

BURNS: Averaging 13.8 points per game in career as a four-year varsity starter

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three years. Burns' freshman year in 2014-15 was her first as the starting point guard for the Knights and it was also Royer's first year at the helm of the program. That year, Irrigon finished 7-13 overall and Burns earned first team all-Columbia Basin Conference honors after she scored 258 points, an average of 12.9 per game.

The following year, again with Burns leading the team on the court and Royer calling plays from the sideline, the team added two wins to its total, ending 11-13 overall. This was Irrigon's final year competing in Class 2A and Burns' output drastically increased and turned in 360 points as a sophomore, or 15 per game, once again earning herself first team all-Columbia Basin Conference honors and third team all-state honors. And last season in Irrigon's first go in Class



Irrigon's Jada Burns shoots during Saturday's non-conference game against La Grande in Hermiston.

3A, Burns met the tougher competition head on and kept producing night in and night out. She scored 345 points, an average of 15.7 per game, and led the Knights

to a winning record (12-10) and was the only junior to earn first team all-Eastern Oregon League honors.

Burns has opened this season with 115 points so far, and is one pace to add at least 150 more to her total by season's end.

Her early success has been a catalyst for the team, which started the year undefeated before heading into Saturday's matchup. But a 44-39 loss to the Tigers stained the Knights' record.

Burns' accomplishment wasn't overshadowed by the loss, but it was a hard pill to swallow. The defeat could have turned out to be another tally in the win column, but with Burns suffering from an illness this past week she was not at her best.

"I honestly think if Jada would have been healthy Saturday we might have had a shot at beating them because honestly, she shouldn't have even played," Royer said.

But playing through pain

just comes with the territory. "You just have to say it's for the team and fight through it," Burns said. "I mean, it was hard to go out there and feel like you couldn't move and couldn't breathe but I did what was best for the team."

As an all-league shortstop in softball, the junior varsity quarterback and varsity backup as a senior, and an all-league volleyball player, Burns has spent many years on the court, on the field and in the dirt.

Each experience building on one another, giving Burns confidence and increasing her athletic ability and smarts.

"It just took a lot of confidence," Burns said on reaching the milestone. "You start at the beginning and you have to work your way up and you just realize you want to win and you'll do anything to win and if it wasn't for my teammates I definitely would never have gotten where I've gotten. We build as a team."

Burns' success has elevated the level of play across the Knights' 11-player roster. Now, in her senior year instead of racking up the buckets she's looking more to dish out assists to her teammates than she has in the past, and still more often than not is leading the team in points after its all said and done.

"This year (Jada) has been a leader for us in assists and just getting us set up and handling pressure," Royer said. "We always look to Jada and as a coach, it's been really nice having someone like her as a point guard the past four years."

"I mean, she knows how to score," he added. "She's a good scoring threat, and she just knows basketball. She's a smart basketball player, and is going to have a good senior year too."

Contact Alexis at amansanarez@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4542. Follow her on Twitter @almansanarez.

PREP ROUNDUP: Weston-McEwen boys play at Moda Center, fall to Toledo

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Now Pendleton heads into its Christmas break with a two-game win streak and feeling a whole lot better about the rest of the season than it did two weeks ago.

"It's nice to start jelling together and it's good to have kids excited again," Porter said. "They're finally starting to feel each other out on the floor and it's a good way to go into Christmas break."

UP NEXT Pendleton next hits the floor in the Les Schwab Holiday Oregon Hoopfest against Mountain View at Mountain View High on Dec. 28.

NIXYAAWII — 77, IMBLER 15 — The streaking Nixyaawii Eagles continued to shut down their competition while putting big numbers on the board. Their 77-15 win was highlighted by 20-point performance from senior Mary Stewart.

Stewart, along with seniors Milan Schimmel and Kaitlynn Melton, led the team in its seventh straight win. Schimmel pitched in 12 points, and had a team-best nine assists and eight rebounds. Melton added 11 points of her own.

Imbler (2-5) had minimal success against Nixyaawii (7-0) on Wednesday night. After scoring only 13 points through the first three quarters, the Panthers only knocked down one field goal in the fourth quarter.

Their efforts were squashed thanks to a stellar defensive performance. Nixyaawii created 24 turnovers, 15 of which were steals en route to the 60-plus point victory.

"(I'm) very pleased with our defense and unselfish play," Eagles head coach Jeremy Maddern said.



The Weston-McEwen TigerScots boys basketball team poses on the floor of Moda Center, home of the NBA's Portland TrailBlazers in Portland on Wednesday. The TigerScots played Toledo at Moda Center on Wednesday.

UP NEXT Nixyaawii hosts Umatilla on Friday for a 6 p.m. tipoff before competing in the Boucinn' Cancer basketball event held at Helix High School.

IHS 5 5 3 2 - 15 NCS 24 23 13 17 - 77 IMBLER — H. Kilpatrick 9, G. Smith 2, A. McDonald 2, C. McGinness 2, NIXYAAWII — M. Stewart 20, M. Schimmel 12, K. Melton 11, K. Mountain Chief 7, E. Butler 6, L. Moses 5, A. Looney 4, T. Van Peit 4, E. Looney 4, I. Herrera 2, S. Patrick 2, 3-pointers — IHS 0, NCS 4. Free throws

— IHS 3-8, NCS 3-11. Fouls — IHS 8, NCS 9.

BOYS BASKETBALL

TOLEDO 56, WESTON-MCEWEN 36 — At Portland, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots got the chance to play like the pros on Wednesday afternoon, playing a non-league game against Toledo at Moda Center, the home of the Portland Trail Blazers. But when all was said and done,

the TigerScots came up short to Toledo 56-36.

From the start, the Boomers took control and dumped in an early 17-8 lead after one quarter. It was a lead they would never relinquish as they claimed a 56-36 victory after 32 minutes of play.

Weston-McEwen (2-7) has struggled as of late, and were only to pick up one win during a six-game stretch. Senior Brett Speed continues as the TigerScots top performer and led the team with 18 points.

For Toledo (4-5), sophomore Conner Marchant finished with a game-best 21 points.

The TigerScots have a quick turnaround and will host Waitsburg (WA) on Thursday. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

IHS 8 8 14 6 - 36 NCS 17 17 13 9 - 56 WESTON-MCEWEN — B. Speed 18, A. Gambill 6, J. Speed 4, K. Rodriguez 3, P. Munk 2, K. McGill 2, E. Ezell 2, G. Smith 2, TOLEDO — C. Marchant 21, J. Rozewski 15, J. Spangler 10, M. McAlpine 4, C. Howard 3, N. Cross 2, J. Greenwald 1, 3-pointers — WE 4, THS 5. Free throws — WE 2-4, THS 6-9. Fouls — WE 11, THS 11.

NIXYAAWII 59, IMBLER 36 — After a

close two-point loss nearly two weeks ago, the Eagles have been doing nothing but winning and they continued their streak with a 59-36 victory over Imbler on Wednesday.

Sophomore Mick Shimmel led Nixyaawii with 18 points, while sophomore Jayce Burnette was Imbler's top point getter with 10.

It was one of the Eagles (6-1) more physical matchups, as the Panthers (1-6) brought their own toughness to the matchup.

"It wasn't out cleanest game," Nixyaawii head coach Shane Rivera said, "but we won."

UP NEXT The doubleheaders will continue as the Eagles will also face the Umatilla Vikings on Friday.

IHS 6 8 14 8 - 36 NCS 18 13 11 15 - 59 IMBLER — J. Burnette 10, G. Slater 7, C. Gorham 6, C. Goodman 5, R. Patterson 4, W. McDonald 4, NIXYAAWII — M. Schimmel 18, G. Picard 11, D. Barkley 9, M. Enright 8, T. Burns 5, M. Moses 2, W. Oatman 2, 3-pointers — IHS 2, NCS 3. Free throws — IHS 2-5, NCS 13-21. Fouls — IHS 18, NCS 12.

Coaches can report scores by calling 541-966-0839 or emailing sports@eastoregonian.com

BLAZERS: Trailed by eight at halftime, used 17-4 run to take 64-61 lead in third

Continued from 1B

Lillard and C.J. McCollum struggled offensively, as the two combined to shoot 11 of 39. McCollum, who was 5 of 22, had 13 points.

San Antonio outrebounded Portland 53-38.

The Spurs took the lead for good with five minutes

remaining at 86-85 on a layup by Ginobili. But the win wasn't secure until the end, when McCollum's 3-point shot glanced off the rim as time expired.

San Antonio led 54-46 at halftime after a torrid first half from Aldridge and Gasol, who combined to shoot 15 of 20 from the floor.

The Spurs withstood a rough stretch during the third quarter, when Nurkic scored 11 points during a 17-4 run that gave the Blazers a 64-61 lead. But the Spurs recovered, grabbing a 74-72 lead after three quarters on Kyle Anderson's buzzer-beating 3-pointer. TIP-INS

Spurs: San Antonio attempted only one free throw in the first half. Neither team shot a free throw during the first quarter. ... Anderson (left MCL sprain) returned to action for the first time in nine games. Also back after missing two games was Danny Green (groin). ... Leonard averaged 28.3

points in three games against Portland last season.

Trail Blazers: A semi-truck hauling a large trash bin lost control while driving down a steep road in Southwest Portland, plunging into Turner's swimming pool Wednesday morning. Turner was home in bed at the time. The driver was

taken to Oregon Health and Science University Medical Center with serious injuries. ... McCollum missed his first 11 shots before finally hitting a 12-footer midway through the third quarter.

UP NEXT Spurs: Thursday at Utah. Trail Blazers: Friday at home against Denver.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday Mac-Hi at Riverside, 5:30 p.m. Stanfield at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m. Waitsburg (WA) at Weston-McEwen, 7:00 p.m. Klickitat (WA) at Helix, 3:30 p.m. Horizon Christian at Echo, 5:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Bickleton (WA), 3:30 p.m. Friday Hermiston at Dallas, 7:00 p.m. Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m. Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler vs. TBD (at Helix), TBD Helix vs. TBD, TBD PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL Thursday McLoughlin at Riverside, 4:00 p.m. Stanfield at Irrigon, 6:00 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Griswold, 2:00 p.m. Friday Hermiston at West Valley (WA), 5:45 p.m. Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 6:00 p.m. Pilot Rock at Enterprise, 6:00 p.m. Klickitat (WA) at Condon/Wheeler, 2:00 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Thursday Echo at Tim Fine Memorial Tournament (at Oakridge HS) Pendleton at Cleveland Duals, 10 a.m. Friday Hermiston at Best of The West (Pasco, WA) Saturday Hermiston at Best of The West (Pasco, WA) COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Thursday EOU at Idaho, 5 p.m. MST

North Medford 58, Wilson 55 South Albany Rebel Basketball Classic Marist 58, Jefferson 39 Eugene 60, South Albany 59 Thurston 71, Benson 57 Tarkanian Classic Del Sol, Nev. 42, Canby 37 Price, Calif. 67, La Salle 58 Girls Basketball Wednesday Amity 59, Warrenton 55 Culver 45, Taft 29 Mapleton vs. Yoncalla, ccd. Oakland 51, Western Mennonite 45 Pendleton 57, Putnam 41 Portland Adventist 52, Colton 48 Sunset 70, Reynolds 29 Bandon Dunes Tournament Bonanza 44, Santiam 27 Myrtle Point 38, Carnas Valley 23 Rogue Valley Adventist 48, Alesia 25 Emerald Cup Lebanon 44, Grants Pass 37 Sprague 45, Willamette 36 Nike Tournament of Champions La Salle 51, St. Mary's, N.Y. 46 Salem Academy 61, Avondale Westview, Ariz. 26 Tarkanian classic Springfield 48, Democracy Prep, Nev. 4

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Basketball

Table with columns for NBA Eastern Conference, Western Conference, Southeast Division, and Pacific Division, listing teams and scores.

Table with columns for Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, and Men's College Basketball, listing various teams and scores.

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