



Hanford holds off Hermiston in MCC play

PREP VOLLEYBALL



Hanford
3



Hermiston
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By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Hermiston volleyball team has battled playing with confidence all season, but Tuesday night the Bulldogs turned the corner. Hermiston (2-4) dropped its Mid-Columbia Conference home match to Hanford 25-14, 22-25, 25-23, 25-17. But the team showed it is becoming more at ease in the league.

“Our middles are becoming more comfortable and we are battling as a team,” Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said. “That tells me we are doing the right stuff. We are young in volleyball IQ, but every day in practice they are working to get better. We push them and demand a lot of them.”

Hanford (2-4) has had its struggles as well, picking up just their second win of the season. “This is not an easy league to play in,” Falcons coach Nichelle Meador said. “No one is a gimme this year.”

Hanford led the first set from start to finish, taking digs of seven and nine points before Sage Sjogren reeled off an ace serve to secure the set.

The Bulldogs came right back in the second, battling through ties of 18-18 and 19-19 before pulling away.

Kendall Dowdy served two points for a 21-19 lead, and Sophia Streeter and Ireland McDonough had kills to seal the win.

Tied at one set each, the Bulldogs trailed 24-13 in the third set before riding a nine-point run by Courtnee West at the service line. Isabel Dockendorff put down a kill to secure the set for the Falcons.

At the start of the season, that rally was not in the cards.

“Our expectation is that they come and learn every day,” Dyck said. “They are doing it.”

Meador said she had faith her team would hold on.

“I wasn’t worried,” she said. “I was confident in their skills. This was a learning experience they needed to have. They were able to pull through.”

The Falcons sailed through the fourth set to



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston’s Kendall Dowdy attempts to set the ball over the net Tuesday night.

put the match away.

McDonough led the Bulldogs with 10 kills and eight digs, while Dowdy had 19 assists, West 13 assists and nine digs, Daisy Maddox seven kills, and Scout Reagan five kills and three digs. Halee Stubbs took ownership of the

back row with 26 digs.

Macy Jensen led the Falcons with 16 kills and 15 digs, while McKenna Benson had 23 digs, and Kaitlyn Thompson 26 assists and 12 digs. Sjogren, who turned 17 on Tuesday, added eight kills, two blocks and five digs.

Bulldog girls dive into new swim season

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Moving its swim season from winter to fall hasn’t been an issue for the Hermiston High School girls. The success in the pool speaks for itself.

The Bulldogs, under first-year coach Sara Sargent, have seven swimmers who have reached district qualifying times just three weeks into their first season in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

Sargent has 22 swimmers in her program, with sophomores Abby Sharon and Georgia Stevens leading the way.

Sharon eclipsed the district mark in the 100 backstroke by 17 seconds and also earned spots in the 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley relay, and the 50 and 100 freestyle.

Stevens has qualifying times in the 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly, and the 50, 200 and 500 freestyle events. Her 500 time is 51 seconds faster than the district standard.

“Abby and Georgia are definitely rock stars,” Sargent said. “I had no idea they were that good.”

While the pair has qualified in several events, they each will have to pick their top four for district.

Senior Aiya Hart has qualified in the 100 butterfly, while freshman Laly Morfin has qualified in the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle.

Rounding out the group are junior Savannah Marsengill (100 butterfly), and freshman twins Mattison Christensen (200 freestyle, 100 butterfly) and McKenna Christensen (200 IM).

“I think they enjoy being separate from the boys (who swim in the winter in the MCC),” Sargent said. “It’s a confidence booster, and they are getting more individual time with coaching.”

Sargent, who grew up in California and swam in high school, took over the swim program from Kevin Hamblin.

“I had been interested in being an assistant coach when I started at the school district,” she said. “When the position opened up, I applied and crossed my fingers.”

The move to the MCC has come with a few challenges, mainly the size of the teams they are competing against, and the fact the Bulldogs do not have any divers.



Sharon



Stevens

Buckaroos lose momentum

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

After opening league play with last week’s win, the Bucks suffered a disappointing 1-0 loss against The Dalles at home on Tuesday.

But the loss didn’t come without a fight as defense from both teams took center stage on the Pendleton soccer field. More than an hour of the match had passed before The Dalles scored the only goal.

Bucks goalie and team captain Andrew Wolotira led his team’s defense in the first half — the ball stayed on Pendleton’s side throughout — and no matter how many shots came his way, he kept the net safe. But he wouldn’t take all the credit.

“My defense did a great job,” he said. “It may seem like I did the work, but it was all them.”

The Bucks, however, suffered a critical blow during the second half — midfielder Juan Ortega collided

PREP SOCCER



The Dalles
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Pendleton
0

with Riverhawks defender Omar Torres and injured his knee. After being tended to by athletic trainer Debbie Green, Ortega was sent to the hospital to be checked for any potential fractures. It’s unclear if he’ll return for Thursday’s match at Crook County.

Torres received a yellow card for the incident.

The Dalles scored the game’s lone goal when forward Alex Gutierrez finally got the best of Wolotira with 15:30 left in the second half.

But a penalty on The Dalles gave the Bucks a chance to come back. Riverhawks goalie Jaime Castro slid

into Pendleton forward Edwin Linares as he went for a goal, opening it up for center mid Jonathan Lopez to even the score on a penalty kick.

“There was a lot going through my head,” Lopez said of his penalty kick. “With our injured player and how the game was going, there was a lot of pressure.”

But Castro was too quick, stopped the penalty kick and The Dalles took home their second consecutive win.

“I feel like I let the whole team down,” Lopez said after the game. “I miscalculated. I gotta keep the team together. If we all play with the potential and talent I know we have, we can do anything.”

Despite the defeat, Bucks head coach Alex Erazo is staying positive. Erazo says the problems they faced on the field can be remedied in time to travel to Crook County (1-4, 0-1).

“As a team, we weren’t quite ready,” he said. “Yeah, we lost



Staff photo by Brett Kane

Bucks keeper Andrew Wolotira fires a kick toward his team after defending the net Tuesday against The Dalles Riverhawks.

today, but with every game, we’ve shown improvement. We can build off that.”

Pendleton will spend the coming practices building momentum — something they lost during their bye week while the Round-Up was in town.

“It’s a week most teams don’t have to take off,” Wolotira said. “The progress we were making dipped off. We’ll have to start from scratch. I’m proud of my guys. We just need a little more effort and control over the ball. It’s the little things.”

Sports shorts

Kentucky fined after fans storm field

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The Southeastern Conference has fined Kentucky \$100,000 for violating its policy on access to the competition area following the Wildcats football upset victory over Mississippi State.

The school was fined for a second offense, its first since a 2014 football game against South Carolina. Fans gathered in the south end zone of Kroger Field after Saturday’s 28-7 win over the then-No. 14 Bulldogs and celebrated with players. Kentucky improved to 4-0 overall.

Winston returns to work, the starter?

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — **Jameis Winston** is back on the job, though the Tampa Bay Buccaneers still aren’t saying if it’s as the team’s starting quarterback.

Winston’s three-game suspension for violating the NFL’s personal conduct policy ended Tuesday, the first day the fourth-year pro was permitted to return to the team’s training facility and have contact with coaches and teammates.

It was a day off for players fol-

lowing Monday night’s 30-27 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, however coach Dirk Koetter said the first overall pick from the 2015 draft showed up bright and early, ready to begin preparation for the Chicago Bears.

What Koetter declined to say was whether Winston or Ryan Fitzpatrick, who has the Bucs off to a 2-1 start while throwing for more than 400 yards in a league-record three consecutive games will start Sunday.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1961 — New York Yankee Roger Maris ties Babe Ruth’s 34-year-old record with his 60th homer, off Jack Fisher of Baltimore.

2010 — Seattle’s Leon Washington returns two kickoffs for touchdowns in the Seahawks’ 27-20 win over San Diego. The returns — 101 and 99 yards — makes him the 10th player in NFL history to return two kicks for scores in the same game.