

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS | FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

B1

## Pendleton's Barnard wins swim title in record fashion

Bucks senior also placed second in the 100 breaststroke

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

At the start of the week, Pendleton swim coach Tony Nelson said "you have to be extremely gifted to win state."

Put senior Ryan Barnard in the gifted section.

### BUCKS RECORD BOOK

Ryan Barnard holds three school records:

200 IM — 1:57.93

100 breaststroke — 58.47

100 backstroke — 56.52

Barnard won the 200 individual medley in a school-record time of 1 minute, 57.93 seconds Saturday at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic

Center to become the first Pendleton state swim champion in three years.

"It's an amazing feeling," Barnard said. "It was really exciting."

Barnard, the only Pendleton swimmer to ever win a state title in the 200 IM, took nearly 6 1/2 seconds off his previous record of 2:04.32.

"In prelims, I swam my race, but I didn't go with everything I had," Barnard said. "I wanted to be the No. 1 seed. When I touched

the wall, I thought maybe 2:01, and I broke 2 minutes."

In the finals, Barnard held off Nic Ashland of Corvallis for the title.

"I was in the lead when did my last flip and I could see where everyone else was at," he said. "I gave it everything I had."

For Nelson, Barnard is his first state champ.

"It's just exciting to watch him

See Barnard, Page B3



Staff photo by Kathy Aney/  
Pendleton's Ryan Barnard excelled at the 5A state swim meet at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center.

## Dawgs done

Hermiston ends season with loss to Shadle Park

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

It's not often a team will score 80 points and lose a game, but a lackluster second quarter hurt Hermiston as it tried to extend its season Monday.

The Bulldogs were outscored 16-11 in the second and dropped a District 8 loser-out game to Shadle Park 86-80 at Kennewick High School.

"As a coach, you never know when it's the last game," said Hermiston coach Casey Arstein, whose team finished the season 15-8. "That's why you play high school sports, to learn life lessons. With six seniors, it's tough. I got to be their coach for three years, it was awesome."

The Highlanders turned around and played Kennewick 90 minutes after their win. Shadle Park beat the Lions 87-81 to earn a berth to regionals.

"I couldn't do it, but the kids have more energy," SP coach Arnold Brown said with a laugh.

Brown said he had seen film of Hermiston before the game, but that you never know what you will get until you step on the court.

"They are a loaded team," Brown said of the Bulldogs. "Their five guards do a good job of penetrating, kicking it out and hitting the 3. They can score, and we had to score with them. They never gave up."

It would have been easy for the Bulldogs to throw in the towel when they trailed 79-64 with 3:08 remaining in the fourth quarter, but that is not in their nature.

Instead, they went on a 16-7 run to cut the deficit to single digits. In the run, Andrew James drilled a pair of 3s and Cesar Ortiz added two buckets inside, but they simply ran out of time.

"We played our hearts out," said James, who finished with 18 points in his final high school game. "We left it all out there. I'm proud of everyone."

The first quarter ended tied 24-24, but the Bulldogs trailed 24-18 with just over a minute to play.

James drove the lane, made the basket, was fouled and made the



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Hermiston's Cole Smith drives to the hoop during Monday's District 8 3A playoff game against Shadle Park in Kennewick.

ensuing free throw. Ortiz, who scored a game-high 25 points, drilled a 3 with 36 seconds left to knot the score.

The Highlanders rattled off the first eight points of the second quarter, while the Bulldogs struggled to score. Cole Smith hit free throw at 4:37 to end the drought.

Six of Hermiston's points in the quarter came from the free throw line, as the Bulldogs trailed 40-35 at the half.

After the break, the Highlanders started to open things up, taking a

See Hermiston, Page B3



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hermiston's Andrew James (11) eyes the basket during Monday's District 8 3A playoff game against Shadle Park in Kennewick.

### WRESTLING

## Hermiston's Wagner and Lee bring home medals

Wagner fourth at 160 pounds, while Lee finishes fifth at 220

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

Trevor Wagner didn't know what to expect when he got to the Tacoma Dome.

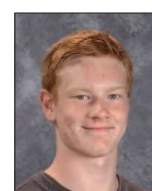


Trevor Wagner

The Hermiston sophomore, making his first trip to Mat Classic, made the most of his adventure, reaching the 3A semifinals before finishing fourth Saturday at 160 pounds.

"I didn't expect myself to do that good," Wagner said. "I took it match by match. It was cool. I think I was the only sophomore at my weight to place."

Wagner had company on the medal stand as freshman Jon Lee worked his way through the consolation bracket to finish fifth at 220 pounds.



Jon Lee

"I'm glad I was even able to go to state," Lee said. "I think I could have done better. The two matches I lost, I made mistakes. Next year, I will do better."

Wagner and Lee are the first non-Washington athletes to win medals at Mat Classic. Hermiston joined the WIAA and the Mid-Columbia Conference this school year.

"I think it's cool me and him are the first two from Oregon to place at state in Washington," Lee said. "It's a big milestone for both of us."

Wagner agreed.

"Everyone was looking down on us like we don't belong here," he said. "We placed. It shows we do belong here."

With Wagner and Lee placing,

See Wrestling, Page B3

## Mustangs stampede to state

No. 1 Heppner boys take down Union in BMC district championships

By BRETT KANE  
East Oregonian

And just like that, the Mustang boys are district champions.

On Saturday, Heppner friends, families and fans made the hour-long commute and packed the Pendleton Convention Center to see their team knock down a 63-50 victory over Union in the Blue Mountain Conference championship game.

"Before the game, I told them, 'If you're not excited, then I've done something wrong to prepare you for this,'" said coach Jeremy

Rosenbalm. "This is only our second district championship since 2002. But I knew they'd be hyped up going in."

Before the Mustangs hit court, Rosenbalm gave them one last piece of advice:

"It's just another basketball game. The hoop's still 10 feet, and the 3-point line is still 19.9."

And Heppner brought a red hot energy to the court — but they weren't the only ones. Union nabbed the lead twice in the first quarter before Heppner managed to pull away for the long haul.

"We were ready, but we've played Union before, so we knew what to expect," said senior point guard Hunter Nichols. "We knew they were coming for us."

The Bobcats took brief advantages of 4-3 and 6-5 before Heppner made seven- and six-point

runs to put the first quarter away, 19-9.

A 3-pointer from Nichols in the second quarter would push the Mustangs out to a 14-point lead, while the Bobcats managed just seven points before the halftime buzzer — four from senior post Tate Lantis and three at the line from junior forward Gannon Carreiro. The Mustangs led 29-18 at the end of the half.

The Mustang roster ranges from players big and small, but they used their variety to their advantage. Senior Trent Smith, a 5-foot-8 guard, knocked down a 3-pointer to open the third quarter, and senior Justin McAninch, a 6-foot-10 center, scored four points from the inside to help Heppner out to 44-30.

See Heppner, Page B3



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Heppner's Trent Smith (12) moves past Tate Lantis, of Union, during Saturday's Blue Mountain Conference playoff game at the Pendleton Convention Center.