

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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B1

Bucks run over Cowboys

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

They took a quarter to come to life, but the Bucks soon proved too much for the Cowboys to wrangle, turning Crook County away 58-43 on Friday night.

The victory marks the first ever for the Pendleton boys in the Intermountain Conference.

While the Cowboys held an early 5-4 lead in the game's opening minutes, Pendleton hit big buckets in the second and third quarters to assert dominance.

"We didn't warm up as hard as we usually do," said sophomore Dakota Sams. "That's something we have to get better at. If we don't, it'll show in those first few minutes."

After senior guard Tyler Newsom scored 10 of his team's 14 points in the first quarter to initiate their lead, Sams stole the ball to put the Bucks ahead 16-10 to start the second quarter. Pendleton poured in 10 more straight points for a 35-19 halftime advantage.

"Our defense picked up, and Crook County turned the ball over to lead to some easy points for us," said Bucks coach Zach Dong. "Good defense leads to good offense."

Sams, a 6-foot guard, returned to knock down two 3-pointers in the third to give Pendleton a 23-point lead with 5:00 left to go. He finished the game with 12 points and four rebounds.

"Dakota's our spark," said Dong. "He played very unselfish basketball. He scores, but he gets everyone else involved, too. That goes a long way for our team."



Despite a 31-point lead going into the fourth, Crook County fought back. Cowboy senior guard Shane Kessi hit four straight points to start the quarter, and led his team with 14 total points.

After Sams, Newsom, and junior guard Bryson Murray put up a six-point run for the



See Bucks, Page B2



BOYS HOOPS



	
Pendleton 58	Crook County 43

GIRLS HOOPS

	
Pendleton 76	Crook County 30

Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Tyler Newsom puts up a shot between Crook County's Kaleb Savage and Thaiden Mullan (11) in the Bucks' 58-43 win against the Cowboys on Friday in Pendleton.

BOYS HOOPS

	
Umatilla 62	Nyssa 55

Umatilla boys rally to defeat Nyssa in overtime

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

Andrew Earl had a quiet first half, and chipped in just five points in the second half, but the Umatilla junior came to life just in time Friday night.

Earl scored six of his 11 points in overtime to help the host Vikings to a 62-55 victory over the Nyssa Bulldogs in Eastern Oregon League action.

"We had a good talk at half-time," Umatilla coach Scott Bow said of Earl. "We told him there are expectations, and he responded like he should."

Tied at 52-52 at the end of regulation, Earl opened the extra session by grabbing his own rebound and putting the ball in the hoop for a 54-52 lead.

No one scored again until there was 1:40 remaining, when Umatilla's Trent Durfey gathered an offensive rebound and gave the Vikings (13-3, 2-1 EOL) a four-point lead.

Earl added a pair of free throws, and Christian DeLoera added one free throw to extend the lead to 59-52.

Omar Jaquez, who finished the night with 30 points for Nyssa, drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key to trim the deficit to 59-55.

De Loera added another free throw, and Earl sealed the win with a pair of shots from the charity stripe with 35 seconds left for the final margin.

"Half of practice is free throws," Earl said. "I wasn't shooting very good this week."

See Umatilla, Page B2

Lillard leads Trail Blazers to 128-112 win over Pelicans

By **ERIK GARCÍA GUNDERSEN**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard scored 22 points and eight assists to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 128-112 win over the New Orleans Pelicans on Friday night.

CJ McCollum and reserve forward Jake Layman scored 20 points each for the Trail Blazers. Layman got all his points in the second quarter.

Anthony Davis finished with 27 points and seven rebounds for New Orleans. Jrue Holiday had 20 points and Julius Randle pitched in 19.

Other than the first quarter, the Trail Blazers dominated.

Portland opened things up in the second thanks to their reserves, most notably the scoring from Layman.

NBA

	
Blazers 128	New Orleans 112

In the span of 2 1/2 minutes, the Moda Center became a playground like scene. Layman scored 11 points in six Portland possessions as the crowd stood up and the Blazers force-fed him the ball, helping them push their lead as high as 17.

The Blazers also had 23 second chance points thanks to 18 offensive rebounds.

The Blazers quickly got their lead up to 21 in the third quarter, with Lillard scoring 10 points in

the period.

New Orleans, which trailed by 18 going into the fourth, got a push from its reserves to pull within eight with under eight minutes remaining.

A 3-point play by CJ McCollum pushed the lead back to 11, which helped get the Blazers back on track with 7:37 left.

Tip-ins

Pelicans: New Orleans has struggled with injuries, but one of the key contributors is getting healthier. It's only been nine days since forward Nikola Mirotic was cleared to return to action after missing 12 straight games in December and early January. Head coach Alvin Gentry told reporters prior to Friday's game that he's not monitoring Mirotic's minutes anymore.

See Blazers, Page B2



AP Photo/Craig Mitchelldyer

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard shoots between New Orleans Pelicans forward Darius Miller, left, and guard Tim Frazier, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland on Friday.

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