

GIRLS HOOPS

Kennewick bounces Hermiston from district tournament

Romero scores 23 for Bulldogs in 71-52 loss

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Kennewick Lions are on a mission, and the Hermiston Bulldogs were collateral damage Saturday afternoon.

Aislin Fiander scored a game-high 26 points as Kennewick stayed alive in the District 8 playoffs with a 71-52 victory over the Bulldogs (8-14) at the Lions Den.

“They played well and shot the ball really well,” Hermiston coach Juan Rodriguez said of Kennewick. “I thought it would be to our benefit that we hadn’t played in 12 days and they played last night. We just didn’t score in the first half. We were too tentative.”

The Lions (18-5) will play North Central at noon Monday at Kamiakin High School. The winner will turn around and play Kamiakin at 3 p.m. for the second berth to regionals.

“We played really well,” Kennewick coach Daron Santo said. “My biggest concern was we hadn’t had a real practice in over a week. We were kind of winded against Mt. Spokane (Friday) and I was worried about that today.”

The Lions had an 18-12 lead after the first quarter, and it didn’t take long in the second for the Lions to put their game into overdrive.

Fiander had 10 of her points in the second, including a pair of

3-pointers as the Lions pushed their lead to 38-18 at the half.

Alexis Stein came off the bench to score six of her 11 points in the second quarter.

“Lexi played well,” Santo said of his 6-foot-2 freshman. “We told her to be aggressive, and I was hoping she would.”

Stein’s play inside cost the Bulldogs, who saw 6-4 post Jordan Thomas rack up three fouls.

The Bulldogs had a bite of a bite to their game in the second half as Jazlyn Romero scored 14 of her 23 points.

“Jaz is aggressive and they have to honor her shot,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez emptied his bench the final 2 minutes of the game, and got a combined seven points from Katelyn Heideman, Courtnee West and Mia Hernandez.

“We are young,” Rodriguez said. “I knew for us to compete, Jaz and Jordan would have to do most of the scoring. The program as a whole, we are in a good place.”

Thomas, in her final game for the Bulldogs, had seven points.

“I was here when she was a freshman,” Rodriguez said. “We have grown together. She is a great kid and it will be sad not to have her on the team, and not just because she is 6-4.”

Box Score
Hermiston 12 6 13 17 — 52
Kennewick 18 20 19 14 — 71
HERMISTON — Heideman 3, West 2, Young 5, Ray 5, Byrd 1, Stefani 3, Palzinski 1, Hernandez 2, Romero 23, Thomas 7.
KENNEWICK — Av.Fiander 3, Davis 10, Ai.Fiander 26, McBee 12, Gebers 9, Stein 11.

BMCC HOOPS

Top-ranked Cardinals turn down Timberwolves

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

The Timberwolves held strong in the first half, but after the No. 1 Cardinals went on an 80-43 tear in the second, there was no recovering.

In the end, North Idaho handed the Blue Mountain men a 128-85 loss in Coeur d’Alene to stay unbeaten in Northwest Athletic Conference action.

Dylan Grogan scored three straight points early on to tie things up at 5-5, but the Cardinals went on two eight point runs to keep the game in their control.

Mehki Foreman took matters into his own hands and hit a 3-point jumper with 2:39 left in the half to come within 10 points of North Idaho, and Trent Garza scored from the inside to bring the Timberwolves within just eight.

Five straight points from Foreman and Bryson Pierce brought the score to 46-42 in North Idaho’s favor with just 0:07 left, but a bucket from North Idaho’s James Carlson gave them a 48-42 halftime advantage.

A 3-pointer from North Idaho’s Phillip Malatare helped the Cardinals out to a 20-point lead midway through the final half. Another Cardinals trey from Emmitt Taylor broadened that advantage to 31 points on Wednesday with a 5:30 p.m. tip-off.

more conference action.

Women’s hoops

The No. 3 North Idaho Cardinals held each Blue Mountain player to 10 points or fewer to turn them away 81-24 on Saturday night.

The Timberwolves got three at the line from Hayden Meyers and Ammarae Broncheau before the Cardinals went on a seven-point run to stay ahead in the first quarter. Brooke Wheeler would put in a jump shot before North Idaho claimed the quarter 16-5.

Wheeler came back in the second quarter to knock down another basket, but it would be the only two points the Timberwolves could muster until the half. Meanwhile, the Cardinals poured in 25 points for a 41-7 halftime advantage.

The Timberwolves finally fought their way into double digits in the fourth quarter with buckets from Wheeler, Meyers, and Olivia Luna, but were still outscored 20-10.

Wheeler led Blue Mountain (3-19, 1-11 NWAC) with seven points and nine rebounds. Meyers and Chloe Morrison each chipped in five.

The Timberwolves will host the No. 4 Walla Walla Warriors on Wednesday with a 5:30 p.m. tip-off.

Men’s Box Score
North Idaho 48 80 — 128
Blue Mountain 42 43 — 85
NORTH IDAHO — Taylor 32, Pryor 32, Evans 19, Malatare 19, Greene 7, McLaughlin 7, Carlson 6, Anderson 2, Dewar 2.
BLUE MOUNTAIN — Foreman 38, Grogan 12, Pierce 11, Garza 7, Hillard 7, Hardman 4, Wolters 4, Roa 2.
Women’s Box Score
North Idaho 16 25 20 20 — 81
Blue Mountain 5 2 7 10 — 24
NORTH IDAHO — Schrade 16, Peterson 13, Simpson 11, Williams 11, Sellman 11, Carlton 10, Krupa 9.
BLUE MOUNTAIN — Wheeler 7, Morrison 5, Meyers 5, Luna 4, Lee 2, Broncheau 1

Irrigon to take school record 9 to state

Hall and Kendrick win district titles for Knights

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Irrigon placed a school record six wrestlers in the finals and came away with two champions Saturday at the 3A Special District 4 Tournament at Burns High School.

The Knights will take a school record nine to the state tournament Friday and Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Asher Hall won the 106-pound title for the Knights, registering a 9-2 decision over Corbett Graham of Burns in the championship match.

The other end of the spectrum, Kaleb Kendrick beat Luke Bailey of Burns 3-2 to win the 285-pound district title.

Senior Alex Miranda-Walls, who has been solid all season for the Knights, lost a 3-2 decision in the 170-pound final to defending state champion Adam Simpson of Nyssa. It was just the second loss this season for Miranda-Walls (39-2).

The two could meet again in the state title match, as they are on opposite sides of the bracket.

At 126 pounds, Irrigon’s Kyler Olney was second to Justin Winn of Burns. Winn pinned Olney in a time of 2:19.

Josue Aguilera of Irrigon placed second at 195 pounds, dropping the title match to Bryan Flores of



Photo courtesy of Kirsti Cason

Trevor Antonucci of Hepper/Ione (left) tangles with Jordan Piercy of Culver in their semifinal match Saturday at the 2A/1A Special District 4 Tournament in Halfway. Antonucci won 9-6.

Nyssa 6-4.

Two-time state champion Jose Sanchez (2017-18) of Nyssa made quick work of Irrigon’s Reece Sheller in the 220-pound finals, winning by fall in 58 seconds. Sanchez is 40-3 on the season.

Placing third and also earning a trip to state for the Knights are Gabriel Romero (113), Jacob Ayala (126) and Brady Harrington (182).

Riverside will take two to state — Ethan Snyder, who was second at 132 pounds, and Abraham Silva (third, 120).

Irrigon finished third in the team standings with 192 points. Defending state champion Nyssa ran away with the team title, piling up

296.5 points and winning eight of 14 weight classes.

2A/1A District Tournament

The Hepper/Ione wrestling team will send two to state coming out of the tough 2A/1A Special District 4 Tournament on Saturday at Pine Eagle High School in Halfway.

The top two competitors in each weight class advance to the state tournament Friday and Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Trevor Antonucci placed second for the Mustangs at 113 points, getting pinned in 2:34 by Steven Beckman of Joseph/Wallowa in the championship match.

At 160 pounds, Carson Brosnan finished second for Heppner/Ione, losing a 15-9 decision to Seth Butler of Pine Eagle in the championship bout.

The Mustangs also have two state alternates — Jace Coe (152) and Charles Cason (170).

Mychael Pointer of Echo/Stamfield earned a trip state after finishing second at 152 pounds. He was pinned in the title match by Isaiah Toomey of Culver in a time of 3:08.

Culver captured the team title with 340 points, and won six of 14 weight classes. Heppner/Ione finished sixth in the team standings with 107 points. Echo/Stamfield was 11th with 47 points.

PREP ROUNDUP

Golden Eagles hold firm as OOL’s No. 1 seed

East Oregonian

The Nixyaawii boys were the Old Oregon League favorites from the start, but Joseph set out to challenge them in Saturday’s district championships.

In the end, the Golden Eagles made off with a 54-42 win to claim the league’s No. 1 spot, but not before facing their season’s strongest opposition yet.

“This was definitely one of the toughest games we’ve had,” said coach Shane Rivera. “(Joseph) limits the number of possessions you have. They’re good enough to take care of the ball without turning it over too much.”

Nixyaawii is used to asserting dominance right from the start, but this time, they were up by just one point — 22-21 — at the half. And when Joseph trailed 33-32 going into the final quarter, something had to change.

“My kids are used to quicker success,” Rivera said. “When that doesn’t happen, they tend to rush things. Joseph wanted to slow the game down, and we’re used to an uptempo game.”

The Golden Eagles pulled together a 13-0 run to open the fourth quarter, driven by Mick Schimmel, who poured in 10 points to lead the charge.

Tyasin Burns also scored seven of his nine points in the final eight minutes.

“We figured it out and adjusted to their pace,” Rivera said. “Joseph is a well-coached team, but we kept up the pressure and found holes in their defense. It was a good fourth quarter.”

Schimmel sank 20 points to lead the Golden Eagles (24-2, 12-0). They’ll have to win their sub-state home game this weekend before going for the state title.

Boys hoops

GRANT UNION 55, STANFIELD 37 — Stanfield took the No. 4 spot in the Blue Mountain Conference after Saturday’s districts loss to Grant Union.

The Tigers trailed just 24-17 at halftime before Grant Union came to life to put the game out of reach.

“I’m proud of the boys for not giving up, even when they knew there wasn’t much on the line,” said coach Devin Bailey. “If we won, we wouldn’t have gone to state, and if we lost, we wouldn’t have, either. But they stayed in the game the entire way through.”

Senior Cody Griffin and junior Rene Sanchez posted eight points to lead the Tigers (12-14, 7-5 BMC) in their season’s final game.

“My goal this year was to develop leaders,” Bailey said. “My seniors absolutely

filled in that role. They gave guidance to the younger guys. I don’t think we achieved what we wanted to, but it was a lesson, and hopefully next year, we’ll come out and play strong from the start.”

Girls hoops

IONE 45, DUFUR 29 — A fourth quarter run helped Ione take home a Big Sky League districts win on Saturday.

The game was tied 17-17 at halftime, but Jessica Medina hit a 3-pointer to spark a 17-6 fourth quarter comeback.

“It was a hard-fought game,” said coach Nathan Heideman. “(Dufur) got worn out and flustered, and we took advantage of that.”

Medina posted 19 points to lead the Cardinals (18-4, 12-1 BSL), and Marie Chretien added 10.

Ione will compete in a regional playoff game on Wednesday at Joseph.

SOUTH WASCO COUNTY 44, ECHO 41 — Echo may have lost their district championship game in Madras, but coach Heather Madison couldn’t be more proud of her team.

“They played an amazing game,” she said. “It was really back-and-forth. After the game, I told the girls, ‘Don’t hang your heads, because we didn’t leave anything on the court. There are

still games ahead. It is what it is.”

The Cougars led 22-21 at the half, and took another one-point lead in the fourth quarter before the RedSides hit three at the line to stay out front in the final minute.

Faith McCarty drained 14 points to lead the No. 2 Cougars (13-13, 10-4 BSL), and Tylene Skillman added 11.

McCarty and Skillman were also named to the Big Sky League’s first team all-stars that night. Rachel McCarty was an honorable mention.

Echo will host the first round of their state playoffs on Wednesday against Southwest Christian.

HEPPNER 62, GRANT UNION 57 — The Heppner girls came out ahead to close the Blue Mountain Conference district tournament on Saturday, claiming the league’s No. 1 spot.

“Our defense ticked it in for us tonight,” said coach Robert Wilson. “We talked all week about playing aggressive offense, and we did that tonight, too. The shots just kept falling.”

The Mustangs (18-8, 8-4) took a whopping 31 points from Syndey Wilson. Jace Curran followed with 17.

“Sydney’s been playing basketball all her life,” Wilson said. “She knows how to put herself in the right positions to make the right plays.”

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

TUESDAY, FEB. 19
Boys Basketball
Mac-Hi at Baker, GOL district championship game, 5:30 p.m.
Pendleton at Ridgeview, 6:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Ridgeview at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20
Boys Basketball
Southwest Christian at Echo, TBD
Men’s Basketball
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.
Women’s Basketball
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 22
Men’s Basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.
Women’s Basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.
Boys Basketball
Umatilla at Sutherlin, 5:30 p.m.
Kennedy at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Boys Wrestling
Pendleton, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stamfield, Riverside at State Wrestling (Portland), 9 a.m.
SATURDAY, FEB. 23

Boys Wrestling

Pendleton, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stamfield, Riverside at State Wrestling (Portland), 9 a.m.
Girls Basketball
Santiam at Heppner, 2 p.m.
NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Tampa Bay 60 45 11 4 94 237 160
Boston 59 34 17 8 76 175 150
Toronto 58 36 19 3 75 206 164
Montreal 59 31 21 7 69 176 174
Buffalo 58 28 23 7 63 168 181
Florida 57 25 24 8 58 177 197
Detroit 60 23 29 8 54 168 199
Ottawa 59 22 32 5 49 186 219
Metropolitan GP W L OT Pts GF GA
N.Y. Islanders 58 35 17 6 76 169 138
Washington 59 32 20 7 71 199 189
Columbus 58 33 22 3 69 186 177
Pittsburgh 59 31 21 7 69 206 184
Carolina 59 31 22 6 68 173 165
Philadelphia 59 28 24 7 63 176 196
N.Y. Rangers 58 25 25 8 58 170 194
New Jersey 59 23 28 8 54 173 204
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Winnipeg 59 36 19 4 76 202 171

Nashville 61 34 22 5 73 186 160
St. Louis 58 31 22 5 67 174 162
Dallas 58 29 24 5 63 145 149
Minnesota 59 27 26 6 60 164 176
Colorado 59 24 24 11 59 189 192
Chicago 60 25 26 9 59 200 223
Pacific GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Calgary 59 36 16 7 79 217 176
San Jose 59 35 17 7 77 214 184
Vegas 61 32 25 4 68 180 172
Vancouver 60 26 27 7 59 170 188
Arizona 59 26 28 5 57 154 172
Anaheim 59 23 27 9 55 133 187
Edmonton 58 24 29 5 53 163 195
Los Angeles 58 23 29 6 52 141 179
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
Sunday’s Games
Pittsburgh 6, N.Y. Rangers 5
St. Louis 4, Minnesota 0
New Jersey 4, Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 3, Detroit 1
Florida 6, Montreal 3
Anaheim 5, Washington 2
Monday’s Games
Calgary 5, Arizona 2
Tampa Bay 5, Columbus 1
Chicago 8, Ottawa 7

Colorado 3, Vegas 0
Boston at San Jose, 7 p.m.
Washington at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday’s Games
Buffalo at Florida, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Columbus at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
Toronto at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Anaheim at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Arizona at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Wednesday’s Games
Chicago at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 5:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Calgary, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Vegas, 7 p.m.
Thursday’s Games
Washington at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 4 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Arizona at Vancouver, 7 p.m.