

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## HERMISTON

# Bulldogs get their bling

Hermiston receives football state championship rings

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Joey Gutierrez could not stop smiling on Tuesday night.

Exactly 67 days after the Hermiston Bulldogs' football team captured the Class 5A state championship, Gutierrez and his teammates received their shiny state championship rings during a presentation at halftime of Tuesday's Hermiston-Pendleton varsity basketball game.

"Oh man, it's such a good feeling to have it," Gutierrez

"All of our hard work paid off and now we get to look at this ring and remember all of the good times from this year."

— Beau Blake,  
Hermiston football senior

said, smiling. "It's a memory we're always going to have and it definitely looks a lot better in person than in the pictures.

"Not a lot of people can say they have a state championship football ring, so it gives you an even better See BLING:/2B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston father and son duo freshman Jordan Lopez and assistant coach Eddie Lopez model their rings after a football state championship ring presentation during halftime of Tuesday's boys varsity basketball game against Pendleton.

## Prep Girls Basketball

# Buckaroos win thriller

Pendleton hangs on for big road victory at Hermiston

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — It never fails when it comes time to play a big rivalry game, that either one team will win handily or it will come down to the wire and the winner will narrowly escape with the victory.

At least that's what the Pendleton's girl head coach Kevin Porter was saying to a friend before Tuesday night's big rivalry, and in Hermiston, the Buckaroos do the latter.

First, holding the lead. Then, entering halftime down by two only to finish with a 17-point fourth quarter that sealed the 49-45 win over the Bulldogs.

"It doesn't matter level of sport, or what sport you're talking about, rivalries are a flip of a coin and we came out on top tonight," Porter said. "I'm awful excited about it, obviously. But Hermiston played a great game and we just made a few more plays coming down the stretch.

"I told the girls before the game, if we execute we can win this game, and we did (that). To me, that's the difference."

The Buckaroos (12-6 overall, 3-0 Columbia River Conference) were finally able to take control of the lead, a lead they had held until the final 00.2 seconds of the second quarter.

Senior Kalan McGlothan, the team's top scorer, hit a field goal to knot the score at 38 points apiece. Sophomore Samantha Spriet followed that up with two made free throws — her only points of the game — to put Pendleton up 40-39 with 3:58 left on the game clock.

In the final three minutes of play, the Bulldogs (6-12, 2-1) came close to having the advantage, tying the score



Pendleton's Jaiden Lemberger puts up an off-balanced shoot guarded by Hermiston's Sydney Stefani in the Bucks' 49-45 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Hermiston.

again at 45-45 with 58.7 left, but the Bucks were able to make some last second baskets from the charity stripe to stretch their narrow lead.

McGlothan led the efforts with a team-best 22 points. Fellow seniors Jaiden Lemberger and Maureen Davies followed with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

While the big three are Pendleton's top scorers, it was a full on team effort that helped

the Bucks defeated the cross-town foe in the first of a three game series.

"Every single kid, including the managers that were on that bench contributed," Porter said. "Whether they were cheering, whether they made a basket or they went in for 30 seconds and gave somebody a blow on defense, offense — every single person on our bench and the crowd, they all get credit."

Pendleton started the game

up 16-12 after the first quarter. McGlothan led those efforts for the Bucks, and junior Jordan Thomas — who ended the night with a game-high 22 points — was off to a good start with a third of Hermiston's opening baskets.

At the end of the second quarter, the Bulldogs went on an 11-1 run to go into the break up 27-25. They went on

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## Prep Boys Basketball

# Buckaroo boys stun Bulldogs

Pendleton erases first half deficit, keeps CRC win streak alive

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston-Pendleton matchup is going to draw crowds no matter the sport. It's also going to put added pressure on the players to come away with a win for bragging rights, or to keep a win streak alive, or to assert your dominance as the team to beat in the conference.

On Tuesday in Hermiston, the Buckaroos did just that as they defeated the Bulldogs 51-44.

Despite being led by junior Tyler Newsom — who is arguably the best offensive player in the conference — with 16 points, Pendleton had another star breakout 30 miles away from its home gym and in one of the most hostile environments the team will face.

Freshman Dakota Sams finished behind Newsom with 15 points, 11 of which came in the second half when the Bucks (11-7 overall, 3-0 Columbia River Conference) desperately needed them.

Pendleton opened up the game with a meager seven points, while Hermiston built a six-point lead netting 13 of its own.

"Anytime you have a freshman coming into a hostile game for the first time and go for 15 — Dakota Sams is unbelievable," head coach Kyle

See BUCKAROOS/3B

## Boys Basketball

Pendleton  
51

Hermiston  
44



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Shaw Jerome shoots the ball over Hermiston's Andrew Earl in the Bucks' 51-44 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Hermiston.

## Sports shorts

### Former Beaver wideout Rodgers returns to Corvallis as a coach

CORVALLIS — Former Oregon State receiver James Rodgers is returning to the Beavers as director of player development under new coach Jonathan Smith.

Rodgers played for the Beavers from 2007-11, setting the school record with 6,373 all-purpose yards. He caught 222 passes, good for third on the school's career list. He had 19 TD receptions and nine rushing touchdowns.

After Oregon State, Rodgers was with the Atlanta Falcons for two seasons, spending time on the team's practice squad. He also played for the CFL's Montreal Alouettes for two seasons.

Last year Rodgers was director of player development under coach Mike Riley at Nebraska. Riley, a former head coach of the Beavers, has since joined Smith's staff in Corvallis.



Rodgers

"Now they're at a point in their healing process where they want to confront Larry, and they want to show the world that they are survivors and they are strong and they are part of this movement. It helps them through the healing process."

— Mick Grewal

An attorney said of his 11 clients that have signed up to speak at Larry Nassar's, the former gymnastics doctor, who will again return to court

### With Griffin gone, Clippers fall short against Trail Blazers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 28 points and the Portland Trail Blazers pulled away in the third quarter to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 104-96 on Tuesday night.

Los Angeles was playing its first game since Blake Griffin's trade to Detroit on Monday. CJ McCollum added 16 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 14 points and 18 rebounds for the Blazers, who ended a seven-game skid against the Clippers while winning their third in a row.

Lou Williams scored 20 points off the bench and DeAndre Jordan had 19 rebounds for the Clippers, who made a run in the fourth after they trailed by 20.

The Trail Blazers next host the Bulls on Wednesday in the second game of a back-to-back.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1999 — John Elway gets his second straight Super Bowl ring, weaving his magic for the final time during the Denver Broncos' 34-19 win over the Atlanta Falcons.

2009 — Serena Williams routs Dinara Safina 6-0, 6-3 to win the Australian Open — her 10th Grand Slam title — and return to the No. 1 ranking.

2015 — Lydia Ko, 17, becomes the youngest golfer, male or female, to be ranked No. 1. She shares second place at the LPGA Tour's season opener, where she finishes a shot behind Na Yeon Choi.

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