

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, JANUARY 6-7, 2018

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1B

Team on a mission

Nixyaawii clobbers top-ranked Powder Valley, keeps unbeaten streak rolling



By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

MISSION — It is no secret that the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles' ultimate goal is to again go undefeated and win the 1A state championship.

And now halfway through the season, it's getting harder to imagine any name other than the Golden Eagles' on that 2018 championship trophy.

The Golden Eagles hosted the Powder Valley Badgers on Friday evening, a team that came in undefeated and at No. 1 in the OSAA's 1A rankings, and made

GIRLS BASKETBALL

| | |
|---|--|
|  Powder Valley 24 |  Nixyaawii 71 |
|---|--|

the Badgers look like an ordinary team. A suffocating half-court defense and an offense in rhythm combined to give Nixyaawii a 71-24 victory over Powder Valley, holding the Badgers to a new season-low in points scored and a new season-high in points allowed.

"We're just operating at another level than anyone else right now," Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said afterward. "If we can keep that up and keep playing well then it's a lot less stress for me."

It's the sixth straight game the Golden Eagles (13-0, 4-0 Old Oregon League) have scored more than 70 points and allowed less than 35 points, and the ninth time they have won by at least 40 points. But senior guard Mary Stewart, who finished with a game-high 25 points, says that they're not getting tired of winning games in these ways.

"What we get tired of is being pulled out at the end," Stewart joked. "We just like to run, run, run the whole game."

There was a good amount of pre-game hype leading up to Friday, with the Badgers knowing this was a chance to make a statement and knock off the defending state champions and the Golden Eagles knowing that the Badgers

See NIXYAAWII/3B



Nixyaawii's Milan Schimmel drives past Powder Valley's Autumn Davis in the Golden Eagle's 71-24 win against the Badgers on Friday in Mission.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

More inside

Nixyaawii boys win 53-51 as buzzer-beater falls short for Powder Valley. Page 3B

Prep Roundup

Rockets snap skid with big victory

Heppner, Echo's boys team also come up big

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Back at home after losing its last four games, three of which were on the road, Pilot Rock got back to its winnings ways.

Behind a 20-point performance from senior Bryson Pierce, the Rockets defeated the Imbler Cougars 53-31.

"It was a good win against a (Class 2A) team," head coach Eric Smidt said. "It's the first (2A) team we've played in weeks."

The Rockets (7-6) dominated from the start, and got off to an early 18-5 lead after the first quarter. The Cougars (1-11) tried to claw their way back in the second quarter, matching Pilot Rock's 11-point performance but the Rockets came out of the break and put up 20 points to cement its victory.

Behind Pierce, senior Chris Weinke scored 17 points.

Leading Culver was sophomore Jayce Burnette with 12 points.

Pilot Rock will host Union on Saturday before traveling to Culver next week to open Columbia Basin Conference play. Tipoff for Saturday's matchup is 5:30 p.m.

IHS 5 11 5 10 — 31
PR 18 11 20 4 — 53
IMBLER — J. Burnette 12, C. Goodman 7, W. Coston 4, W. McDonald 4, G. Slater 2, W. Whitaker 2.
PILOT ROCK — B. Pierce 20, C. Weinke 17, R. Lankford 6, B. Key 6, L. Thieme 4.
3-pointers — IHS 1, PR 1. Free throws — IHS 10-16, PR 6-16. Fouls — IHS 10, PR 14.

ECHO 53, JOSEPH 49 — At Echo, the Cougars held on for a 53-49 win over Joseph. The efforts were led by junior Devan Craig, who finished with a game-high 20 points.

See PREPS/3B



Men's College Basketball

Tinkle scores 19 with 12 boards as Beavers topple Ducks

By KYLE ODEGARD
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Tres Tinkle had 19 points, 12 rebounds and five assists as Oregon State took control of the game in the second half to beat archrival Oregon 76-64 on Friday night.

Stephen Thompson Jr.

| | |
|---|---|
|  Oregon 64 |  Oregon State 76 |
|---|---|

scored 16 points and had six assists and Drew Eubanks added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Beavers

(10-5, 2-1 Pac-12).

Paul White came off the bench for 16 points, six rebounds and five assists, and Victor Bailey Jr. scored 11 points, for the Ducks (11-5, 1-2).

Oregon State shot 53 percent compared to 36 percent for Oregon, and outrebounded the Ducks

43-36.

Neither team was at their sharpest early on offense. The Ducks went four-plus minutes without scoring late in the first half, but the Beavers scored only five points during the drought.

Oregon State led 30-29 at halftime.

The Beavers surged ahead

45-38 after a 9-2 run, capped by a Thompson 3-pointer with 12:44 left. Oregon stormed back with five straight points.

But Oregon State went on another 12-1 run, capped by a Seth Berger layup, to go ahead 57-44 with eight minutes to play. The Beavers led by as many as 17 points

in the second half.

This was the 349th battle between the two schools, making it the most-contested rivalry in college basketball. The series dates to 1903, and Oregon State has a 187-162 edge over the Ducks, who have won seven of the last nine games between the schools.

Sports shorts

Heisman winner, Louisville QB Jackson declares for NFL Draft

Lamar Jackson is leaving Louisville to enter the NFL draft, one season after becoming the youngest Heisman Trophy winner.

The 20-year-old junior quarterback tweeted Friday that he talked with his family before announcing the decision, which was confirmed by the school.

His decision was somewhat expected after he compiled some statistics that were better than those from his Heisman-winning numbers as a sophomore. He finished third in this year's vote.

Jackson, 6-foot-3 and 212 pounds, is a dynamic player but it's uncertain how high he'll be drafted this spring. Despite accounting for 5,261 offensive yards and 45 touchdowns, questions remain about his accuracy and size.



Jackson

"We played a big game in Seattle a couple weeks ago. We played a big game two weeks ago against Tennessee. We played a big game against the Eagles ... we had a bunch of big games against top teams this year and so I think that experience will translate mostly to this game."

— Jared Goff

Rams quarterback on first round playoff matchup against Falcons

Canada claims 3-1 gold-medal win over Sweden in world juniors

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Tyler Steenbergen re-directed in Connor Timmins' pass to break a tie with 1:40 left and Canada beat Sweden 3-1 to win the world junior hockey championship Friday night.

Alex Formenton then sealed Canada's 17th gold medal victory by scoring into an empty net 26 seconds later.

Canadian captain Dillon Dube also scored in a game Canada never trailed. Carter Hart stopped 35 shots, a year after he was in the net in a 5-4 shootout loss to the United States in the championship game.

Tim Soderlund scored for the Swedes, who settled for winning their 11th silver medal. Sweden is 0-4 against Canada in the championship game, including consecutive losses in 2008 and '09.

Gustavsson stopped 25 shots.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1980 — The Pittsburgh Steelers advance to their fourth Super Bowl appearance since 1974 by eliminating the Houston Oilers for the second consecutive year with a 27-13 triumph in the AFC title game.

1999 — The NBA lockout finally ends on its 191st day after a divisive struggle that costs the owners and players hundreds of millions of dollars.

2016 — Ken Griffey Jr. is elected to the baseball Hall of Fame with the highest voting percentage ever, and Mike Piazza makes it in his fourth year on the ballot. Griffey is on 437 of 440 votes in his first appearance on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot.

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