

Rockets: Rockets overcome Vikings

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way to end the game — we drove some great plays and everything ran through.”

Vikings post Alexandra Ford shot 4-4 at the line. But Austin and forward Kaitelyn Evans scored a field goal each to put the game away for the Rockets.

“We worked really well together tonight,” Baleztina said. “It was a relief, and pretty cool to come back.”

Baleztina led the Rockets with 13 points. Austin had nine, and Evans posted seven.

“Those three have played basketball together since the third grade,” Deist said of his team’s leading trio. “They’re a three-man team on their own.”

Ford led with nine points for the Vikings, followed by Alvarez with seven.

“Umatilla is a rough team,” Austin said. “But I knew we could come back. When we were down by five (in the fourth quarter), I knew it was possible.”

Pilot Rock (3-2) hosts the Rocket Invite, tipping off on Friday. Umatilla (2-6) hosts Heppner on Monday.

Boys
Andrew Earl posted 15 points and hauled in 12 rebounds to drive Umatilla to a 53-37 win at Pilot Rock on Thursday.

The Vikings led by just three points in the first quarter, but broadened the lead to 39-24 at the half.

“It was a great game of basketball,” said Umatilla coach Scott Bow. “Both teams were hitting good shots.”

Shane Hartung followed Earl with nine points for the night, and Sebastian Garcia had eight.

“We got into some foul trouble, but the bench really stepped up,” Bow said. “We got a lot of big points from them.”

The Rockets were propelled by Christian Haskell with 10 points, and Austin Drake with seven.

Umatilla (7-1) hosts Heppner on Monday. Pilot Rock (0-5) plays Elgin at the Rocket Invite on Friday.

Hoops: Teams enter new conference

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have the talent that we did last year, but I think we will be able to compete.”

Smidt says Heppner will be a team to beat — the Mustangs (3-4) return all but four players from last year’s roster.

“With 11 seniors and two juniors, there will be a little growing pain,” Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said. “But we’re finally starting to figure out who we are as a team. The boys are ready to work and get better.”

The Mustangs have a few key players to drive the team this year, led by guard Hunter Nichols, forward Cason Mitchell, who played JV last year, and 6-foot-10 center Justin McAninch.

“He’s got some skills, and shows a lot of potential,” Rosenbalm said of McAninch. “I’m able to go deep into my bench every night. We’re pretty big — that’s unusual at the 2A level. Hopefully, it’ll help us to districts.”

Meanwhile, Weston-McEwen (0-6) and Stanfield (2-6) are hoping to find traction before league play begins.

“We’re a young team with four freshmen and two other kids with no varsity experience,” Tiger-Scots coach Brian Pickard said. “It’ll be a process.”

Weston-McEwen’s league play begins Dec. 22 at Enterprise. Pickard says he expects his team to rise to the new challenge.

“Enterprise is very athletic and can bring the pressure. We need to break their traps and move the ball,” he said.

Stanfield head coach Devin Bailey said his team has high hopes for the new conference, but there’s a tough road ahead.

“Even though we’re older, we’re playing like we’re young,” Bailey said. “I’m not too excited about where we’re at, but it’s still early. It’ll be challenging to play each team twice — that’s a lot of games to re-strategize for. It’ll be a competitive league.”

Dawgs: Hermiston wins wrestling duals

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The Bulldogs jumped out to an 18-3 lead with pins by Isaac Lambert (120) and Hunter Dyer (126) and Franklin.

Kenewick made things interesting as Jacoby Weiber pinned Lomeli in the second round, and Brody Ray pinned Avant Ortiz at 3:18.

Hermiston won the next two matches to make it 30-15, but the Lions refused to back down.

Dylan Holt pinned Betz at 1:52, and Caleb Gragg did the same to Stanley Scott at 1:55 to make it 30-27 with four matches remaining.

“We are freshman and sophomore heavy, but they are stepping it up,” said Kenewick coach AJ Vogtman, whose team opened the night with a 63-18 win over Richland. “We are a lot more aggressive and they are putting it together.”

The Bulldogs won the final four matches by pin — Jon Lee (220), Dustyn Coughlin (285), Zayne Helfer (106) and Adrian Delgado (113) — to secure the win and improve to 2-2 in the MCC standings.

“We want to put a product on the mat that people want to see,” Larson said. “We like them old or

young. We just want to fill the stands.”

The Bulldogs will wrestle at the 39th annual Tri-State Tournament at North Idaho College in Coeur d’Alene Friday and Saturday.

“It’s one of the toughest tournaments in the Northwest,” Larson said. “I expect them to fight regardless of who they wrestle.”

MATCH SCORES

Team score: Hermiston 69, Richland 8.
106 — Zayne Helfer (H) won by forfeit.
*113 — Adrian Delgado (H) won by forfeit.
120 — Isaac Lambert (H) won by forfeit.
126 — Hunter Dyer (H) won by forfeit.
132 — Gage Shipley (H) p. Tyler Birchenough, 3:40.
138 — Jordan Franklin (H) tf. Taylor Coleman, 21-5.
145 — Chris Lomeli (H) p. Tristan Allgaier, 2:35.
152 — Avant Ortiz (H) md. Sam Lemieux, 13-5.
160 — Patrick Workman, (R) tf. Trevor Wagner, 18-3.
170 — Connor Gibbon (R) d. Ethan Teel, 11-9.
182 — Blake Betz (H) p. Tyler Bonser, 2:38.
195 — Stanley Scott (H) won by forfeit.
220 — Jon Lee (H) won by forfeit.
285 — Dustyn Coughlin (H) won by forfeit.
Team score: Hermiston 54, Kenewick 27.
106 — Zayne Helfer (H) p. Eduardo Sanchez-Gutierrez, 3:13.
113 — Adrian Delgado (H) pin Ler Htoo, 4:41.
*120 — Isaac Lambert (H) p. Porter Brower, 1:01.
126 — Hunter Dyer (H) p. Chris Tiscerano, 4:34.
132 — Antonio Ramos (K) d. Gage Shipley, 4-3.
138 — Jordan Franklin (H) p. Blake Brooks, 4:17.
145 — Jacoby Weiber (K) p. Chris Lomeli, 3:55.
152 — Brody Ray (K) p. Avant Ortiz, 3:18.
160 — Trevor Wagner (H) p. Sunnie Gomez, 2:33.
170 — Ethan Teel (H) p. Hser Htoo, 1:06.
182 — Dylan Holt (K) p. Blake Betz, 4:33.
195 — Caleb Gragg (K) p. Stanley Scott, 2:38.
220 — Jon Lee (H) p. Chayot Ottum, 5:05.
285 — Dustyn Coughlin (H) p. Mason Epperly, :53.

Rivers leads Bolts to last-second win

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Philip Rivers and the Chargers finally beat the Kansas City Chiefs.

All it took was feverish fourth-quarter comeback, a questionable pass-interference call, a tense video review of the final touchdown and the gutsy decision to try a 2-point conversion.

The result: Chargers 29, Chiefs 28.

Justin Jackson’s touchdown run with a couple minutes left gave the Chargers a chance. They quickly got the ball back from Patrick Mahomes and the NFL’s highest-scoring offense, and Rivers led a tense final drive that included a fourth-down dart to Travis Benjamin and that crucial penalty on Kendall Fuller in the back of the end zone.

The flag gave the Chargers the ball at the 1, and Rivers found Mike Williams along the sideline on the very next play. And when his TD catch with 8 seconds left was confirmed, coach Anthony Lynn sent his offense back onto the field to end five years’ worth of frustration.

Williams found himself alone in the end zone to secure the 2-point conversion.

Not only did the Chargers (11-3) clinch a playoff berth, they forged a first-place tie with the Chiefs (11-3) in the AFC West while ending a nine-game losing streak to their longtime division rivals.

Rivers threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns, though he also tossed a pair of interceptions, and Williams had seven catches for 76 yards and two scores while adding another on the ground.



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Mike Williams (81) celebrates his touchdown with wide receiver Geremy Davis (11) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday.



Chiefs would simply resume their vexation of Rivers at Arrowhead Stadium. Steven Nelson leaped to snag a jump ball for an interception on the second play of the game, and Rivers tossed another just before halftime.

Mahomes and Co. took advantage of their early momentum.

Kansas City breezed downfield after Nelson’s interception, and the young MVP candidate threw a dart to Demarcus Robinson — while in the grasp of Chargers safety Adrian Phillips — for a 7-0 lead.

Then after a punt, Darrel Williams took a screen pass for his first career touchdown.

The Chargers finally reached the end zone in the second quarter, when Mike Williams caught a short TD pass. But it came moments after wide receiver Keenan Allen hurt his hip while try-

ing to make a leaping grab in the corner of the end zone — he briefly returned before sitting out the rest of the game.

Mike Williams continued to pick up the slack the rest of the game.

After the Chiefs pushed their lead to 21-7 on Damien Williams’ touchdown run, the Chargers’ big, rangy wide receiver answered with a 19-yard end-around for a score. And when then Chiefs went on another methodical scoring drive to take a 28-14 lead with just over 8 minutes left in the game, Williams helped the Chargers head the other way for another answering touchdown to stay in the game.

Up next
Chargers: Return home for a primetime game against the Ravens on Dec. 22.

Chiefs: Visit the Seahawks for another primetime game Dec. 23.

Timberwolves fall to South Puget Sound

Dylan Grogan scored 21 points and shot 4-7 at the line for the Timberwolves, but it wasn’t enough to salvage a road game against South Puget Sound on Thursday night.

The Clippers jumped out to a 4-point lead before Grogan and Dante Clayton combined for five points to gain control. Grogan hit another field goal a minute later to extend the lead to 7-4.

South Puget rallied back for a 44-38 lead at the half and never looked back. The Timberwolves would come within eight points with 12:53 left to play, but the Clippers held them off

down the stretch for the 83-69 win.

Blue Mountain (2-7) will continue forth in the South Puget Sound tourney with a Friday matchup against Edmonds.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE	FRIDAY, DEC. 14	BOYS BASKETBALL	
Riverside at Stanfield, 6 p.m.	Blue Mountain vs. Edmonds (at S. Puget Sound), 6 p.m.	Putnam at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.	
Elgin at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.	Irrigon at Mac-Hi, 7:30 p.m.	Arlington at Echo, 7:30 p.m.	
College Place (WA) at Helix, 7:30 p.m.	Heppner at Imbler, 7:30 p.m.	Weston-McEwen at Crane, 7:30 p.m.	
Pasco at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m.	GIRLS BASKETBALL	Weston-McEwen vs. Wallowa (at Pilot Rock), 1 p.m.	
Elgin at Pilot Rock, 5:30 p.m.	Pasco at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m.	Arlington at Echo, 6 p.m.	
College Place (WA) at Helix, 6 p.m.	Heppner at Imbler, 6 p.m.	Riverside at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m.	
Irrigon at Mac-Hi, 7:30 p.m.	BOYS WRESTLING	Hermiston at Tri-State Invite, 10 a.m.	
Saturday, Dec. 15	BOYS BASKETBALL	Blue Mountain vs. Portland (at S. Puget Sound), noon	
Culver at Heppner, 4 p.m.	Ione at Horizon Christian, 5 p.m.	Condon/Wheeler at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.	
Helix at Echo, 5:30 p.m.	Weston-McEwen at Alycia Jenkins Memorial Tourney, 7 p.m.	Wallowa at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.	
Hermiston at Davis, 7:30 p.m.	GIRLS BASKETBALL	Wallowa vs. Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock Tourney, 1 p.m.	
Culver at Heppner, 2:30 p.m.	Helix at Echo, 4 p.m.	Condon/Wheeler at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.	
Bonanza at Pilot Rock, 5:30 p.m.	Hermiston at Davis, 5:45 p.m.	BOYS WRESTLING	Hermiston at Tri-State Invite

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE				
AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East	W	L	T	Pct
New England	9	4	0	.692
Miami	7	6	0	.538
Buffalo	4	9	0	.308
N.Y. Jets	4	9	0	.308
South	W	L	T	Pct
Houston	9	4	0	.692
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308
North	W	L	T	Pct
Pittsburgh	7	5	1	.577
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538
Cleveland	5	7	1	.423
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385
West	W	L	T	Pct
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786
x-L.A. Chargers	11	3	0	.786

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
Toronto	23	7	.767	—
Philadelphia	19	10	.655	3½
Boston	17	10	.630	4½
Brooklyn	11	18	.379	11½
New York	8	21	.276	14½
Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
Charlotte	14	13	.519	—
Orlando	13	15	.464	1½
Miami	11	16	.407	3
Washington	11	17	.393	3½
Atlanta	6	21	.222	8
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
BMilwaukee	18	9	.667	—
Indiana	18	10	.643	½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
Memphis	16	11	.593	—
Dallas	15	12	.556	1
San Antonio	15	14	.517	2
New Orleans	15	15	.500	2½
Houston	13	14	.481	3
Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
Denver	18	9	.667	½
Oklahoma City	17	9	.654	1
Portland	15	13	.536	3½
Utah	14	15	.483	5
Minnesota	13	15	.464	5½
Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	OT
Golden State	19	10	.655	—
L.A. Clippers	17	11	.607	1½
L.A. Lakers	17	11	.607	1½
Sacramento	15	12	.556	3
Phoenix	5	24	.172	14

THURSDAY'S GAMES				
Houston 126, L.A. Lakers 111	San Antonio 125, L.A. Clippers 87	Orlando 97, Chicago 91	Phoenix 99, Dallas 89	Friday's Games
Atlanta at Boston, 4 p.m.	New York at Charlotte, 4 p.m.	Indiana at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.	Milwaukee at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.	Washington at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Memphis, 5 p.m.	Golden State at Sacramento, 7 p.m.	Oklahoma City at Denver, 10 p.m.	Toronto at Portland, 7 p.m.	Saturday's Games
Utah vs. Orlando at Mexico City, 2 p.m.	Boston at Detroit, 4 p.m.	L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 4 p.m.	Houston at Memphis, 5 p.m.	Chicago at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 6 p.m.	Minnesota at Phoenix, 6 p.m.	Sunday's Games	Atlanta at Brooklyn, 12 p.m.	Philadelphia at Cleveland, 12:30 p.m.
New York at Indiana, 2 p.m.	L.A. Lakers at Washington, 3 p.m.	Miami at New Orleans, 4 p.m.	Sacramento at Dallas, 4 p.m.	Toronto at Denver, 5 p.m.
National Hockey League	Eastern Conference	Atlantic Division	Tampa Bay 33, W 7, L 1, OT 134, 92	Toronto 32, W 10, L 4, OT 114, 89
Buffalo 32, W 9, L 4, OT 98, 92	Boston 31, W 10, L 4, OT 98, 79	Montreal 32, W 11, L 5, OT 103, 105	Detroit 32, W 14, L 4, OT 93, 107	Ottawa 32, W 13, L 5, OT 106, 125
Florida 30, W 11, L 3, OT 98, 110	Metro GP W L OT Pts GF GA	Washington 30, W 18, L 9, OT 112, 92	Columbus 31, W 12, L 2, OT 106, 103	N.Y. Islanders 30, W 14, L 2, OT 85, 88