

Clash at Umatilla

Nixyaawii, Umatilla will compete in championship

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

The Nixyaawii boys will shoot for the Columbia River Clash championship after downing Riverside on Friday.

The Golden Eagles turned the Pirates away 65-48 during round two of the tournament.

Mick Schimmel, a 6-foot junior point guard and two-time Old Oregon League Player of the Year, led Nixyaawii to victory with 24 points for the night.

“He can obviously shoot the ball, but he’s good all-around,” said Golden Eagles head coach Shane Rivera. “He’s a leader and a capable player. We’re lucky to have him on the team.”

After Nixyaawii claimed the first quarter 20-10, Schimmel dominated quarter two, scoring all 11 of his team’s points, including 4 of 4 at the line. Riverside put up 14. The Pirates finished off the half with 11 unanswered points in the final three minutes, but the Golden Eagles were still up 31-25 at the buzzer.

That would be the closest Riverside would come to catching up. Nixyaawii pulled ahead with a 10-point lead twice in the third quarter. When Riverside was getting a little closer at 39-30, Schimmel and post Dazon Sigo combined to score eight points in just over a minute. The team then went on to broaden their lead by over 20 points in the fourth.

When Nixyaawii was ahead 65-42, they rotated their first team with the bench to finish the game.

“It was a game of ups and downs, but when it’s this early on in the season, that’s to be expected,” Rivera said. “We didn’t have much breathing room until the end.”

Guard Deven Barkley followed behind Schimmel in scoring with eight points. Sigo



Nixyaawii's Mick Schimmel puts up a shot in front of Riverside's Brian Franco in the Golden Eagle's 65-48 win against the Pirates on Friday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

and guard Moses Moses each had six points.

Post Mario Madrigal and post Johan Pena recorded 10 each for the Pirates.

“Riverside is a scrappy team, and they play hard defense,” Schimmel said. “It was a sloppy performance (from Nixyaawii), but we still have a long season to go. We’ll learn from today.”

Nixyaawii (5-0) will compete for the tournament title on Saturday, when they’ll play Umatilla. Meanwhile, River-

side (1-4) will compete for third place against Stanfield.

“Umatilla is pretty strong,” Rivera said. “It’ll be our biggest challenge this year. It’s good for our program to play a team at that high of a caliber. We’re excited for it.”

Boys

UMATILLA 51, STANFIELD 16 — Umatilla cruised to an easy win over Stanfield for a slot in the Clash’s championship game.

The Tigers opened with a 3-0 lead, but the Vikings held them scoreless for the remaining 8 1/2 minutes of the first quarter, and the entire third quarter.

Andrew Earl led Umatilla with 16 points. Uriel Garcia had 13. Elias Esquivel scored five points for Stanfield.

Umatilla (4-1) will play Nixyaawii for the championship on Saturday. Stanfield (2-4) will face Riverside for third place.

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Post Falls flexes muscle against Hermiston

Trojans win 12 matches by pin

By ANNIE FOWLER,
East Oregonian

Hermiston coach Kyle Larson knows his team will take its lumps against the likes of Idaho wrestling power Post Falls, and he wouldn’t have it any other way.

The Trojans registered pins in 12 matches en route to a 76-9 victory Friday night over the Bulldogs at the Dawg House.

“We knew what we were getting into,” Larson said of scheduling Post Falls. “We want our guys to know what a tough guys feels like and how they wrestle.”

Post Falls coach Pete Reardon said his team has wrestled Hermiston over the years, and enjoys the competition.

“This program has such history,” Reardon said. “We know we will have a fight. Our kids wrestled really well tonight, and they were aggressive. I never expected us to go out and roll over them like we did. They have a crowd here, and they love their wrestling.”

The Trojans featured five state champions in their lineup — Roddy Romero (98 pounds), Isaac Jessen (126), AJ Delarosa (138), Ridge Lovett (145) and Tyler Morris (160). All won by pin.

After Romero and Braxton Mason (106) each won their matches by pin, Hermiston’s Adrian Delgado got the Bulldogs on the board with a 4-2 victory over Brelane Huber at 113.

Huber, who won at Fargo (N.D.) two years ago in the girls 106-pound division, trailed 2-0 after the first round, and held her own in the second, staying off her back to keep the score intact.

Delgado scored two escapes in the third to stay one step ahead of Huber, who had a takedown 1:38 into the final round.

Post Falls would run the table from there until 220 pounds, where Hermiston’s Jon Lee stopped a run of seven consecutive pins with a pin of his own.

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Playoff stakes high as Vikings travel to Seahawks



AP Photo/Mike McCarn, File
Seattle Seahawks' QB Russell Wilson

Monday matchup might as well carry playoff title

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — With where both the Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks sit in the NFC standings, Monday night’s matchup might as well carry a playoff title.

NFC play-in game? NFC elimination game?

“I think going on the road with that crowd and the type of football team that they are, I think yeah, a little bit. These next four games will determine what we do and

NFL



Minnesota Vikings

6-5-1, 2-3-1

Seattle Seahawks

7-5, 3-2

Monday, 5:15 p.m.

TV: ESPN

CenturyLink Field

where we go and how we perform in the clutch. Yeah, I guess you could say that,”

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said.

The Seahawks (7-5) host the Vikings (6-5-1) in a meeting filled with playoff implications. The Seahawks won’t be able to catch the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC West, but their three-game win streak has them sitting in the No. 5 spot in the NFC playoff picture going into the final quarter of the season, with three of their final four games at home.

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AP Photo/Steven Senne, File
Minnesota Vikings WR Adam Thielen.

SPORTS SHORTS



Ex-MLB players Valbuena, Castillo die in car crash

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Former Major League Baseball players Luis Valbuena and Jose Castillo have been killed in a car crash in Venezuela.

MLB tweeted late Thursday the 33-year-old Valbuena and 37-year-old Castillo died. Both were playing for Cardenales de Lara in the Venezuelan league.

The team said their vehicle overturned as they were heading to the city of Barquisimeto after

a game in the capital, Caracas.

Valbuena played 96 games for the Los Angeles Angels this year before being released in August. He hit .226 with 114 home runs over 11 big league seasons with the Angels, Seattle, Cleveland, the Chicago Cubs and Houston.

Castillo played five seasons with Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Houston. He had a .254 average with 39 home runs.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2000 — Shaquille O’Neal sets an NBA record by going 0-for-11 from the free-throw line as the SuperSonics beat the Lakers 103-95. He broke Wilt Chamberlain’s record, who went 0-for-10 for Philadelphia against Detroit on Nov. 4, 1960. O’Neal had 26 points and 16 rebounds.

2011 — Three-time NL MVP Albert Pujols agrees to a \$254 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels on the final day of baseball’s winter meetings.

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