

Boys: Ramirez hits game-winning free throws

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The win put the Bulldogs (12-4 overall) at 8-4 in MCC play, and third in the conference standings behind Richland (13-0) and Chiawana (9-3). They have clinched a trip to the 3A regional tournament.

"The guys never gave up," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. "Sergio (Mendez) got a huge steal and basket, Jordan hits two free throws, and Adrian, who sat most of the second half, gets the biggest steal of the night. We will take a win on the road. Now, we are just battling for the No. 1 spot. We have to handle our games."

The Suns (3-14, 2-11) led 37-36 heading into the fourth quarter, and needed a 3-pointer by Donavyn Perry with 1:01 remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime with the score tied at 53-53.

Southridge jumped out to a 57-53 lead to open the extra period, getting baskets by Kody Bruton and Tristan Smith.

Cesar Ortiz added a free throw for the Bulldogs, but Perry knocked down a pair from the line to extend the lead to 59-54 with 1:09 to play.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez drives to the basket during Saturday's game against Southridge in Kennewick. The Bulldogs won 62-61 in overtime.

With 57 seconds left, Ortiz knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 59-57.

After Perry missed two free throws — the only two he missed on the night — Ramirez added one free throw for the Bulldogs, and Madrigal stole the ball and converted the layup at the other end to give Hermiston a 60-59 lead with 23 seconds left.

Perry then made two free throws with 18 seconds remaining as the Suns went out front 61-60.

After Ramirez hit what would be the game-winning free throws, Mendez missed two after his steal with 2.9 seconds left on the clock.

The Suns attempted to inbound the ball, but the throw was too long, and the ball went to the Bulldogs.

"Southridge played tough tonight," Ramirez said.

The Suns led 15-11 after the first quarter, and 26-23 at the half. Cole Smith came off the bench in the second and scored all nine of his points in the quarter to keep the Bulldogs in the game.

The third quarter was a free throw contest, with the Suns hitting 9 of 12, and the Bulldogs 8 of 10. Southridge led 37-36 going into the fourth.

"I thought the first half we played good defense," Arstein said. "Offensively, we didn't move the ball well against the matchup zone and we got into foul trouble. When we weren't in foul trouble and things were going well, we were in a groove."

Ortiz led the Bulldogs with 17 points, while Ryne Andreason added 11 — all in the second half.

Smith had 19 points to lead the Suns, while Perry added 18, with all but two points coming in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Hermiston 11 15 10 16 9 — 62
Southridge 15 8 14 16 8 — 61
HERMISTON — Andreason 11, Ortiz 17, James 7, Smith 9, Madrigal 7, Ramirez 10, Mendez 1.
SOUTHRIDGE — Englert 2, Bruton 6, Perry 18, Smith 19, Lopia 14, Stillwell 2.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Hermiston's Jordan Thomas (24) eyes the basket against the Southridge defense Saturday in Kennewick.

Girls: Hermiston rolls to big win

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points in the first half, while Jordan Thomas scored six of her 15 points before halftime.

A 12-2 run by the Bulldogs in the third extended their lead to 40-14.

The Suns scored nine points in the fourth quarter — all at the free throw line. Southridge went 13-for-24 from the line to score more than half of their points.

While the win was nice, Rodriguez said he told his team they would be keeping track of two stats Saturday night — offensive rebounds and deflections.

"We had 17 offensive rebounds and seven deflections. When you have that many offensive rebounds,

it gives you more possessions," Rodriguez said. "I'm glad they responded to that."

Freshman Mia Hernandez, who transferred from Sunnyside right before Christmas, added eight points, all in the middle quarters.

"Mia came out of her shell a little bit," Rodriguez said. "I know she can play. She can be a little timid. I'm pleased with her performance today."

The Suns (5-11, 1-11) got six points from Bailie Brisbois, and five from Abril Mendez.

Hermiston 10 18 12 14 — 54
Southridge 5 7 2 9 — 23
HERMISTON — Romero 16, Thomas 15, Hernandez 8, Dowdy 2, Palzinski 2, Stefani 2, Byrd 2, Ray 5, Young 2.
SOUTHRIDGE — Ball 3, Brisbois 6, Conners 1, Mendez 5, Suitoanu 1, Martin 2, Crum 1, Santos 4.

Cardinals fly past Timberwolves for conference wins

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

When you host the East Region's No. 1 team, chances are it's not going to be pretty.

Saturday's Northwest Athletic Conference matchup saw Blue Mountain fall 137-69 at home to North Idaho.

"Just look at their roster," Timberwolves head coach Doug Baxter said. "They have about eight Division 1-talented players. They shot 60-89 from the field. There's NBA teams who can win doing that."

Blue Mountain's Mehki Foreman was the court's hottest player with a game-high 23 points, but North Idaho had a more varied set of strong shooters at their disposal.

Alphonso Anderson had 22 points to lead the Cardinals, Jarod Greene had 20, Emmitt Taylor 17, and James Carlson 16.

"When you play against this level of talent, you're going to struggle to do what you want to do," Baxter said. "We played as well as we could, but we just got killed on the glass and gave them too many second chance points."

Blue Mountain trailed by just four points twice in the first half before the game slipped out of their grasp. A 3-point jumper from the Cardinals' Iaian McLaughlin sparked a 12-point run that left the Timberwolves unable to catch up.

North Idaho also recorded an 11-point run with 10:06 left in the first half that made things even harder on the Timberwolves. When the first buzzer signaled the intermission, the Cardinals had nearly tripled Blue Mountain's points, 60-23.

Their advantage only widened in the second half. With 13:42 left to play, the Cardinals' James Carlson made a layup that gave them a 51-point advantage and forced a Timberwolves timeout.

Jaden Dewar hit a bucket that gave the Cardinals a 53-point lead with 8:09 to go.

Bryson Wolters knocked a shot down from the outside for the Timberwolves with 0:40 left, but a comeback was long out of the question.

"We played as well as we could," Baxter said. "I told

the kids North Idaho could compete for a national title. I'm proud of the effort we put in today."

Blue Mountain (4-12, 2-3 NWAC) travels to the East Region's No. 4 contender Walla Walla on Wednesday.

Women's hoops

The Timberwolves suffered their 11th straight loss after falling at home to North Idaho on Saturday, 71-49.

"We played really well in that first half," said Blue Mountain head coach Adam Driver. "But then that third quarter hit and we folded under the pressure. It really made a difference."

It was anyone's game in the first half, with Blue Mountain tying the score at 8-8 with 5:59 left in the first quarter, and even taking a brief lead in the second, 20-17. But a 10-point Cardinals run in the third quarter left the Timberwolves down for the count.

North Idaho would put the quarter away 21-8, and despite the Timberwolves keeping pace in the fourth, the Cardinals escaped with the win.

"(North Idaho) came out and pressed us in the third," said Driver. "We had 4 or 5 straight turnovers. We just didn't handle their pressure."

Blue Mountain's Ammarae Broncheau ended with a team-high nine points and shot 2 for 2 at the line, and Karlie Gerlinger added eight points.

Brooke Wheeler sunk two back-to-back buckets to give the Timberwolves their sole advantage. But they were no match for the sharpshooters on the Cardinals' roster.

Alex Carlton proved the biggest threat, knocking down 7 of her 11 shots from the outside. Her trey in the early second quarter broke the Cardinals out of the 20-20 tie for their final lead.

By the end of the game, she had poured in a game-high 23 points.

"Carlton shot really well," said Driver. "And for some reason, we just couldn't find her. She got some wide open 3s."

Blue Mountain (2-13, 0-5 NWAC) remains at the bottom of the East Region standings. They'll stay at home for a Monday conference game against Spokane (3-3, 13-4).

Preps: Stevens drives Mac-Hi boys to GOL victory

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NYSSA 50, IRRIGON 45 — An intense home game resulted in an Eastern Oregon League loss for the Knights.

Irrigon led by eight at the half, but turnovers got the best of the the Knights down the stretch.

"We started out really well," Irrigon coach Davie Salas said. "But we didn't take care of the ball very well in the second half."

Irrigon (7-11, 1-4 EOL) will play at Riverside on Tuesday.

RIVERSIDE 51, BURNS — The Pirates are enjoying a four-game streak after an Eastern Oregon League home win over the Hilanders.

Although the Pirates were down by 11 in the first quarter, and trailed by just three at the half, they rallied to win the second half 32-13, holding Burns to just four points in the third quarter.

Johan Pena led the Pirates with 17 points. Riverside (9-9, 3-1 EOL) hosts Irrigon on Tuesday.

UMATILLA 56, VALE 47 — Sebastian Garcia poured in 19 points in the Vikings' Eastern Oregon League home victory.

The Vikings (14-3, 3-1 EOL) will travel to Irrigon on Thursday.

NIXYAAWII 52, JOSEPH 45 — The Golden Eagles remained unbeaten in Old Oregon League play after beating the Eagles on the road.

Nixyaawii (16-1, 6-0 OOL) travels to Wallowa on Jan. 26.

POWDER VALLEY 71, HELIX 41 — Elijah Sprenger had 11 points to lead Helix, but the Grizzlies suffered an Old Oregon League road loss to the Badgers.

"The score didn't show it, but we played really hard tonight," Helix coach Zach Orem said. "We've kind of been on a losing streak lately, so it's good to see the boys are still going hard."

Helix (4-12, 0-6 OOL) travels to Joseph on Friday.

ENTERPRISE 45, PILOT ROCK 36 — The Rockets fell to 1-5 in Blue Mountain Conference action after a road loss to the Outlaws.

Pilot Rock (2-14, 1-5 BMC) returns home to face Grant Union on Friday.

Girls hoops
IONE 36, SHERMAN 19 — The Cardinals improved to 8-0 in the Big Sky League after a road win over the Huskies.

Jessica Medina led Ione with 14 points, while Hailey Heideman chipped in nine.

Ione (13-2 overall) hosts Mitchell/Spray on Tuesday.

IRRIGON 43, NYSSA 38 — The Knights ended a three-game skid with a home win over the Bulldogs in Eastern Oregon League play.

JaLay Burns had a team-high 13 points and five steals, while Ana Zacarias also had 13 points. Myka Davis recorded seven rebounds.

The Knights (11-7, 2-3 EOL) led by 18 points in the early third quarter before Nyssa rallied back.

Irrigon plays at Riverside on Tuesday.

DUFUR 53, ECHO 44 — The Rangers handed the Cougars a Big Sky League road loss.

Echo led 23-17 at the half, but Dufur rallied for a 15-11 third quarter and went on a 21-10 run in the fourth.

Tylene Skillman led Echo (8-8, 6-2 BSL) with 12 points, while Faith McCarty chipped in 10. The Cougars will host Powder Valley on Monday.

HEPPNER 59, WESTON-MCEWEN 41 — The Mustangs rose to No. 3 in the Blue Mountain Conference after turning away the visiting TigerScots.

Sydney Wilson led the Mustangs with 19 points, while Jacee Currin had 16. Katie Vescio had a game-high 21 points for Weston-McEwen.

Heppner (12-6, 4-2 BMC) hosts Stanfield on Friday, while Weston-McEwen (5-12, 0-6) welcomes Enterprise.

ONTARIO 48, MAC-HI 19 — The Pioneers fell to 0-3 in the Greater Oregon League standings after a home loss to the Tigers.

Mac-Hi will travel to Elgin on Tuesday for a nonleague game.

ENTERPRISE 65, PILOT ROCK 31 — The Rockets dropped a Blue Mountain Conference road game to the Outlaws to fall to 1-6 in league play.

Pilot Rock (7-10 overall) will host Grant Union in league play on Friday.

BURNS 50, RIVER-

SIDE 19 — Riverside dropped an Eastern Oregon League game at home on Saturday.

Faith Rosen had a team-high five points for the night. Riverside (9-8, 1-3 EOL) hosts Irrigon on Tuesday.

VALE 35, UMATILLA 24 — Taylor Durfey had 15 points and 11 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to save the Vikings from their fourth Eastern Oregon League loss.

Umatilla (2-15, 0-4) will travel to Irrigon on Thursday.

JOSEPH 51, NIXYA-AAWII 34 — The Old Oregon League's No. 2 team was too much for the Golden Eagles as they dropped a road game to the Eagles.

"We got off to a bad start and couldn't get our offense going," Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said. "But I'm real proud of how we responded in the second half. Joseph is a great team."

Ashlyn Looney led Nixyaawii with eight points, and Ermia Butler, Mackenzie Kiona, and Lark Moses each added six.

Joseph remains undefeated in league play, while the Golden Eagles fell to 2-4. Nixyaawii will travel to Wallowa on Saturday.

POWDER VALLEY 51, HELIX 18 — The Grizzlies fell to 1-5 in the Old Oregon League play with a road loss to the Badgers.

Annie Wood had seven points to lead the Grizzlies, while Hannah Christman had five.

Helix (4-12, 1-5 OOL) travels to Joseph on Friday.

Bucks: Finish fourth at wrestling tournament

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bumped up a weight class against Thurston.

McGee posted a 5-2 record, registering four pins, while Kirk Liscom (182) went 4-2 with three pins and a forfeit, and Collin Primus (106) was 4-3, as was Aiden Patterson (170).

Kellen Hanson (113) went 4-3, Chambers (138) was 4-2, and Shawn Yeager (152) finished 3-2, with all three of his wins coming by fall.

The Bucks will host Hood River Valley in an Intermountain Conference dual Wednesday, then will compete Saturday at the Putnam Tournament.

3A Division

Irrigon went 1-2 on the first day, but rebounded on Saturday to win the consolation title.

The Knights dropped

their first two matches Friday — 54-27 to Willamina Falls and 42-39 to Yamhill-Carlton.

Irrigon rebounded with a 58-24 win over Creswell, but found itself in the consolation bracket on the second day.

On Saturday, the Knights beat South Umpqua 66-12, and topped Harrisburg 46-33 in the semifinals. In the title match, they steamrolled Douglas/Camas Valley 59-16 to bring home a trophy.

For the Knights, Alex Miranda-Walls kept his perfect record (29-0) intact with a 6-0 mark on the weekend at 170 pounds.

Miranda-Walls, whose tournament titles include the Hanford Winter Cup and the Farm City Invitational, posted three pins, two major decisions and one forfeit.

Josue Aguilera also had

a flawless weekend, posting five pins and a 7-5 overtime victory over Jesse Bracht of Douglas/Camas Valley.

Teammate Kaleb Kendrick (285) went 3-1 with three pins, while Reece Sheller (220) was 5-1 with three pins and two forfeits, and Kyler Shelton (132) was 5-1 with four pins. Justin Patton (120) was 5-1 with two pins and two forfeits.

Irrigon will wrestle against Walla Walla and Mac-Hi on Tuesday at Walla Walla High School. Friday, they will wrestle at Ontario, and Saturday, they will compete in the R.D. Brown Invitational in New Plymouth, Idaho.

Riverside finished sixth in the 3A consolation bracket, dropping its final match to Vale, 35-34. The Pirates forfeited five weight classes.

The Pirates had Abraham Silva go 5-1 with three pins

and two forfeits. Ethan Snyder (132) finished 5-1, as did Jose Puerta (152/160), while Fernando Ortega (126/132) was 4-2.

2A/1A Division

Heppner/Ione reached the seventh-place match against Lowell, but no results were listed.

Trevor Antonucci of Heppner/Ione finished 4-1, with two falls and two forfeits, as did teammates Conor Brosnas (145) and Jace Coe (152).

Jacob Wallace (182) posted a 4-1 record, including three pins, while Leo Waite (132) was 3-1.

4A Division

Mac-Hi/Weston McEwen/Griswold lost its four matches on Friday, then received two matches in the bonus bracket Saturday, beating Sisters 66-6 and Madras 42-33.