

Prep Basketball

Pendleton girls top Southridge for season's first win

East Oregonian

For the second straight game, the Pendleton girls basketball team came out of the gates playing slow and faced a 14-point deficit at halftime. However, after Saturday's comeback attempt fell just short, the Buckaroos put together a better comeback in the second half on Tuesday and earned a 56-48 victory over Southridge (WA) in Kennewick.

Pendleton trailed Southridge 30-16 at halftime and was challenged by coach Kevin Porter to come out in the second half and play a better brand of basketball, which they did. Jaiden Lemberger scored all of her game-high 15 points in the second half and added 13 rebounds for a double-double to pace the Buckaroos (1-2). Rylee Gentner and Maureen Davies contributed 11 points apiece to help the Buckaroos' second half surge, where they outscored the Suns (1-3) 40-18.

"They took it up on themselves and played hard and clawed back in it," Porter said. "There is never any quit in these girls and that's good to see."

Pendleton next plays at Walla Walla (WA) on Friday night at 7 p.m.

PHS	7	9	20	20	—	56
SHS	15	15	8	10	—	48

PENDLETON — J. Lemberger 15, R. Gentner 11, M. Davies 11, S. Spriet 8, H. Kiele 8, N. Nevue 2, H. Porter 1.
SOUTHRIDGE — E. Ball 10, B. Brisbois 9, A. Griffith 8, B. Ball 6, A. Mendez 5, S. Sanders 5, P. Santos 4, C. Chavez 1.
3-pointers — PHS 2, SHS 3. Free throws — PHS 13-24, SHS 9-21. Fouls — PHS 21 (Gentner), SHS 23 (Ball, Brisbois).

IRRIGON 48, WESTON-MCEWEN 40 — At Irrigon, Ana Zacarias and Jada Burns helped their Knights defeat the Weston-McEwen TigerScots for the second time in four days, this time by a 48-40 score on Tuesday evening.

Zacarias and Burns both scored game-high 14 points for the Knights (4-0) and Alyia Munoz pitched in eight points. Chelsea Quaepts led the TigerScots (1-3) with 13 points, while Katie Vescio and Alyssa Finifrock each had eight.

Irrigon next plays Imbler in the Heppner Tournament on Friday at 3 p.m. Weston-McEwen plays King's Way Christian Friday at 6 p.m. in the Kennedy Tournament in Mt. Angel.

W-M	7	12	13	8	—	40
IHS	8	13	16	11	—	48

WESTON-MCEWEN — C. Quaepts 13,

K. Vescio 8, A. Finifrock 8, A. Coffman 6, J. Lambert 2, Hear 2, T. Burke, McIntyre, Davis, Moses.
IRRIGON — A. Zacarias 14, J. Burns 14, A. Munoz 8, K. Wyatt 5, N. Romero 3, O. Luna 2, T. Davis 2, B. Rice.
3-pointers — W-M 0, IHS 2. Free throws — W-M 10-13, IHS 8-15.

PILOT ROCK 49, HELIX 33 — At Pilot Rock, six players scored at least five points for Pilot Rock as it defeated Helix on Tuesday evening to stay unbeaten on the season.

"We played a very balanced game," Pilot Rock coach Dan Deist said. "All girls were very in-tune and it was all around a good game."

Kayla Deist and Lilie Brewer led the Rockets (3-0) with nine points, while Grace Austin had eight, Sara Weinke seven, Rhyanne Oates six and Kaitelyn Evans five. Annie Wood led the Grizzlies (1-3) with nine points and Charmayne Bennett had eight.

Pilot Rock next plays Riverside at 2 p.m. on Thursday in Umatilla. Helix plays at Enterprise on Friday at 6 p.m.

GHS	6	8	11	8	—	33
PR	13	11	14	11	—	49

HELIX — A. Wood 9, C. Bennett 8, S. Wilson 5, A. Krol 4, E. Fehrenbacher 3, H. Christian 2, K. Harper 2.
PILOT ROCK — K. Deist 9, L. Brewer 9, G. Austin 8, S. Weinke 7, R. Oates 6, K. Evans 5, B. Howland 3, B. Balezina 2.
3-pointers — GHS 4, PR 4. Free throws

— GHS 3-7, PR 3-13. Fouls — GHS 10, PR 12.

WAITSBURG (WA) 38, MAC-HI 35 — At Waitsburg, Washington, the Mac-Hi Pioneers were outscored 18-7 in the fourth quarter as Waitsburg stole a three-point win on Tuesday night.

"It was back-and-forth the whole game, both teams were pretty evenly matched," Mac-Hi coach Brooke Garton said. "It wasn't the prettiest game we've played, we had a lot of turnovers, but we hung in there."

Brianna Hernandez led the Pioneers (0-3) with 11 points and Kayla Casillas added seven. Chloe Pearson led Waitsburg with 11.

Mac-Hi (0-3) next plays Stanfield on Thursday in Umatilla at 3:30 p.m.

MHS	8	7	13	7	—	35
WHS	9	8	3	18	—	38

MAC-HI — B. Hernandez 11, K. Casillas 7, M. Yensen 5, S. Earls 4, B. Jones 3, M. Martinez 2, H. Hair 2, A. Castillo 1.
WAITSBURG — C. Pearson 11, A. Sandau 8, D. Williams 7, T. Jones 6, K. Miller 6, T. Larsen 1.
3-pointers — MHS 1, WHS 1. Free throws — MHS 12-26, WHS 12-22. Fouls — MHS 20 (Hernandez, Yensen fouled out), WHS 18 (Pearson fouled out).

BOYS BASKETBALL IRRIGON 72, WESTON-MCEWEN 33 — At Irrigon, Johnny

Phillips scored a game-high 20 points to help Irrigon defeat Weston-McEwen for the second time in four days on Tuesday evening.

Behind Phillips, Eric Carillo finished with 11 points and Keith Fleming finished with 10 to lead the Knights (4-0). Brett Speed and Parker Munck led the TigerScots (1-3) with 10 points apiece.

Irrigon next plays Imbler on Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Heppner. Weston-McEwen plays Salem Academy on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel.

W-M	7	12	8	6	—	33
IHS	20	21	23	8	—	72

WESTON-MCEWEN — B. Speed 10, P. Munck 10, G. Smith 8, D. Cain 3, J. Speed 2.
IRRIGON — J. Phillips 20, E. Carillo 11, K. Fleming 10, L. Carillo 8, D. Vera 7, A. Roa 7, L. Covarrubias 3, J. Sandoval 3, A. Gomez 2, P. Holcomb, D. Telles, P. Bevington.
3-pointers — W-M 2, IHS 6. Free throws — W-M 9-17, IHS 6-8. Fouls — W-M 10, IHS 17.

PILOT ROCK 63, HELIX 19 — At Pilot Rock, Bryson Pierce continued his fast start to the season as his 22 points helped Pilot Rock beat Helix in non-league action on Tuesday.

Pierce has now scored at least 20 points in all three games to start the season

for the Rockets (3-0). Levi Thieme, Chris Weinke and Bodie Key all scored eight points to help boost the Rockets as well. Eli Sprenger led the Grizzlies (0-3) with 10 points.

Pilot Rock next plays Riverside on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in Umatilla. Helix plays at Enterprise on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

GHS	2	6	6	5	—	19
PR	26	17	12	8	—	63

HELIX — E. Sprenger 10, P. Brower 3, L. Davis 2, M. McBee 2, B. Fairchild 2.
PILOT ROCK — B. Pierce 22, L. Thieme 8, C. Weinke 8, B. Key 8, R. Lankford 7, A. Drake 4, C. Munkers 4, L. Weinke 2.
3-pointers — GHS 1, PR 2. Free throws — GHS 2-6, PR 5-13. Fouls — GHS 13, PR 11.

BAKER 92, STANFIELD 41 — At Baker City, the young Stanfield Tigers were sent home with a tough loss on Tuesday night, falling to the Baker Bulldogs in non-league action.

Eduardo Nunez scored 16 points to lead the Tigers (1-4) and Brody Woods added 13. Stanfield next plays Arlington on Thursday at 2 p.m. in Umatilla.

SHS	5	11	15	10	—	41
BHS	21	18	20	23	—	82

STANFIELD — E. Nunez 16, B. Woods 13. BAKER — K. Sand 20, C. Osborn 14, D. Story 13.
3-pointers — SHS 2, BHS 6. Free throws — SHS 7-16, BHS 14-22. Fouls — SHS 18, BHS 16.

BULLDOGS: Andreason scores 24, Ortiz nets 23 to lead Hermiston boys

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most for the Bulldogs, and helped the young team gain confidence once shots started falling.

"She's just experience," Rodriguez said. "Obviously she's a good shooter when she's confident but not only that, she gives us depth."

Something that hurt the Bulldogs over the weekend was Rodriguez had to dig deep into his bench and start girls with little playing time in order to rest the starters. With Thompson back, he was able to rotate in players like junior Sydney Stefani — who started in the place of Thompson.

"It kind of changes the strategy quite a bit," Rodriguez added.

The Bulldogs' up tempo play against the Falcons (2-2) caught them off guard, and it also opened up room for mistake on Hermiston's end. Luckily, Hanford was unable to capitalize on those mistakes.

After a number of Bulldog turnovers in the first half, the Falcons left points on the board from missed shots and a strong defensive effort.

"Defensively, I thought we were solid for most of the game," Rodriguez said, "and then we just have lapses and (Hanford) couldn't capitalize and that's the conversation we had, that (we) needed to clean some of those things up."

Sophomore Jazlyn Romero had another standout night, as she led all scorers with 15 points. She was near perfect from the charity strike, missing only one of six free throw attempts. Romero was also the driving force in Hermiston's 17-point second and third quarter.

The Bulldogs were able to hit the locker room at the half with a 31-17 lead after Thompson sank to 3-pointers to cap off a 12-7 run. Hanford was forced to call a timeout after Romero layed the ball in to extend Hermiston's lead to 31-12.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Hermiston's Ryne Andreason shoots the jumper over Hanford's Connoer Milliken in the Bulldogs' 69-60 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.

The Falcons chipped away at the lead and cut their deficit down to 31-17 before halftime.

"(The message was) not to settle," Rodriguez said of the talk at the break.

And the Bulldogs didn't. Hermiston kept its lead to 14 or more points throughout the entire second half with senior Maddy Juul and Romero leading the charge. Juul matched Thompson's nine points after 32 minutes of play.

The win gives the Bulldogs much needed momentum against a tough Chiawana team. The next OSAA-WIAA match up will bring the 2-1 Riverhawks to town for a 5:45 tipoff on Friday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys will have also have a hard time against the Chiawana Riverhawks on Friday but with another win

under their belt, it will make preparation a little sweeter.

The Bulldogs (2-2) played their first game in front of a home crowd Tuesday night, and they did not disappoint.

Sophomore Ryne Andreason and junior Cesar Ortiz led Hermiston on its way to a 69-60 win scoring 24 and 23 points, respectively.

Ortiz got things going in the first half after making four of the Bulldogs' five 3-pointers. Andreason took his chances from beyond the arc in the second half where his first three shots where all 3's.

Their combined efforts on offense made the defensive match up against the previously undefeated Falcons (1-3) a little easier.

"On the defensive end and everything seems better — it's easier to play defense when you're hitting shots on



offense or getting out and running, you know defense creating offense," head coach Casey Arstein said.

But in the same breath, he also stressed the importance of playing good defense and not depending on hot shooters.

Over the weekend at Wilsonville, Hermiston's breakdowns came in the

Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez shoots the ball between Hanford's Blake Vander-Top (44) and Dan Izquierdo in the Bulldogs' 69-60 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Jordan Thomas drives past Hanford's Sarah Ellis in the Bulldogs' 55-38 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Arstein said. "It's fixable."

The Bulldogs opened the game commanding an 11-0 lead before Hanford was final able to get points on the board halfway through the first quarter. A couple of Falcon turnovers moved Hermiston's lead to 18-6 before Hanford began to find its rhythm.

The Falcons never took the lead, but were able to tie things up in the second quarter after a 8-0 run finished off with a 3-pointer from junior Connor Woodward. He was the top scorer for Hanford and was its only player to finish in double-digits with 18 points.

Woodward, with the help of fellow junior Jard DeVine, were the most threaten in the final eight minutes when Hanford was able to cut Hermiston's 16-point lead down to only a nine point loss.

"I would have like to play a little bit better there in the fourth quarter," Arstein said. "I was a little frustrated — a little frustrated with myself, a little frustrated with our rebounding but that's going to happen. We're only on game four, so we've got a long ways."

Arstein and company have a little more time to prepare for Chiawana and will use the next two days to clean up some of the little things before taking on the 0-4 Riverhawks.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

HERM	14	17	17	7	—	55
HAN	5	12	11	10	—	38

HERMISTON — J. Romero 15, J. Thomas 9, H. Thompson, M. Juul 9, R. Meyers 5, M. Wilson 5, A. Green 3.
HANFORD — M. Mars 9, T. Kison 8, H. Coleman 7, J. Burt 4, T. Sijgers 4, J. Snow 3, E. Beattie 2, S. Ellis 1.
3-pointers — HAN, 3, HERM, 7. Free throws — HAN, 9-10, HERM, 6-12. Fouls — HAN, 12, HERM, 13.

HERM	19	17	16	6	—	69
HAN	14	12	16	18	—	60

HERMISTON — R. Andreason 24, C. Ortiz 23, J. Ramirez 6, A. Mendez 6, P. Wicks 5, A. Earl 3, C. Smith 2.
HANFORD — C. Woodward 18, B. VanderTop 9, J. DeVine 9, L. Sutey 6, D. Izquierdo 6, G. Horner 5, D. Gosney 5, C. Milliken 2.
3-pointers — HAN, 6, HERM, 9. Free throws — HAN, 8-11, HERM, 10-23. Fouls — HAN, 20, HERM, 14.

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TAGGART: Departure angered recruits

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back winning seasons.

When Taggart was hired by Oregon, he said he had three basic tenets: "Make no excuses, blame no one, do something."

"Do Something" became his tagline for his first season with the Ducks.

One of his first moves was to convince running back Royce Freeman to stay for his senior year.

Freeman went on to have a record-setting season, including a new Pac-12 career milestone for rushing

touchdowns with 60. The sturdy senior also set school records for career rushing yards (5,621), total touchdowns (64) and 100-yard rushing games (31).

But the season itself was erratic, partly because of a key injury.

Oregon started 4-1 and even briefly popped into the AP rankings, but starting quarterback Justin Herbert broke his collarbone and the Ducks floundered, going 1-4 without him.

Herbert returned for the final two games of the season, both wins that got

the Ducks into a bowl game in Taggart's lone season.

Meanwhile, some recruits were grumbling about how the move was handled. Tigard High School's Bradan Lenzy decommitted.

Eli'Jah Winston, a senior outside lineman from Portland's Central Catholic, posted to Twitter: "I didn't know it would've been handled so ugly. Respect the decision 100% but leaving us clueless was messed up."

Mullins said Oregon has launched a nationwide search for a new head coach.

BLAZERS: Host Houston on Saturday

Continued from 1B

Portland, meanwhile, had 13 turnovers at the half.

Beal's 20-foot jumper gave the Wizards a 61-38 lead in the third quarter, but the Blazers clawed back to within 63-52 on Lillard's 3-pointer and a free throw.

Lillard appeared to tweak his left hip late in the quarter, and at times he grimaced — but he had 15 points in the period to help keep the Blazers in it.

CJ McCollum's layup got Portland within 81-72,

but Beal answered with a 3-pointer that put him over his previous career high. Beal had 42 points against Phoenix on Nov. 21 last year.

Al-Farouq Aminu made a 3-pointer that pulled Portland within 99-90 with 1:28 left, but that was as close as Portland would come. Beal dunked with 24 seconds left to punctuate his performance.

Portland coach Terry Stotts tinkered a bit with his lineup, starting Aminu and Maurice Harkless, while sending Pat Connaughton

and Noah Vonleh to the bench.

The Blazers were coming off a 123-116 loss to New Orleans on Saturday.

TIP INS

Trail Blazers: Evan Turner started the second half for Harkless, who stayed behind in the Blazers' locker room. The team later said he had a left quad contusion.

UP NEXT

The Wizards visit the Suns on Thursday.

The Trail Blazers host the Houston on Saturday.