

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, DECEMBER 23-24, 2017

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## MISSION

# Vikings come back for victory

Nixyaawii goes cold as Umatilla earns comeback win

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

MISSION — For the first three quarters on Friday night, the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles couldn't miss a shot, hitting on 60 percent of their attempts.

That success gave the Golden Eagles a 54-46 lead heading into the final eight minutes against the red-hot Umatilla Vikings. But in that final quarter, Nixyaawii suddenly went ice cold. Close-range lay-ins didn't fall in, and wide-open looks always rimmed out. The Golden Eagles were 0 for their first nine from the floor, which allowed the Umatilla Vikings to come back and steal a 61-57 win.

"We had some good looks but I think our youth and some fatigue we just came up a little bit short," Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera said. "We had about three or four shots that probably go in most days, and would've made a big difference in the game I think."

The Golden Eagles (7-2) led for the entire third quarter and most of the fourth quarter until Umatilla's Seth Cranston swished a mid-range jumper from the left baseline to put the Vikings on top 55-54 with just two minutes left to play. It was the first lead for the Vikings (9-1) since a 28-27 advantage at the 1:10 mark of the second quarter.

"It was a relief," Cranston recalled of his go-ahead shot. "We feel like we should've done a lot better than we did, but I'm glad we were able to scratch it out. We had to come together

See VIKINGS/3B

### Boys Basketball



Umatilla  
61



Nixyaawii  
57



Umatilla's Trent Durfey shoot the ball over Nixyaawii's Magi Moses in the Vikings' 61-57 win against the Golden Eagles on Friday in Mission.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Prep Basketball

# Dawgs beat up Dragons

East Oregonian

DALLAS — The Hermiston boys basketball team heads into Christmas break on a positive note as it ended a two-game losing streak with a 72-52 victory on the road against Dallas on Friday night.

"It was a real good win for us going into break," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. "The kids played very hard and well on defense in the second half ... and on offense we got in a groove and got a lot of easy buckets off of our half-court defense."

The Bulldogs (4-4) had only two scorers in double figures, but had a very balanced night as the second half cushion allowed Arstein to empty his bench quite a bit. Ryne Andreason led the Bulldogs with 14 points which include three made 3-pointers, while Jordan Ramirez followed with 11 points. Three Bulldogs finished with eight points including Andrew James, who played more minutes after getting full clearance from a back injury he had suffered during the football state championship game.

Evan Courtney led the Dragons (1-7) with nine points.

HHS	15	11	23	23	—	72
DHS	13	15	8	16	—	52

HERMISTON — R. Andreason 14, J. Ramirez 11, A. Earl 8, A. James 8, C. Ortiz 8, A. Mendez 7, P. Wicks 6, C. Smith 6, T. McCullough 2, B. Davis 2.  
DALLAS — E. Courtney 9, C. Weisensee 8, J. Fennell 7, T. Dimick 6, J. Anderson 5, B. Hicks 4, C. Kiner 4, D. Woolner 2, W. Button 2.  
3-pointers — HHS 8, DHS 3. Free throws — HHS 10-17, DHS 13-20. Fouls — HHS 20, DHS 17.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

WEST VALLEY (WA) 54, HERMISTON 31 — At West Valley, the Hermiston Bulldogs' losing streak extended to four games on Friday with a non-league loss to West Valley.

The Bulldogs next play on Wednesday against Oregon City in the Lake Oswego Tournament.

## MISSION

# Golden Eagles smother Vikings

Nixyaawii's Milan Schimmel drives past Umatilla's Ayana Reyes in the Golden Eagles' 78-29 win against the Vikings on Friday in Mission.

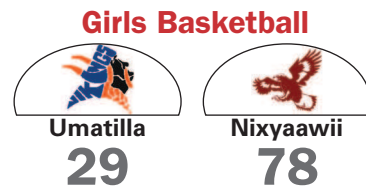
Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Schimmel, Stewart help Nixyaawii remain unbeaten on season

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

MISSION — For most prep basketball teams, the non-league portion of the schedule is for teams to learn how to come together to be at their best come time for league play and the postseason. However, the Nixyaawii girls basketball team has proved there is no early-season learning curve as the defending 1A state champs have cruised to eight straight wins to start the season.



Friday night cruise control was still in effect for Nixyaawii, as they used a smothering defense and fast-paced offense to thump the Umatilla Vikings 78-29 to remain undefeated. Nixyaawii has now scored at least 63 points in all nine games this season, and are averaging 71.3 points per game, a testament to the talent and experience of the group.

"Most importantly, we're starting four seniors and a junior so

they've had those years of playing together and playing in the system, so we've basically just picked up where we left off last year," Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said. "Obviously we're very blessed with a lot of talented players, but we're executing really well."

Nixyaawii's big three of Mary Stewart, Milan Schimmel and Kaitlynn Melton were excellent again on Friday as they combined for 57 of the team's 78 points. Schimmel had a game-high 24 points and added eight steals, five blocks and five assists and Stewart had 20 points with six rebounds and five assists. Melton finished with 13 points and nine boards.

See GOLDEN EAGLES/3B

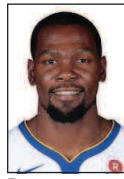
## Sports shorts

### Durant leads Warriors to 11th consecutive victory

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) Kevin Durant had 33 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and four blocks, and the Golden State Warriors held off the Los Angeles Lakers 113-106 on Friday night for their 11th straight victory.

Rookie Jordan Bell recorded his first career double-double with season bests of 20 points and 10 rebounds, making a key layup with 2:45 to go and dunking a minute later. Klay Thompson scored 16 points and Draymond Green added 13 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists as he came back from a shoulder injury for the defending champs.

Kyle Kuzma scored 27 points and fellow rookie Lonzo Ball had 24 points with five 3-pointers in his first visit to Oracle Arena. Julius Randle added 21 points off the bench for Los Angeles.



Durant

"Since returning from China, they have done everything asked of them and continued to work hard in the classroom and in their own personal workouts. I've told our players all along that actions have consequences, and the season-long suspension shows how seriously we take their misconduct."

— Steve Alford

UCLA men's basketball coach announced that Cody Riley and Jalen Hill were suspended for the remainder of the season after being arrested for shoplifting on a team trip to China in November.

### Oregon women thump Hawaii

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Sabrina Ionescu had 19 points and eight rebounds to lead No. 10 Oregon to an 85-44 victory over Hawaii on Friday in the Duel in the Desert.

Ruthy Hebard hit 8 of 10 shots and finished with 18 points and six rebounds, while Lexi Bando scored 14 for the Ducks (11-2).

Ionescu, who has a share of the NCAA record with seven career triple-doubles, was named MVP of the Desert Division, which also included Hawaii and Texas A&M.

The Rainbow Wahine (6-6) were led by Julissa Tago, who had 11 points.

The Ducks, who won both their games in the event, shot 66.7 percent (8 of 12) in the third and 47.6 percent (30 of 63) for the game.

Hawaii couldn't keep pace, shooting 17 of 52 (32.7 percent) from the floor, including 27.3 percent (3 of 11) in the fourth quarter.

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2007 — The New England Patriots set an NFL record with their 15th win, the best start in league history, with a 28-7 victory over the Miami Dolphins 28-7.

2011 — Doug Martin rushes for 151 yards and returns the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown, giving Boise State a lead 14 seconds into the Las Vegas Bowl on the way to a 56-24 win over Arizona State. Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore finishes with 266 yards and two touchdowns, ending his career with 50 total wins the NCAA's winningest player at the position.

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