

# UMATILLA: De Loera leads with 10

Continued from 1B

defense has got to do it's thing. They (Irrigon) have 39 and we have to keep them below 41 to win this game. We can score more than 40, but we won't be able to win this if they score more than 41 and sure enough, we held them scoreless the rest of the way."

A 3-pointer by Uriel Garcia and a fast-break lay-in by Seth Cranston off of an Irrigon turnover had the Vikings right back in it, trailing 39-38 with 1:30 left. After another Irrigon turnover, Kaden Webb's floater with 45 seconds left gave the Vikings a 40-39 lead. And then, off yet another Knights missed shot and yet another turnover, Umatilla quickly moved the ball down the court to Durfey for a lay-in while drawing a foul for a 42-39 lead with eight seconds left, sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

"I was just thinking, 'Hey, I'm wide open. Get me the ball and see what I can do with it,'" Durfey recalled thinking while the ball moved down the court. "All I could think then was hopefully I make it, that's all I wanted to do was just make it. When it went in, I was pumped."

And that Umatilla defense, which was outstanding down the stretch, came up huge again as the unit did not allow the Knights to get off a last-second shot attempt to try and tie the game before the buzzer sounded.

The game was a defensive battle for both sides, as both the Knights and Vikings scored season-low in points and had double-digit turnovers. Irrigon's 39 points was far below its previous low of 54 and Umatilla's 42 broke its previous low of 43 points set 10 days ago in a loss to Kennewick.

"Our defense was great and we're going to rely on it," Bow said. "This might be the lowest points we've score all year, it probably is for them, too. That's two defensive teams going at it and we were just lucky enough to get the last run there to finish the game."

Christian De Loera was the Vikings' high scorer with 10 points off the bench, all



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
Irrigon's Eric Carillo drives past Umatilla's Moises Garcilazo in the Vikings win against the Knights on Friday.

of which came off the bench in the first half. The junior post gave the Vikings some standout play in the first half for Umatilla as he filled in for Durfey who got in early foul trouble, giving the Vikings some much-needed offense and solid defense inside on Irrigon big man Johnny Phillips.

"He did great and I was so happy for him," Durfey said of De Loera. "I was a little frustrated with my foul calls but I loved seeing him step up ... you always love seeing your teammates come in and step up in a big game like this and play great."

On the Irrigon side, it was mainly a one-man show on offense as Phillips was the only Knight to reach double-digits with a game-high 20 points, adding 12 rebounds and three blocks as well. Irrigon did not make a single 3-pointer in the game, going 0-for-11, and the team shot just 35-percent overall.

Irrigon took advantage of the game to start things, jumping out to an 11-4 lead

before Umatilla battled back to get within 11-9 at the end of the quarter. The Vikings then led 21-19 at halftime and 31-29 at the end of the third quarter before the Vikings made their run. Overall, there were eight lead changes and six ties in Friday's game at The Pit, which held a standing room-only crowd that brought about a spirited atmosphere for the game.

"I've been to a lot of high school games around here, but when we have standing room-only for the league opener here at The Pit is awesome," Bow said. "I can't wait to see what the game at Irrigon looks like in a few weeks."

IHS 11 8 10 10 - 39  
UHS 9 12 10 11 - 42  
IRRIGON — J. Phillips 20, E. Carillo 8, A. Gomez 4, A. Roa 3, K. Fleming 2, J. Sandoval, D. Vera, P. Holcomb.  
UMATILLA — C. DeLoera 10, S. Cranston 9, U. Garcia 5, S. Garcia 5, K. Webb 5, T. Durfey 4, M. Garcilazo 4, G. Armenta.  
3-pointers — IHS 0, UHS 3. Free throws — IHS 5-8, UHS 3-13. Fouls — IHS 16, UHS 9.

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# PREPS: Nixyaawii sweeps Helix

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ting came in Round 3, where they picked up their lone win during the first day of competition.

Only four of Mac-Hi's wrestler took the mat, the rest won by forfeit. Zach Crisman (145) and Cruz Garcia (285) had the best performances, and pinned their opponents in 0:50 and 0:14 seconds,

Riverside and Irrigon joined the competition in the 3A brackets. The Pirates breezed through their competition, winning all three rounds.

Riverside handled Coquille 54-24, and then moved on to beat Lakeview 48-21. In its final round of action, Riverside handily won 54-30 over Redmond.

Things didn't go so well for Irrigon. The Knights only competed in two of three rounds, and were defeated by Dayton and Rainier in the first and third, respectively.

Despite both losses, there were a few Knights with standout performances. Silvestre Vasquez (132), Josue Aguilera (160), Brady Harrington (195) and Kaleb Kendrick (285) went 2-0.

Heppner wrestled in the 2A bracket, and faced Central Linn. The Mustangs fell 60-18 after only four wrestlers picked up wins with one by forfeit.

Heppner's Trevor Antonucci (120) pinned his opponent in just 0:51. Carson Brosnan (152) just took a few seconds longer, and eventually got the win in 1:04. Leo Waite (126) ended his bout in 3:52 by fall.

Girls basketball  
IONE 44, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 36 — Back at home after six long weeks on the road, Ione picked up its first win in six games. Senior Maggie Flynn led the Cardinals in 44-36 defeat over Horizon Christian.

The Eagles (5-7) top scorers, senior Alexis Ruiz and sophomore Fionna

Marsalis, dished out 15 and 12 points, respectively. But the Cardinals (2-10) were able to stop their efforts in the fourth quarter, holding Horizon Christian to only four points.

"(It was a) solid fourth quarter," head coach Nathan Heideman said. "(The girls) gutted it out to hold (Horizon Christian) off."

NIXYAAWII 75, HELIX 36 — At Helix, Nixyaawii got off to a great start with an early 32-13 lead after the first half. The Eagles had an even better second-half performance to top the Helix Grizzlies 75-36 to remain perfect on the season.

Senior Mary Stewart led the Eagles (14-0 overall, 5-0 Old Oregon League) with a game-high 30 points. For the Grizzlies (9-6, 3-2), senior Sadie Wilson was the top point getter with 17 on the night.

IRRIGON 52, UMATILLA 24 — At Umatilla, Jada Burns scored 12 points and Taylor Davis had 11 to lead the Irrigon Knights (13-2 overall, 2-1 EOL) to a league win over Umatilla on Friday night.

Laurny Journot and Nancy Ortiz each scored seven points to lead the Vikings (3-11, 0-1).

CULVER 38, PILOT ROCK 33 — At Culver, the home Bulldogs scored 14 points in the fourth quarter to stun the Rockets in the Columbia Basin Conference opener on Friday night.

Kaitelyn Evans led the Rockets (10-6 overall, 0-1 CBC) with 12 points and Grace Austin added eight. Irma Retano led the Bulldogs (10-5, 1-0) with 10 points.

HEPPNER 59, STANFIELD 34 — Heppner defended its home court Friday by recovering from a slow start to defeat Stanfield 59-34.

It was both teams

Columbia Basin Conference opener, and the Mustangs (9-3 overall, 1-0 CBC) came out on top and the Tigers (2-13, 0-1) troubles continue.

LA GRANDE 53, MAC-HI 24 — The Mac-Hi Pioneers traveled to La Grande to face the Tigers for their second league game of the year, and with it came their second league loss.

The Pioneers (2-14, 0-2) are now riding an eight-game skid after the loss.

Boys basketball  
NIXYAAWII 74, HELIX 24 — At Helix, he Nixyaawii Eagles completely dominated the Grizzlies on their home court. The streaking Eagles handed Helix a 74-24 loss behind the efforts of sophomore Mick Shimmel.

Shimmel recorded a game-high 17 points for Nixyaawii and helped keep the Eagles (12-2 overall, 5-0 Old Oregon League) undefeated in league play.

For the Grizzlies (1-14, 0-5), junior Gavin Newton was the top scorer with 12 points.

HEPPNER 58, STANFIELD 40 — The visiting Stanfield Tigers got off to a slow start against the Heppner Mustangs, and from there never recovered as the Mustangs won the CBC opener.

Junior Trent Smith was the top scorer in the Columbia Basin Conference opener for the Mustangs (6-6 overall, 1-0 CBC). He netted 15 points.

For the Tigers (7-9, 0-1), junior Elias Esquivel led with 12 points.

PILOT ROCK 57, CULVER 43 — At Culver, Chris Weinke scored a game-high 23 points and Bryson Pierce added 19 as Pilot Rock (10-6 overall, 1-0 CBC) started Columbia Basin Conference play with a win over Culver (4-13, 0-1) on Friday night.

# HERMISTON: Led by one to start 4th

Continued from 1B

night. Sunset was going to stretch its lead to 19-12 after the first eight minutes of play, but Hermiston junior Cesar Ortiz knocked down his first three of the night to cut the deficit to only two possessions — Ortiz was responsible for all three of the team's shots from behind the arc.

In a game of runs, Sunset took back the lead at the start of the second quarter, but again Ortiz hit a 3-pointer off the corner to knot the score at 24 points apiece.

The crowd quickly fell silent as sophomore Braeden Sato traded three's with Ortiz. Sato finished with a game-high 25 points for Sunset.

But yet again, Ortiz's three is good and after one more lead change, the Bulldogs managed to hold on to the five point lead at the break.

Hermiston held on to that advantage for more than half of the third quarter, and were up by as many as eight points. But Sunset began chipping away at its deficit, caught up and then passed the Bulldogs to enter the fourth quarter up 51-50.

"Things were going a little smooth there," Arstein said of the third-quarter performance. "We were kind of getting anything we wanted on offense as long as we took care of the ball, and then Jordan (Ramirez) goes out and then (we) pick up some stupid fouls — they go to the free throw line, they back door us a couple of times, (it's) a game of runs and they definitely had more runs in the second half."

Ramirez's hit the bench bothered by a hamstring injury, and with it Hermiston's first chance in three weeks at a picking up a win — its last was on Dec. 22.

"I thought it kind of hurt us momentum wise when Jordan went out," Arstein said. "(We weren't) taking care of the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
Hermiston's Thomas McCullough grabs a rebound over Sunset's Colby King (11) and Mitchell Scanlan in the Bulldogs' 76-61 loss to the Apollos Friday in Hermiston.

ball, it kind of went down hill when Jordan went out."

Despite the loss, Arstein saw some things he liked. One was the effort of junior Adrian Mendez.

Mendez played a key roll in Hermiston's comeback attempt at the end, as he scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half.

Mendez single handily kept the Bulldogs in the game at the start of the fourth quarter.

During Sunset's 10-6 run to extend its lead to 61-56, he scored all six of Hermiston's points.

"Guys did a great job of looking for him," Arstein said. "He's not very big but he knows how to space the floor and that's the reason why he starts for us. He knows spacing, he's smart, (has got) good hands and I thought the guys did a great job of finding him, and he's catching and finishing."

However, staying within just a couple of possessions of the Apollos was short lived, as they began to run away with

the lead — sparked by a questionable technical foul called on junior Ryne Andreason.

The Hermiston coaches were in agreement that the tech was a call that would have been made 10 years ago, but not tonight. When Andreason chased down Sato after he stole the ball away from the Bulldogs, Andreason jumped up for the block. As he was going through the motions of blocking a shot, his hand slapped glass which turned Sato's lay in into a four-point play.

"(It was) a momentum changer," Arstein said. "Refs are refs, nothing against them (but) I just thought it was an interesting call — very interesting call."

After, Sunset went on its last run of the night to cement the final score.

SHS 19 13 19 25 - 76  
HHS 15 22 13 11 - 61  
SUNSET — B. Sato 25, N. Cizik 17, C. King 8, W. Reese 8, C. Newsom 8, A. Holst 5, E. Tubby 3 S. Muhlheim 2.  
HERMISTON — A. Mendez 22, C. Ortiz 14, R. Andreason 11, A. Earl 6, A. James 3, J. Ramirez 3, T. McCullough 2.  
3-pointers — SHS 6, HSH 3. Free throws — SHS 16-18, HSH 14-22. Fouls — SHS 18, HSH 21 (James fouled out).

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