

HERMISTON

Bulldogs hold on for much needed win

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — For the fans that were in the stands at the Dawg House for the Hermiston girls basketball team’s last two games, their blood pressure likely rose as the visiting schools kept things close against the Bulldogs.

On Tuesday, the outcome didn’t favor the home team, dropping their first league game to Pendleton. However, on Friday night, Hermiston was able to stop two of The Dalles’ big runs to hold on for a 52-46 victory.

Now more than a third of the way through Columbia River Conference play, the Bulldogs (7-12 overall, 3-1 CRC) will take any win they can get — even if it’s not the prettiest.

“You could definitely tell there was a little bit of a hangover (from Tuesday),”

head coach Juan Rodriguez said. “There was a lot of disappointment where we played a pretty good game and just didn’t finish the game off and you could tell that tonight.

“It’s a little bit of a trap game when you beat a team by 30 the first time at their place and you’re coming off a tough loss, and you end up playing like that.”

Hermiston entered the third quarter up 25-16 after a 13-4 run left the Riverhawks (6-12, 0-4) in the dust. But The Dalles seemed to have left its shooting woes in the locker room and came out firing, hitting three consecutive 3-pointers — all of which off the hands of senior Paulina Finn.

Then with three minutes left in the

Girls Basketball



The Dalles
46



Hermiston
52

third, fellow senior Jodi Thomasian did a spin move around her Bulldog defender for a lay-in that put the Riverhawks within two possessions of their first lead of the night.

The Dalles wouldn’t get that close to Hermiston again until two minutes into the fourth quarter. Another three, this time by junior Molly Taylor, put visitors within one point of Hermiston.

The narrow 37-36 lead was extended when the Bulldogs outscored the Riverhawks 7-2 over the next three minutes. But The Dalles weren’t done yet.

In the first half, the Riverhawks were held to only 16 points — scoring eight apiece in the first and second quarters



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Hermiston’s Maddy Juul (20) and Jodi Thomasian (11), of The Dalles, battle for the ball Friday evening in Hermiston.

See HERMISTON/3B

PENDLETON

Bucks stunned at home

15-game win streak comes to an ends

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As the Hood River Valley Eagles hopped on the bus for the two-plus hour drive to Pendleton on Friday evening, they did so as the underdog yet again.

For the season, the Eagles came to Warberg Court with a 5-13 overall record, winners of just one game in their last 12. And against the Buckaroos, the Eagles came in losers of nine straight dating back to January of 2015. However, the Eagles pulled off the unlikely upset to snap their skid, while halting a streak for the Buckaroos as well.

Hood River erased a 11-point second half deficit to stun the Buckaroos 62-58 at Warberg Court, ending Pendleton’s 15-game win streak inside the Columbia River Conference. The Eagles (6-13 overall, 1-3 CRC) outscored the Buckaroos 28-12 in the fourth quarter, with perhaps the biggest difference being from the free throw line. The Eagles were 11 for 15 in the fourth quarter and 19 for 27 for the game, while the Buckaroos (11-8, 3-1) had their worst night of the season going 6 for 16 in the fourth quarter and 7 for 23 for the game.

Leaving 16 points on the board in missed free throws while losing a game by four points was one of a few tough pills to swallow for the Buckaroos and head coach Kyle Tedder.

Boys Basketball



Hood River
62



Pendleton
58



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton’s Tyler Newsom puts up a shot surrounded by Hood River’s Jonah Tactay, Noah Webster (4) and Dakota Kurahara in the Bucks’ 62-58 loss to the Eagles on Friday in Pendleton.

See PENDLETON/3B

Prep Roundup

TigerScots knock off Mustangs

Quaempts reaches 1,000 career points in victory

East Oregonian

ATHENA — After a slow start to open the what would be a tough Columbia Basin Conference matchup, Weston-McEwen was able to pull off its most satisfying win of the season, according to head coach Mike Giusti, a 44-34 victory over Heppner.

“It was a bit of a struggle, but we showed heart and guts and did a lot of nice things despite not shooting well,” he said.

The TigerScots (14-6 overall, 5-0 CBC) didn’t take the lead until halfway through the third quarter.

The Mustangs (12-5, 4-2) were up 20-16 at the break, but were held to only six points in the third quarter and eight in the fourth. All the while, Weston-McEwen would drop 18 points of the final two quarters to seal its eighth straight victory.

Leading those efforts was Katie Vescio, who finished with a game-high of 17 points. She was not alone, though. Chelsea Quaempts added 13 points, which also helped her reach an impressive milestone. Quaempts now has over 1,000 career points through her four years as a TigerScot.

The record game behind a great performance, Giusti added.

For Heppner, the reliable freshman, Sydney Wilson, led with 11 points.

PENDLETON 45, HOOD RIVER VALLEY 28 — At Hood River, the Pendleton Buckaroos stayed perfect inside the Columbia River Conference with a win over the Hood River Valley Eagles on Friday evening.

Jaiden Lemberger led the Buckaroos (13-6 overall, 4-0 CRC) with 13 points and Kalan McGlothlin had nine. Every player saw the floor for the Buckaroos in the game, with the bench logging heavy minutes in the second half and gaining some valuable experience while keeping the starters fresh.

Halee Baker led the Eagles (9-9, 1-3) with 11 points.

See PREPS/4B

Sports shorts

Djokovic says he had ‘medical intervention’ on right elbow

(AP) — Novak Djokovic says he had a “small medical intervention” on his bothersome right elbow.

The 12-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1-ranked player wrote on Instagram on Friday: “It seems like I am on the good road now to full recovery.”

Djokovic sat out the last half of 2017 because of problems with his racket-swinging right arm, saying it had been bothering him for more than a year.

The 30-year-old Serb made a late decision to enter the Australian Open last month, and then was clearly hampered by the elbow in a straight-set loss to Hyeon Chung of South Korea in the fourth round. Djokovic winced and grimaced throughout and took a medical timeout



Djokovic

“In general my confidence is high, my body feels relatively good. I am just not thinking about injuries. As long as my confidence is good and I am able to ski the way I want to, which I am, then I am not concerned.”

— **Lindsey Vonn**

The American downhill skier said as she approaches the Olympics, with the Feb. 17 super-G and the Feb. 21 downhill in South Korea less than three weeks away.

Liukin steps down as U.S. women’s gymnastics team coordinator

(AP) — The coordinator of the women’s national team for USA Gymnastics has stepped down, the latest departure to rock the embattled organization in the wake of a sexual abuse scandal centered on former team doctor Larry Nassar.

Valeri Liukin made the announcement on Friday, less than 18 months after taking over for Martha Karolyi in September 2016.

Liukin said in a statement that while he wanted to help turn the program around, “the present climate causes me, and more importantly my family, far too much stress, difficulty and uncertainty.”

USA Gymnastics thanked for “for his dedication and contributions to the sport of gymnastics” and said it will begin the search for his replacement immediately



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1980 — Larry Bird hits the first 3-point shot in the history of the NBA All-Star Game. Bird’ 3 came in overtime as the East team outscores the West 16-8 in overtime.

1990 — Bill Shoemaker, the world’s winningest jockey, finishes fourth on Patchy Groundfog in his final ride at Santa Anita. The 58-year-old Shoemaker finishes his 40-year career with \$123,375,524 in earning and a record 8,833 wins.

2000 — World Wrestling Federation mastermind Vince McMahon unveils his latest creation: the XFL, a new pro football league.

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