

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Bucks shake Tigers in OT

Pendleton's Josie Wilson (10) goes up for a shot during Tuesday's game against La Grande at Warberg Court.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hoisington's free throws save Pendleton from nonleague loss

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

Although she's only a freshman, Muriel Hoisington is proving to be one of Pendleton's premier players.

The visiting La Grande Tigers pushed past the Bucks and were well on their way to claiming Tuesday night's nonleague contest. With Pendleton down 40-38 with 12 seconds left in the final quarter, Hoisington took to the free-throw line, and she knew it was up to her whether her team won or lost.

The 5-foot-8 point guard sank both free throws to send the game into overtime, and the Bucks went on to take the game 53-47.

"I just told myself, 'You got this. You gotta do this. Your team needs this. Just shoot it like you're at practice,'" Hoisington said of her game's defining moment. "I had to motivate myself."

Hoisington posted 10 points, six rebounds, and six assists for the night, and sophomore Natalie Neveau led the Bucks with 16 points.

"We came out really well today and maintained it through the first quarter," said coach Kevin Porter. "I'd love to think we're going to come in here and blow teams out every game, but sometimes, real basketball happens."

The Bucks ran out to a 17-7 lead at the end of the first quarter, but La Grande came to life in the second. Tigers sophomore guard Camryn Collman rang off 14 points for the quarter, including a trio of 3-pointers, to steal the game away. It was thanks to Pendleton junior Sami Spriet's bucket at the buzzer that the score was tied 23-23 at the half.

"We came out strong, and were fast-breaking. We moved the floor," Hoisington said of the first half. "But (La Grande is) a really aggressive team in the paint."

Hoisington shot a point from the line to tie the game again at 26-26 in the third

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Pendleton's Muriel Hoisington (34) drives to the basket during Tuesday's game against La Grande at Warberg Court.

BOYS HOOPS



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston Ryne Andreason splits Kamiakin's Steven Westermeyer and Trey Arland (33) in the Bulldogs' 67-64 win against the Braves on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Bulldogs post huge win over Kamiakin

Andreason hits 4 key free throws in final 23 seconds to seal the victory

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

When there's something you want, you have to go out and get it.

The Hermiston boys did just that Tuesday night, knocking off Kamiakin 67-64 in Mid-Columbia Conference action to keep pace with the Braves for the top seed to the regional tournament.

"Coming off two straight losses, it was senior night and we have been playing together for so many years," Ryne Andreason said of the urgency to win. "This is the biggest win this season."

Hermiston and Kamiakin both are 9-6 in conference play. The Bulldogs play at Walla Walla on Friday, while the Braves host Pasco. If both teams should win Friday, the top seed to regionals will be decided on RPI rankings.

"We are still battling for 1-2," Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. "Beating Walla Walla at their place will be tough. We will have our hands full Friday."

The Bulldogs (13-6 overall) also had their hands full Tuesday with Kamiakin, who handed Hermiston a 67-51 loss the first time around.

Cole Smith, in his first start this season, scored 10 of his 13 points in the third quarter as the Bulldogs held a 50-47 lead going into the fourth.

"He can play," Arstein said of Smith. "He picked his spots. He was very crafty."

In the fourth, the Braves tied the score quickly at 50-50, and the teams were tied at 58-all with less than 2 minutes to play.

Jordan Ramirez hit a big 3-pointer with 1:39 to play to give the Bulldogs a 61-58 lead.

"That 3 was huge," said Ramirez, who finished with a career-high 19 points. "I told them

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COLLEGE SIGNING

Lexie Cox is first Echo player to compete in college volleyball

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

The years all run together for Janice Scott, who has been coaching volleyball at Echo High School for "nine or 10 years." But there is one thing she is sure of — Lexie Cox is the first Echo player to move on to the college level since she took over the program.

Cox, a 5-foot-10 out-

side hitter, signed a letter of intent Monday to play volleyball at Wenatchee Valley College.

"We are so thrilled for her," Scott said. "Some of the girls don't have the passion to continue, but Lexie has wanted to play college volleyball since she was a sophomore."

The Big Sky League Player of the Year, Cox said WVC was one of her pri-

mary choices.

"It's a very familiar place for me," Cox said of Wenatchee. "I have family that lives there. Last fall, I went and did their tour, met with the director of the nursing program, and did a practice with the team. The coach (Ana Vazquez) asked if I would come there. They are excited to have me play there."

Cox, who would like

to be an emergency room nurse, said she will receive scholarship money for the fall and winter quarters.

While at WVC, Cox will live with her grandparents Kay and Phil Blakney.

Cox had 114 kills and a hitting percentage of .225 last season. She serve received at 92 percent, and served at 89 percent, including 33 aces.

The Cougars (21-9 over-

all, 10-2 BSL) advanced to the first round of state, where they dropped a 3-1 match to Joseph.

"We made it to state three of my four years," Cox said. "We had a pretty successful season. We won the Riversville Tournament and we were second at the Prairie City Tournament."

Cox also was named to

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Lexie Cox