

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

## Saturday's Prep Roundup

# Pilot Rock, Irrigon boys win big over weekend

**Heppner girls earn narrow victory, Riverside knocks off visiting No. 1 Burns**

East Oregonian

**PILOT ROCK** — At home, the Pilot Rock boys basketball team defeated the

visiting Heppner Mustangs 45-34 on Saturday.

The Rockets (13-6 overall, 3-0 Columbia Basin Conference) capitalized on Heppner's 25 turnovers and got two big performances from unexpected shooters.

They were able to hold the Mustangs to only two points in the second quarter, while Pilot Rock knocked down 13. That quarter proved to be a game changer as both teams

scored identical figures in the final two quarters.

Leading Pilot Rock in its fourth consecutive victory were seniors Levi Thieme and Riley Lankford. The duo scored a combined 25 points — Thieme with 14, Lankford with 11 — to boost the Rockets over the Mustangs (8-7, 3-1).

Thieme also notched 10 rebounds for a double-double. He was able to beat

Heppner's bigs for a game-best performance to hand Heppner its first league loss of the year.

For the Mustangs, reliable shooter junior Trent Smith led with 11 points.

**IRRIGON 51, NYSSA 33** — The first half set the tone for Irrigon, as the Knights ran away with a 51-33 victory at home over Nyssa.

They held the Bulldogs

(10-6 overall, 2-1 Eastern Oregon League) to only two points in the second half, while scoring eight of their own. After a 19-point performance in the first quarter, the 8-2 advantage in the second set the Knights (14-2, 3-1) for a strong finish.

Leading the charge was senior Johnny Phillips with 16 points. Fellow senior Abe Gomez chipped in 11 of his own.

For Nyssa, senior Boston Thompson finished with a game-high 17 points.

**RIVERSIDE 53, BURNS 45** — A steady performance from Riverside gave the Pirates their first league win, a 53-45 victory over Burns.

The two teams were nearly neck-and-neck after the opening quarter with

See **ROUNDUP/3B**

## Pro Basketball



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

**Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, left, tries to drive past Denver Nuggets center Mason Plumlee in the second half of Monday's game in Denver.**

# Nuggets' late three stuns Blazers

By **MICHAEL KELLY**  
Associated Press

**DENVER** — Jamal Murray scored a career-high 38 points, including a three-point play in the final minute, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Portland Trail Blazers 104-101 on Monday night.

Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Will Barton hit four free throws in the final 10 seconds to secure the win and spoil Jusuf Nurkic's return to Denver.

Nurkic had 19 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks in his first game back at Pepsi Center. Damian Lillard had 25 points and seven assists for Portland.



Nurkic played two-plus seasons with the Nuggets to begin his career, and was playing his first game in Denver since he was dealt to Portland last season. He received a smattering of boos when he was introduced as a starter and a few during the game.

He nearly had a happy return, but the Trail Blazers couldn't hold a late lead.

Lillard gave Portland a 93-86

advantage with a 3-pointer, but the Nuggets rallied to take a 97-95 lead on Mason Plumlee's dunk. CJ McCollum hit two free throws and Lillard hit a running bank shot to give Portland a 99-97 lead with 41.7 seconds left.

Murray's three-point play with 33.6 seconds remaining gave Denver back the lead. The Trail Blazers had two chances to go back in front but couldn't convert. Barton hit two free throws, and after Nurkic's dunk, sealed it with two more foul shots with 1.8 seconds left.

Nurkic got going in the third quarter on both ends of the floor. He had 11 points, six rebounds and blocked Jokic's shot near the

basket. Later in the possession he stole the ball from his former teammate, which led to a Portland fast break.

### TIP-INS

Lillard was selected the Western Conference player of the week by the NBA on Monday. He averaged 29.3 points and eight assists as Portland swept its three games last week. ... The Trail Blazers had more steals (eight) than fouls (seven) in the first half. ... Portland has scored 100 or more points in 12 straight games.

### UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Host the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

## Prep Wrestling

# Mac-Hi, Riverside in top three

**Pendleton hits the road, Echo earns 1A state championship**

East Oregonian

**HEPPNER** — A number of local schools traveled to Heppner for the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational.

In the eight-team field, Mac-Hi was the most successful finishing in second place with 122 points behind Baker (178). Riverside was the only other school to eclipse 100 points, and claimed third place (115). Irrigon, Hermiston and host school Heppner rounded out the rest of the standings.

The Knights finished with 64 points, good for sixth place. The Bulldogs brought a small team to the invitational and placed seventh with 53 points. The Mustangs barely made it over the 50-point mark, and finished in eighth place (52).

For the Mac-Hi Pioneers, four wrestlers finished in second place, one claimed first and three more finished in either third or fourth place.

At the 195-weight class, Joshua Torres and Brandyn Chaney had to face each other for the top spot. The two teammates defeated wrestlers from Riverside, Irrigon and Joseph to make it to the championship bout where Torres would come out victorious. He's undefeated finish gave the Pioneers 26 points. Chaney, then, finished in second.

Joining Chaney in second place was Kyler Kelly (152), Alejandro Saldana (182) and Alex Doherty (220). Kelly and Saldana both went 2-1 on the day, and Doherty opened with a bye to finish 1-1.

Cruz Garcia (285) was the only Pioneer to claim a third place finish by pinning Grant Union's Toby Boatwright in 3:22. Layne Ensey (113) and Jakob Henshaw (132) each finished in fourth. The two split their bouts, finishing 2-2, and each added 14 points to Mac-Hi's total.

For Riverside, Fernando Ortega (106) had the best performance earning a second place finish after Joseph's Steven Beckman won by a major decision (13-2).

The Pirates also had a sixth place finisher in the 106-pound weight class. Yeidi Ramos survived the consultation rounds to face Baker's Alex Gross in the fifth place match. Ramos was pinned in 1:54 to finish just outside the top five.

Five of Riverside's wrestlers finished in third place: Andrew Barker (120), Christian Reyes (126), Ethan Snyder (132), Jacob Harris (145) and Allan Gutierrez (220).

Jose Puerta (152) was the only Pirate to finish in fourth place after Heppner's Carson Brosnan won by fall in 3:01.

Rounding out the team's top finishers was Juan Salgado (182), Adolfo Martinez (195) and Michael Carroll (285), all of

See **WRESTLING/2B**

## Sports shorts

### Slumping Bucks fire coach Kidd

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — The Milwaukee Bucks have fired coach Jason Kidd following a midseason slide that left the playoff hopeful in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Assistant coach Joe Prunty was serving as head coach for Monday night's game against Phoenix.

It was a surprising end to Kidd's three-plus season tenure in Milwaukee, when the Bucks made the playoffs twice. Giannis Antetokounmpo turned into an All-Star under his watch. The Bucks were considered an emerging force in the East at the start of the season.

But the Bucks have lost four of five going into Monday and had been prone to defensive lapses especially on the perimeter.

General manager Jon Horst says "a fresh approach and a change in leadership are needed to continue elevating our talented team towards the next level."



Kidd

"It's the next-man-up mentality. It also means that you have some veteran players that keep things together, and good coaching staffs. I think it's a tribute to the players and everyone involved that they can keep things going even through that adversity."

— **Doug Pederson**

The Philadelphia Eagles' head coach said of Nick Foles, who went from backup to starting quarterback in Week 14.

### BMCC basketball drops doubleheader in Walla Walla

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** — On Saturday, both the men's and women's basketball teams of Blue Mountain Community College traveled to Walla Walla to take on the Warriors in a doubleheader.

However, luck did not favor the visitors as both teams lost by at least 40 points.

The women's team fell 83-40 despite a team-best performance from Karlie Gerlinger. Off the bench, Gerlinger scored 13 points.

The women have yet to pick up a win this season and fall to 0-6 overall.

For the men, the Warriors handed the team a 98-49 loss. BMCC's Linton McAllister and Anthony Landeros combined for 20 of the team's 49 points — each scoring 10 points apiece to lead the Timberwolves. The men's team has also struggling and with the most recent loss sit at 0-6 on the season.



### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2005 — Jennifer Rodriguez becomes the first American woman in nine years to win the world sprint speedskating championship.

2011 — Francesca Schiavone wins the longest women's match in Grand Slam history — a 6-4, 1-6, 16-14 victory over Svetlana Kuznetsova that takes 4 hours, 44 minutes at the Australian Open.

2015 — Klay Thompson sets an NBA record for the most points in a quarter, a 37-point third period that powers the Golden State Warriors to a 126-101 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com