

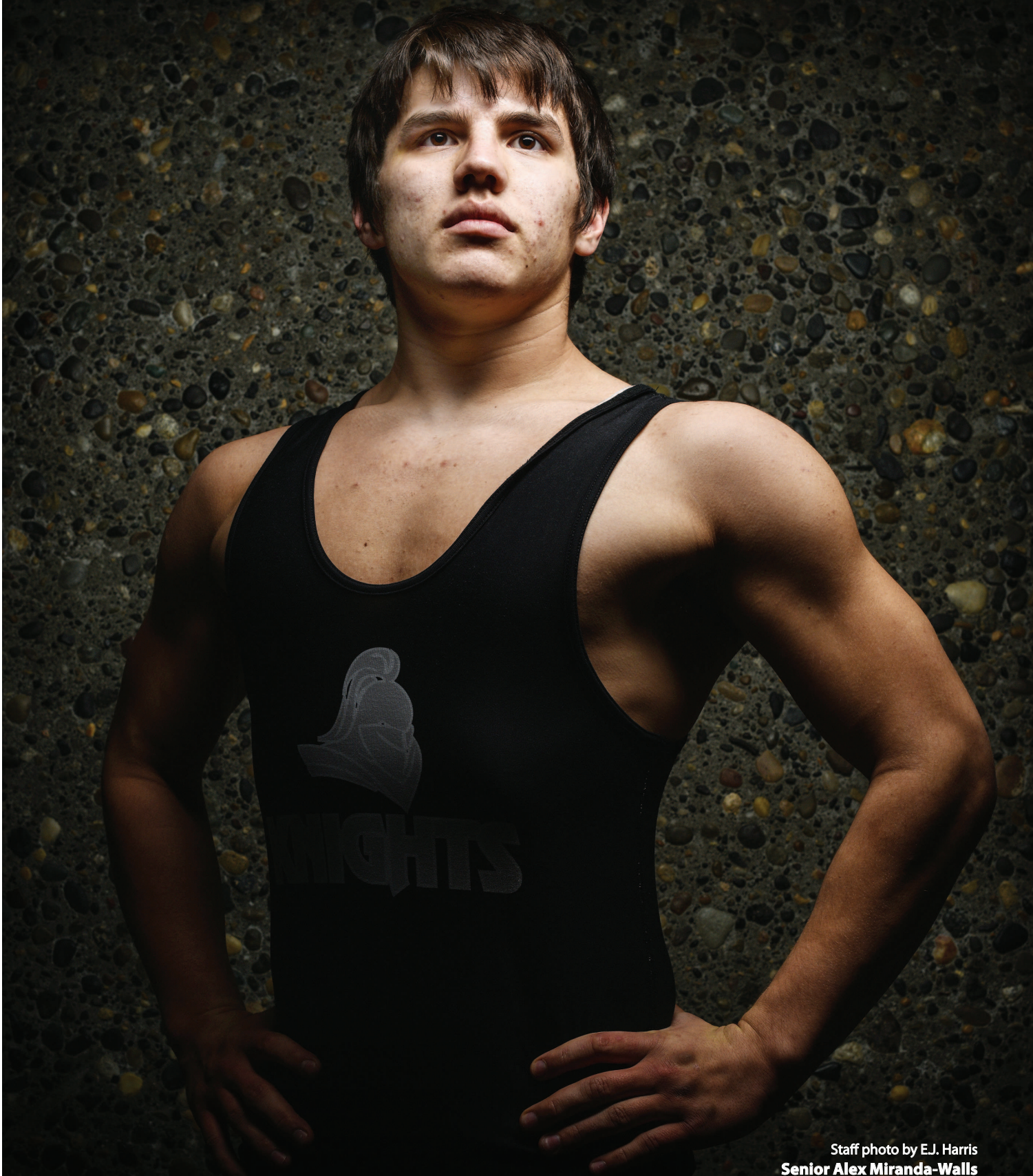
# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## IT'S TIME TO REAP THE REWARDS



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
**Senior Alex Miranda-Walls will lead the largest contingent of Irrigon wrestlers the Knights have ever sent to the state tournament.**

### Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls has competed against some of the best to prepare for state

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

**A**lex Miranda-Walls grew up in family of basketball players, but he had his heart set on wrestling.

Now a senior at Irrigon High School, Miranda-Walls has proven to his family that it was the right choice for him. "It was a bit of a rough start to my career," Miranda-Walls said. "There were all the 'grabbing another guy' jokes. Now, they appreciate what I do."

Anthony Landeros, Miranda-Walls' older brother, said he tried

#### IRRIGON STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS

2007 — Frankie Torres (119 pounds)  
2009 — Rosario Rios (112)  
2010 — Wade Aylett (189)  
2013 — Andy Aguilera (152)

to teach his brother to play basketball, but it did not go well.

"He told me one day he was going to wrestle," said Landeros, who now is an assistant basketball coach at Hermiston. "I think it was good for him to pick another sport so he didn't have to live up to expectations."

Landeros was part of Irrigon's 2014 and 2015 state championship basketball teams.

Miranda-Walls, who placed third at state last year at 170 pounds, will try and turn bronze into gold this weekend when he makes a return trip to Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"There are only four state champions in school history," Miranda-Walls said. "I want to be one of the first five."

Miranda-Walls, who suffered just his second loss of the season in the

*See Alex, Page B2*



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Natalie Neveau (21), of Pendleton, prepares to go up for a shot as Hood River Valley's Reese Leibein defends during Thursday's game at Warberg Court.**

### Bucks knock down tourney win over Hood River Valley

Pendleton girls to challenge Ridgeview on Saturday in IMC tourney's second round

By BRETT KANE  
*East Oregonian*

If you ask the Bucks, they weren't exactly on their A game on Thursday night. Luckily, neither were their opponents.

Round one of the Intermountain Conference's district tournament saw Pendleton take down the bottom-ranked Hood River Valley Eagles 39-18, but the Bucks could only manage two quarters in double digits along the way.

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### Hermiston's Headings earns NWC honor

*East Oregonian*

Former Hermiston basketball standout Tavin Headings was named to the All-Northwest Conference second team Wednesday. She was one of three George Fox players honored.

Emily Spencer was named to the first team, and Hailey Hartney was selected to the honorable mention team. Bruins coach Michael Meek was named the NWC Coach of the Year for the third time in nine years.

Headings, a senior wing, grabbed her first honor on the All-NWC Team.

Headings led the Bruins in scoring this season with 12.4 points per game and is one of five players to average 20 or more minutes per game.

She holds the fourth-best shooting percentage in the conference from the field (51.2) and eighth-best 3-point percentage (36.1) in conference games.

Her points per 40 minutes is the second-best among conference players at 27.5.

Headings also averaged 2.7 rebounds and 1.2 steals a game for the Bruins (22-3, 15-1 NWC), who are in the midst of a 10-game win streak.



Headings

#### SPORTS SHORTS

### Zion's freak injury ripples in basketball, business worlds

By JOEDY MCCREARY  
*Associated Press*

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Soon after Zion Williamson's shoe ripped apart, Nike's stock price took a hit.

The freak injury during one of the college basketball season's marquee games immediately sparked debates about everything from the shoe man-

ufacturer to insurance issues and whether the likely NBA lottery pick should risk his professional future by continuing to play for the top-ranked-for-now Blue Devils.

Williamson is day to day with a mild right knee sprain and is progressing as expected, team spokesman Mike DeGeorge said Thursday night.

By Thursday morning, Nike,

which manufactured the shoes Williamson was wearing, also was feeling the impact of the injury.

The company's stock closed down 89 cents at \$83.95 on Thursday as the sportswear manufacturer became the target of ridicule on social media. A spokesman said Nike has begun an investigation into what it called an "isolated" event.

**A trainer holds Duke's Zion Williamson's shoes after Williamson left the game due to an injury during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against North Carolina in Durham, N.C., on Wednesday.**

AP Photo  
Gerry Broome

