

Umatilla wins the Clash



Umatilla's Andrew Earl (2) dishes a pass Saturday during the Columbia River Clash championship game against Nixyaawii.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Viking boys claim title at home tourney

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

No one takes over Vikings territory.

The Umatilla boys held firm on their home court Saturday for a 38-25 win over Nixyaawii in Championship game of the Columbia River Clash.

"It feels great to win our home tournament," Umatilla coach Scott Bow said. "We were a little slow offensively, but holding a team like Nixyaawii to just 25 points speaks volumes for our defense."

With the score tied at 5-5 with 3 minutes to play in the first quarter, Vikings guard Sebastian Gar-

BOYS HOOPS



Umatilla
38



Nixyaawii
25

cia hit two consecutive 3-pointers to break to game open.

Down 13-7 going into the second quarter, Nixyaawii (5-1) rallied for a 14-13 lead when guard Moses Moses found the net. Guards Magi Moses and Mick Schimmel then combined for seven more points for a 21-18 lead at the half.

Schimmel sank a shot to open the second half, but Umatilla (5-1)

Box Score
UMATILLA — 13 5 6 14 — 38
NIXYAAWII — 7 14 2 2 — 25
Umatilla: Garcia 15, Earl 5, Garcia 5, Durfey 5, De Loera 2, Hartung 2, Cook 2, Holford 2

held the Golden Eagles scoreless the remainder of the third quarter and reclaimed the lead as post Jakeb Cook put up a shot with 5 seconds remaining.

"We started running our offense better," Bow said of the comeback. "We were hiding in the wrong spots in the first half, but we finally started putting ourselves in better positions to score."

The Vikings held tight to the lead for the rest of the game, allowing just one Golden Eagles basket. Umatilla scored 11 unanswered points down the stretch.

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AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Seahawks' Chris Carson dives into the end zone for a touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings Monday in Seattle.

SEAHAWKS ON BRINK OF PLAYOFFS AFTER WIN

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bobby Wagner blocked Dan Bailey's field goal attempt midway through the fourth quarter, sparking the Seahawks to two late touchdowns and a 21-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night, Seattle's fourth straight victory.

Chris Carson followed the blocked kick with a 2-yard TD run with 2:53 left, and Justin Coleman provided the capper with a 29-yard fumble return touchdown 18 seconds later.

What was an ugly and mostly forgettable first three quarters turned into a Seattle

party in the fourth as the Seahawks (8-5) moved to the brink of wrapping up a wild-card spot in the NFC. One win in Seattle's final three games — including matchups with lowly San Francisco and Arizona — should be enough to put the Seahawks into the postseason.

Minnesota (6-6-1) twice had scoring chances in the fourth quarter when it was still a one-score game, but was turned away each time. Minnesota's chances of winning the NFC North took a major hit, but the Vikings still hold the No. 6 spot in the NFC.

Wagner has been one of the top linebackers in the NFL this season, but it was a debatable

NFL



Minnesota
7



Seattle
21

special teams play that made the difference. The question was whether his leap over the line of scrimmage was legal to block Bailey's 47-yard field goal attempt with 5:38 left. Wagner's jump through a gap in Minnesota's offensive line was fine, but it appeared he used his

teammates to gain leverage, which allowed him to come through and block the kick. A flag was initially thrown but was picked up by the officials.

Seattle took possession and Russell Wilson immediately scrambled 40 yards deep into Minnesota territory. Five plays later, Carson scored and Seattle finally had a cushion.

Two plays after that, Jacob Martin sacked Minnesota's Kirk Cousins and the ball popped to Coleman, who weaved his way for the clinching touchdown.

Cousins threw a 6-yard

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Mendez, Ortiz power Bulldogs past Kennewick

Hermiston wins MCC debut 72-64

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Adrian Mendez tends to fly under the radar, but Saturday night the Hermiston senior made his presence known.

Mendez scored 18 points — 13 in the first half — and hauled down eight rebounds to help the Bulldogs to a 72-64 victory over Kennewick in the Mid-Columbia Conference opener for both teams at the Lions Den.

Cesar Ortiz also had 18 points and eight rebounds as Hermiston improved to 3-0 on the season.

"It feels good," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said of opening league play with a win. "Adrian had his best game of the year, and Jordan (Ramirez) did a nice job distributing the ball. Cesar is a shooter and he was ready to go. It's exciting when they play well. It was Adrian's night, and the guys were excited for him."

The Bulldogs, who trailed 36-33 at the half, went on a 22-point tear in the third quarter, fueled by Ortiz's 12 points — nine of which came from three 3-pointers.

With the Lions (3-1 overall, 0-1 MCC) holding a 42-40 lead, Ortiz drilled a 3 from downtown to put the Bulldogs out front for good, 43-42.

Cole Smith followed with a trey from the right baseline, and Ortiz added another deep ball from the right wing for a 49-42 lead.

Kennewick would pull within 53-50, but a basket by Ramirez at the buzzer gave Hermiston a five-point lead.

A balanced scoring attack in the fourth quarter, which included an 8-for-12 performance at the free-throw line, helped the Bulldogs secure the win.

"This is one of the better games we have played," Mendez said.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Oklahoma's Murray beats Alabama's Tagovailoa for Heisman

NEW YORK (AP) — **Kyler Murray** waited three years to fulfill the five-star potential he brought to college football. With one shot to deliver, Murray replaced a Heisman Trophy winner by becoming a Heisman Trophy winner.

The Oklahoma quarterback won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night, beating out Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and setting up a College Football Playoff matchup of Heisman winner versus runner-up.

"This is crazy," Murray said in his acceptance speech. "This is an honor, something that I'll never forget. Something that I'll always cherish for the rest of my life."

The fourth-ranked Sooners play the top-ranked Crimson Tide in the Orange Bowl semifinal Dec. 29 in the seventh bowl matchup of Heisman winner and runner-up, and first since second-place finisher Vince Young and Texas beat Reggie Bush and Southern California in the 2006 Rose Bowl.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1982: Dan Fouts of the San Diego Chargers passes for 444 yards and five touchdowns in a 41-37 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. San Francisco's Joe Montana passes for 356 yards to set an NFL record with five consecutive games of 300 yards or more passing.

1985: Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers registers seven assists in a 12-9 victory over the Chicago Black Hawks. The teams tie the NHL record for most total goals in a game.

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