

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Kellen Hanson attempts to pin Hood River Valley's Miles Lee in the 113-pound match in the Bucks' 72-6 win over the Eagles on Wednesday in Pendleton.

## Bucks make quick work of HRV in IMC match

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**P**endleton and Hood River Valley usually give wrestling fans a good show.

With the Eagles battling illness and injuries this week, the Bucks cruised to a 72-6 victory Wednesday night in an Intermountain Conference match at Warberg Court.

Pendleton took advantage of four forfeits and registered seven pins, including one by Aiden Henderson, who had the quickest pin of the night in a time of 40 seconds over Joe Kahler at 220 pounds.

"Never in my wildest dreams, I never thought I'd see this score between us," Bucks coach Fred Phillips said. "They have the flu, and two of their best kids weren't here. I'm happy for our kids, they did a good job."

Kellen Hanson started the onslaught with a pin of Miles Lee in 1:27 at 113 pounds.

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Aiden Patterson throws Hood River Valley's Javier Galvez in the 160-pound match of the Bucks' 72-6 win over the Eagles on Wednesday in Pendleton.

### PREP HOOPS



**Nixyaawii Golden Eagles**  
(16-1)



**Kittitas Coyotes**  
(17-1)

Friday, 8:30 p.m.,  
at Hermiston High School

## Nixyaawii will have its hands full with Kittitas

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

The Nixyaawii boys basketball team will step out of its comfort zone Friday to play Washington 2B power Kittitas at Hermiston High School.

The game, scheduled for 8:30 p.m., will follow the Hermiston girls (5:30 p.m.) and boys (7 p.m.) Mid-Columbia Conference contests against Hanford.

"We know the task is daunting, to say the least," Golden Eagles coach Shane Rivera said. "We know they have a kid who has signed with Gonzaga. We are excited about the challenge, and the kids are pretty pumped to play a team that is so highly touted."

Kittitas (17-1), the two-time defending state champion, is ranked No. 2 in the Washington 2B poll.

The game, which was not originally on either team's schedule, came about after both ended up with an open date.

"I'm good friends with Kittitas coach Tim Ravet," Hermiston athletic director Larry Usher said. "He said they needed a game and asked if I knew of anyone. I made some calls. I think there will be a big crowd."

Ravet appreciates Usher's help in filling the void in his schedule.

"He is doing us a favor," Ravet said. "It will be fun. You never know how it will go. Hopefully we show up and play."

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## BMCC women take home first conference win

By BRETT KANE  
East Oregonian

It's been a long time coming, but the Blue Mountain women took home their season's first Northwest Athletic Conference win.

The last-place Timberwolves traveled to face the Walla Walla Warriors and turned them away 71-58 on Wednesday to break a 12-game skid.

"This feels amazing," said coach Adam Driver on their first conference victory. "The team played great tonight. We pretty much had to play close to a perfect

game, and we did."

Although Blue Mountain trailed in the opening minutes and dropped their lead once early on, they powered through with five unanswered points to take the first quarter 25-18, keeping them out front for good.

"Walla Walla is a really disciplined team," Driver said. "They have some great shooters, and we held them down."

A 3-point jumper from the Warriors' Jessica Cheney would bring them within two points of taking over with 7:14 left in the second quarter. But Blue Mountain's

Chloe Morrison would hit a 3 of her own for a 12-point lead at 3:23.

Walla Walla won the quarter 19-18, but Blue Mountain was still ahead 43-37 at the half.

Brooke Wheeler's layup in the early fourth quarter sparked a six-point Blue Mountain run that would keep the game away from Walla Walla down the stretch. A free throw from Morrison at 4:30 would give the Timberwolves a 14-point advantage — their most substantial of the game.

The Timberwolves would go on to outscore Walla Walla 15-8 to secure the win.

"We played some pretty good defense, but they (Walla Walla) also missed some shots," Driver said. "That helped us out."

Ammarae Broncheau posted a team-high 17 points and shot 2 for 2 at the line for Blue Mountain. Karlie Gerlinger followed with 15 points and a 6 of 8 performance from the field. Wheeler had 14, and Morrison chipped in 13, with four 3-pointers.

Despite the win, Blue Mountain (3-14, 1-6 NWAC) is still at the bottom of the East Region standings. Walla Walla (14-5, 4-2 NWAC) remains in fourth.

They'll shoot for their second conference win on Saturday at Big Bend in Moses Lake, Washington.

### Men's hoops

The Blue Mountain men weren't as fortunate.

The Timberwolves dropped to 2-5 in NWAC play after losing to Walla Walla 124-66 on Wednesday night.

The Warriors knocked down 11 straight points in the opening two minutes, and took two 10-point runs in the first half to claim the

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### SPORTS SHORTS

## Harden scores career-best 61 points

NEW YORK (AP) — **James Harden** scored a career-high 61 points, tying Kobe Bryant's record for a visiting opponent at the current Madison Square Garden, and the Houston Rockets edged the New York Knicks 114-110 on Wednesday night.

Harden made the clinching layup with 3.8 seconds remaining after the Knicks turned it over, capping his fifth 50-point

game this season and a wild stretch of back-and-forth basketball across the final minutes.

Eric Gordon made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left when Houston couldn't get the ball to Harden, the NBA's leading scorer who earlier had passed Wilt Chamberlain into fourth place in NBA history with his 21st consecutive 30-point game.

Harden finished 17 of 38 from the floor. He was only 5 of 20 on 3-pointers but was 22 of 25 from the line and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony holds the overall record at the current MSG with 62 points.

Rookie Allonzo Trier scored a season-high 31 points for the Knicks, who lost their seventh straight game.



AP Photo/  
Frank Franklin II