

Bucks crown 3 champs, win Joe Stewart Invite

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Pendleton crowned three champions Saturday at the Joe Stewart Invitational at Rex Putnam High School in Milwaukie.

The Bucks, who got titles from Alex Rendon (132), Shawn Yeager (160) and Aiden Patterson (170), rolled up 222.5 points, while second-place Tigard had 156.

Rendon pinned Julian Watkins of Madison in 3:13 in the championship match. Rendon pinned all four of his opponents, including Zakariye Sabriye of Madison in 39 seconds in the quarterfinals.

Rendon was named Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament for the lower weights.

Yeager earned a 3-2 decision over Dade Kimmel of Reynolds in the title bout.

Yeager pinned his first opponent in 35 seconds, then beat Shadrach Porter of Gladstone 9-2 in the semifinals.

Aiden Patterson recorded a 13-6 decision over teammate Isaac Urbina in the finals.

Patterson advanced to the finals with one pin and two major decisions, while Urbina had a bye, a pin and a 16-0 technical fall.

Placing second for the Bucks were Collin Primus at 106, Chris Chambers (138) and Kirk Liscom (182).

Primus lost a 6-4 decision to Brenden Dudley of Stevenson, while Chambers injury defaulted

to Emilio Jimenez of Tigard. Joseph Mercado of Reynolds earned an 18-3 technical fall over Liscom.

Also for Pendleton, Aiden Henderson was third (195), Kellen Hanson was fourth (113), Josh Whaley was fifth (160), Travis McGee was fifth (285), and Kyle Liscom was sixth (152).

Knights crown two champs in Idaho

Irrigon put three men in the finals, and crowned two champions, at the R.D. Brown Invitational on Saturday in New Plymouth, Idaho.

Senior Alex Miranda-Walls improved to 36-0 on the sea-

son after beating Caleb Twait of Meridian 8-3 to win the 170-pound title.

Miranda-Walls beat Layne Murdock of Parma 7-2 in the quarterfinals, then followed with an 11-2 major decision over Sam Sessou-Djokoto of Capital in the semis.

Kaleb Kendrick won the 285-pound title with a 2-0 decision over Moses Estrada of Capital.

Kendrick pinned Caysen Call of Soda Springs in 1:45 in the quarterfinals, then beat Antonio Godina of Parma 4-2 in the semifinals.

Irrigon's Josue Aguilera reached the 195-pound title match, but was pinned by Nyssa's Bryan Flores in a time of 5:18.

Kyler Shelton placed third for

the Knights at 126 pounds, while Reece Sheller was fourth at 220.

The Knights placed sixth in the team standings with 95 points. Meridian (Idaho) won the team title with 238 points. Nyssa was second with 168.

On Friday, the Knights lost a pair of nonleague duals to host Ontario and Mac-Hi.

Ontario beat Irrigon 48-34. Miranda-Walls posted a 13-2 major decision over Ruben Chavez, while Sheller pinned Cristeon Rodriguez in 14 seconds at 220.

The Tigers took advantage of three forfeits by the Knights.

Irrigon had a 24-17 lead over Mac-Hi before the Pioneers won four of the final five matches for a 37-30 victory.

PREP ROUNDUP

Heppner girls take down top BMC team

East Oregonian

Heppner handed the Blue Mountain Conference's No. 1 team its first league loss Saturday night.

The Mustangs upended host Grant Union 63-52 behind Sydney Wilson's 24 points.

"They (Grant Union) are a very tough team," Heppner coach Robert Wilson said.

"They're really aggressive in their defense. Our girls played really hard. We forced them to make some tough shots. We came out and played some good team basketball."

The Mustangs (15-6, 7-2) hold the No. 3 spot in the BMC standings.

BAKER 58, MAC-HI 16 — The visiting Bulldogs went on a 23-0 run in the second quarter to seal a Greater Oregon League victory over the Pioneers.

Marion Monsen and Emma Leber each had four points to lead the Pioneers (1-18, 0-4 GOL). Mac-Hi will play at Touchet, Wash., in a nonleague game Tuesday.

ECHO 53, SHERMAN COUNTY 31 — The Cougars ended a two-game slide with a Big Sky League road win over the Huskies.

Echo improved to 7-3 in league play with the win, and sit third in the league standings.

Echo broke open the game in the second quarter, outscoring the Huskies 25-4.

Tylene Skillman posted a team-high 20 points for Echo, while Faith McCarty had 16.

The Cougars (9-10 overall) will host Stanfield on Tuesday in a nonleague game.

ELGIN 48, HELIX 39 — Annie Wood scored a team-high 16 points, but it wasn't enough for the host Grizzlies to escape the Huskies in Old Oregon League action.

Arianna Krol added 15 points for Helix.

The Grizzlies (4-14, 1-7 OOL) travel to Nixyaawii on Friday for an OOL game.

WALLOWA 47, NIXYAAWII 41 — The Golden Eagles fell to 2-5 in Old Oregon League play with a road loss to the Cougars.

Nixyaawii (9-9 overall) will host Helix on Friday.

Boys hoops

SHERMAN COUNTY 62, ECHO 38 — The Huskies extended the Cougars' losing streak to seven games with a home win in Big Sky League action.

Charlie White shot 60 percent from the floor and led Echo with 15 points. Braden MacPherson added eight points.

Echo (2-18, 1-11 BSL) hosts Stanfield on Tuesday in nonleague play.

BAKER 47, MAC-HI 31 — The Pioneers' four-game win streak came to a halt with a home loss to the league-leading Bulldogs in Greater Oregon League play.

Mac-Hi (12-7, 2-2 GOL) takes a break from league action for a nonleague game at Touchet, Wash., on Tuesday.

GRANT UNION 47, HEPPNER 46 — The Mustangs finally met their match.

The Prospectors handed visiting Heppner its first Blue Mountain Conference loss.

Trent Smith led the Mustangs with 17 points, while Tyler Carter chipped in nine.

Despite the loss, Heppner (14-7, 8-1 BMC) remains atop the conference standings. The Mustangs will play at Enterprise on Friday.

NIXYAAWII 48, WALLOWA 38 — The Golden Eagles rebounded from Friday's nonleague loss to Kittitas with an Old Oregon League win against the Cougars.

Nixyaawii (17-2, 7-0), which remains unbeaten in Old Oregon League action, will play at Pine Eagle on Thursday.

ELGIN 56, HELIX 55 — The last few seconds cost the Grizzlies an Old Oregon League win against the Huskies.

Helix led the first three quarters, but coach Zach Orem said they "came out flat" in the fourth to allow the Huskies to take a five-point lead.

The Grizzlies, who have lost nine in a row, converted all of their free throws down the stretch, but missed a shot off an offensive rebound that would have put them back out front.

"We've been struggling these past couple of weeks," Orem said.

"It was nice to be able to get a good game in toward the end of the season."

Helix (4-14, 0-8 OOL) travels to Nixyaawii on Friday.

Richland pulls away in second half to beat Hermiston

Freshman Mia Hernandez is starting to get more comfortable with the Hermiston offense since her move from Sunnyside just before Christmas.

Hernandez had 10 points on Saturday, and Jordan Thomas added 12 points and hauled down six rebounds, but the Bulldogs still came up short in a 68-58 Mid-Columbia Conference road loss to Richland.

"Mia is starting to get comfortable," Hermiston coach Juan Rodriguez said. "She has come a long way and has done a good job of adjusting. This was a good game for her."

The Bulldogs (7-11 overall, 5-9 MCC) held their own against the Bombers (11-8, 8-7) in the first. They trailed 16-9, but two baskets by Thomas and one by Kaylee Young made it 16-15.

Gracie Pierce, who led Richland with 12 points, hit a 3-pointer with 1:09 remaining, but Kendall Dowdy matched that with a three-point play for a 19-18 game. Nicole Gall scored with 26 seconds left in the quarter for a 21-18 lead.

Richland would add two more points to its lead in the second to hold a slim 33-28 lead at the half.

Hermiston pulled within

one point twice, and tied the score at 27-27 with a pair of free throws by Sydney Stefani with 1:37 to play in the first half.

Two consecutive baskets by Halee Pierce gave the Bombers a 31-27 lead with 41 seconds remaining.

The Bombers opened the third quarter on a 9-2 run to take a 42-30 lead just 2 minutes into the action.

"I thought we started the game really well," Rodriguez said. "When it got to double digits, they stopped competing. As a coach, that is disappointing."

Jordan Clark scored eight of her 11 points in the fourth

quarter as the Bombers were able to keep their lead intact.

Richland led 68-55, but Hernandez completed a three-point play with 8 seconds left to cut the lead to 10.

Jazlyn Romero added eight points and eight rebounds for the Bulldogs, who will host Kamiakin on Tuesday. Jayden Ray added seven points and seven rebounds, and Paige Palzinski five points and five rebounds.

The Bombers, who will finish league play Tuesday at Pasco, got 11 points each from Gall and Jayda Clark, who also had seven rebounds.

Stanfield: Girls also triumph vs. Rockets

Continued from Page B1

guard Logan Weinke scored one at the line in the hopes of avoiding a tie.

Hernandez returned for yet another deep bucket to even the scoreboard. The pressure mounted on Pilot Rock as they failed to sink shots and let Stanfield run away with eight unanswered points in the final four minutes to lock in the surprise win.

"To be honest, we underestimated Pilot Rock," Hernandez said. "I saw that we were down. I needed to step it up. We just wanted in more at the end. We saw how hard Pilot Rock was playing."

Hernandez closed the night with 20 points, with all six of his field goals coming from the exterior. Senior Elias Esquivel had a game-high 28 points for the Tigers.

Stanfield (7-12, 4-4 BMC) travels to Echo for a non-league matchup on Tuesday. Pilot Rock (2-17, 1-8) hits the road to Weston-McEwen on Friday.

Girls hoops

Nyah Tejada poured in 17 points, and Kendra Hart 16, to help Stanfield out of a four-game skid with a 59-41 home victory over Pilot Rock on Saturday.

The game tied twice before the Tigers broke away for good. Rockets senior Grace Austin, a 5-foot-11 post, was the tallest player on the court, and gave Stanfield a lot of trouble on the inside.

"They're a big team," Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp said of the Rockets. "And they rebound really well, which we're just OK at. It challenged us."

Austin, who posted 13 points for the night, hit another basket in quarter two to pull within just two points of Stanfield. A seven-point Tigers streak, including four points from junior Savannah Sharp, helped give Stanfield some breathing room for a 32-21 halftime lead.

"At halftime, we talked about really picking up that third quarter," Hart said. "That always tends to bite us in the back."

Hart sunk a 3-pointer with five minutes left to play in the fourth quarter for a 17-point advantage. She scored another field goal with just 0:30 left, and freshman Alexis Shelby grabbed



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Savannah Sharp, of Stanfield, and Pilot Rock's Madison Moffit and Ayana Aguilar (4) battle for a loose ball during Saturday's league matchup in Stanfield.

an offensive rebound in the final two seconds to finalize the win.

"Kendra scores a lot, and she passed well tonight," Sharp said. "That's something she's been working on this season. And Nyah got some good looks for us, too."

The Tigers improved to 3-5 in Blue Mountain Conference play. Senior forward Kaitelyn Evans led the Rockets (7-12, 1-8 BMC) with 18 points.

Boys' Box Score

Stanfield 12 13 14 24 — 63
Pilot Rock 19 19 11 5 — 54
STANFIELD — Esquivel 28, Hernandez 20, Sanchez 12, Ramirez 2, Sanchez 2
PILOT ROCK — Weinke 18, Thurmond 10, Waggoner 10, Corwin 8, Thornton 6, Thacker 2

Girls' Box Score

Stanfield 13 19 19 8 — 59
Pilot Rock 8 13 13 7 — 41
STANFIELD — Tejada 17, Hart 16, Sharp 9, McClure 9, Shelby 8
PILOT ROCK — Evans 18, Austin 13, Brewer 6, Baleztena 2, Aguilar 2



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A trio of Rockets converge on Elias Esquivel, of Stanfield, in the waning seconds of Saturday's game.