding team in the state," Pendleton coach Jeremy Talbot said. "Our focus was definitely defense first, because defense can lead to some good offense."

The Buckaroos' defense held tight throughout the entirety of the first half and for most of the second, until Hermiston finally broke the scoreless draw with 17 minutes remaining in the game with a controversial goal.

Hermiston's Mark Mejia lined



Hermiston's Mark Mejia fights for position with Pendleton's Drew Lunny in the Bulldogs' 1-1 draw against the Bucks on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

up near the corner left of Pendleton's goal for a throw-in, finding Joel Mendez just in front of him. As Mendez settled the ball, his left hand appeared to make contact with the ball prior to sending a cross in front of the net which Noe Silva buried in the net for a 1-0 lead.

At the time, it seemed like the goal was a game-sealer. However, Pendleton was not ready to quit this

time, something that has plagued the team for awhile.

"In the past when we've had that kind of adversity, we've folded," Talbot said. "But with the experience they're getting lately, they're learning to fight through the adversity and trust that we're going to have an opportunity if we stick to the plan."

And Pendleton fought back, and

just seven minutes later, senior Nick Oja sent a booming kick from just outside the top, left corner of the box and beat Hermiston goalkeeper Juan Navarrete to the far corner to tie the game at 1-1.

"I was playing possession and I think I was covered on the left and right," Oja recalled, "but not the center. I saw the goalie was a little

See BOYS SOCCER/3B

## Prep Roundup

# Dawgs rally for a five-set victory

Hermiston volleyball earns first league win

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The young Hermiston volleyball team has been put through the ringer for most of its season. The Bulldogs were on a

12-game losing skid, and currently sit in last place in the Columbia River Conference standings.

Match after match, Hermiston would put in the effort but it just wouldn't pay off. That is until Tuesday night.

The Bulldogs won their first league game in a long five-set match. They defeated The Dalles Riverhawks 3-2 in a match where their hard work came to fruition.

Hermiston took the first set in a nail bitter, 27-25.

"We came out strong," Dyck said. "We won the first set, and they hung in there. It was our classic style of getting up and coming back down, but when push came to shove they battled through."

The Bulldogs (3-13 overall, 1-6 CRC) then dropped their next two sets, 11-25, 23-25. But Dyck knew the girls had it in them, as they faced a similar situation a week ago against Pendleton and have been catching up to the Riverhawks (6-10, 2-5) each meeting.

"The last couple of times

See PREP ROUNDUP/3B

## Boys Soccer



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## PENDLETON

# Hermiston shuts out Pendleton, picks up first league win on road

Bulldogs hang onto bragging rights over Buckaroos

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — In a last minute change, the Hermiston girl's soccer team hit the road to face their cross-town rival the Pendleton Buckaroos. With a shortage of referees effecting previously scheduled game times, the Bulldogs made the choice to join the boys in Pendleton for a 4:30 p.m. kickoff.

The switch didn't seem to hurt the visitors, as Hermiston picked up a 3-0

## Girls Soccer



3



0

shutout victory for its first league win.

Both teams entered the match winless in the Columbia River Conference (CRC), but it was the Bulldogs (4-5-2 overall, 1-0-2 CRC) who came out victorious.

When asked about the girl's win after the game, head coach Danielle MacBride was glad the girls were able to grind it out.

"It was okay," she said. "It was Pendleton. It's always a battle for us, so



Hermiston's McKayla Pacheco shoots a penalty shot on goal guarded by Pendleton keeper Ashlyn Madril in the Bulldogs' 3-0 win against the Bucks on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

we'll take the win."

Both teams were held scoreless for much of the first half, until Hermiston

finally found the back of the net with seven minutes left until the break. Freshman Amanda Nygard got the

Bulldogs on the board, and led her team into the half with a 1-0 lead over the Buckaroos (1-7-1, 0-3-0).

Hermiston picked up two more insurance goals in the second half and from the efforts of sophomore goalkeeper Lanie Gomez, the Bulldogs were able to hold the Bucks at bay.

It was a big win for Hermiston, as only one team from the CRC will earn a playoff birth. Right now, Hood River Valley holds the top spot with a 2-0-1 league record. The Bulldogs will be able to work out some kinks before they face the Eagles when they host The Dalles on Thursday for Senior Night.

"Every day is a new day with this group," MacBride

said. "You know what they are cable of. We're still just trying to keep up the consistency, and with every win you carry the momentum with you so hopefully we can keep it up for Thursday when we have home field advantage."

In the two team's previous match up Sept. 26, they ended the game in a 0-0 draw. It was the first league game for both teams.

Pendleton will try for its first league win again on Thursday when it hosts Hood River Valley at 6 p.m.

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## Sports shorts

### Heppner native name Frontier Conference Golfer of the Week

LEWISTON, Id. — Heppner native and current-Lewis-Clark State golfer Blake Greenup was honored by the Frontier Conference on Monday as the Golfer of the Week.

Greenup, now a senior, garnered the honor after winning the Warrior Invitational at the Lewiston Golf & Country Club last week. In the tournament, she shot a 36-hole score of 151 and won by two strokes over teammate Marissa Louder. The Warriors also brought home the team title with the help of Greenup as well.

This week, Greenup and the Warriors are competing in Gleneden Beach at the Coastal Collegiate Challenge. On Tuesday, Greenup finished off a fifth place finish with a nine-over 151 and the Warriors finished in second place.



Greenup

"I told the group that Messi does not owe Argentina a World Cup, but rather football owes the world to him. Argentina took a step forward, and in time we can be competitive."

— Jorge Sampaoli

Argentine head coach said after Lionel Messi's three goals sent Argentina into the World Cup on the last day of South American qualifying.

### Vegas Golden Knights win home opener 5-2 over Arizona

LAS VEGAS (AP) — James Neal scored twice during a thrilling four-goal first period, and the Vegas Golden Knights remained unbeaten three games into their inaugural season with a 5-2 victory over the Arizona Coyotes in their home opener on Tuesday night.

Tomas Nosek scored the first home goal in franchise history just 2:31 into the first period, and Deryk Engelland added his first goal for his adopted hometown's new team moments later.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 31 saves for the Golden Knights, who became the first team in NHL history to begin their debut season with three straight wins.

Just nine days after the Las Vegas Strip shooting massacre, the Golden Knights honored the victims and heroes before the long-awaited home debut of the city's first major professional sports franchise.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1890 — The first 100-yard dash under 10 seconds is run by John Owens at 9.8 in an AAU track and field meet in Washington.

1992 — Dave Krieg becomes the 15th quarterback in history with 200 touchdown passes, throwing three in the Kansas City Chiefs' 24-17 win over the Philadelphia Eagles.

2011 — The U.S. women roll to their third title at the world gymnastics championships held in Tokyo. The Americans finish with 179.411 points, a whopping 4 points ahead of Russia, last year's champion.

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