

STATE WRESTLING

Irrigon advances three to semifinals

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Irrigon Knights have three wrestlers in the semifinals and five still alive in the consolation bracket after the first day of the 3A state tournament at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

“We kind of figured we would have three in the semifinals, they’re just not the three we thought,” Knights coach Jason Dunten said. “We told the guys if they lost, their prize was winning the consolation side. Still a good deal.”

Asher Hall was the first Knight to reach the semis, pinning Russell Talmadge of Harrisburg in 2:28 in his first match at 106 pounds, then pinning Tanner Stone of Southerlin in 1:53.

Hall will take on Jordan Reyes of Willamina/Falls City in the semifinals. Reyes, the No. 1 seed, is the defending state champion. He also was the state runner-up in 2016-17.

Kyler Olney, who received a bye to start the day, pinned No. 4 seed Tye Cross of Douglas to advance to the 126-pound semifinals.

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Golden Eagles soar to state

Nixyaawii boys down St. Paul to compete in 1A state tournament in Baker

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Every team needs a good sixth man.

With Nixyaawii’s Deven Barkley out due to injury, sophomore Moses Moses stepped onto the court to complete his team’s starting five during Friday’s sub-state playoff game at Pendleton High School. The 6-foot-1 shooting guard drained a game-high 18 points to help the Golden Eagles to a 73-54 victory over St. Paul in a win-or-go-home contest, and secure a trip to the 1A state tournament.

“I’ve started a couple of games in the past,” Moses said. “I just kept telling myself, ‘I know my role, and I know the stakes of this game. Just don’t overthink it.’”

The Golden Eagles took charge with an 18-0 lead to start, driven by eight points from sophomore guard Tyasin Burns and five from Moses. The Buckaroos didn’t manage a score until senior guard Jaidyn Jackson hit a bucket at 1:25. Nixyaawii led 20-4 by the end of the quarter.

“We were lights-out on shooting,” said Moses. “I was expecting a little more of a challenge (from St. Paul). But we played great man defense, and got a lot of blocks in on that first quarter.”

The Bucks picked up the pace in quarter two, posting 14 points to help them into double digits, but no matter — Nixyaawii more than doubled that with 29 of their own, including three treys from Moses. They were ahead 49-18 at halftime.

“Moses shot the ball unbelievably well,” said coach Shane Rivera. “He’s tall, and built like a prototypical basketball player. He’s young, but he’s right there with the best of ‘em on our team.”

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STATE WRESTLING

HARD WORK EQUALS SUCCESS FOR THESE 3 BUCKS



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton wrestlers, from left, Aiden Patterson (170 pounds), Kirk Liscom (182) and Shawn Yeager (152), have transferred their success on the football field this year to the wrestling mat. The trio is part of the 14-man team the Buckaroos sent to the 5A state tournament.

Pendleton seniors Liscom, Patterson and Yeager have excelled in football and on the mat

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

It’s not often you find a group of athletes who, in one school year, have had the success of Pendleton seniors Aiden Patterson, Shawn Yeager and Kirk Liscom.

The trio of linebackers helped the Bucks to the 5A state football semifinals for the first time since 1977, and now, all three have punched

their tickets to the 5A state wrestling tournament.

“They are three completely different personalities that work together,” Pendleton wrestling coach Fred Phillips said. “Shawn is the most natural leader of the bunch, Kirk is the smartest and hardest worker of the bunch, and Aiden is the best athlete of the three that people gravitate to.”

The trio is part of a 14-man contingent representing the Bucks at state this weekend at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

“Fourteen kids is great,” Phillips said. “The first year, I took six. We have the right kids at the right weights. It will be a good time. I hope they are excited to be there and see

what they can do, not just happy to be there.”

The 3 Buckaroos

Patterson was the only one of the three to win his first match at state Friday. He pinned Wyatt Miller of Wilsonville in 1:21 at 170 pounds to advance.

“I got a pretty good draw,” said Patterson, who was third at the Intermountain Conference district tournament.

Patterson said while he enjoys both sports, wrestling is the hardest, by far. “On the football field, I trust my teammates are going to be there, and

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