

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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B1

Irrigon's Miranda-Walls headed to Southern Oregon University

Raiders have been an NAIA wrestling powerhouse for more than 40 years

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Southern Oregon University wrestling coach Mike Ritchey is pretty particular about who he brings into his program.

The longtime Raiders coach was on hand Tuesday morning as Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls signed his letter of intent. "Alex is a kid who coach (Ken) Thompson put on our plate," Ritchey said. "This is my 25th year coaching, and Alex is one of the finest young men I have seen in regards to academics, athletics and character." Miranda-Walls, who placed third at state the past

two years at 170 pounds, said Southern Oregon was his first choice. "As much as Coach Thompson was talking to me about them, he was talking to them about me," he said. "When I went for my visit, it was a done deal." SOU, in Ashland, has been an NAIA wrestling powerhouse for more than 40 years. The Raiders have won four national team titles, crowned 35 national

champions, and boast 245 all-Americans. The last Irrigon wrestler to compete at the college level was Wade Aylett (2011 graduate), who went to Missouri Valley College. Ritchey said Miranda-Walls' scholarship is part academic and part athletic. It is equivalent to a half scholarship. "We are looking for that

See Raiders, Page B2



Staff photo by Annie Fowler

Southern Oregon University wrestling coach Mike Ritchey (right), welcomes Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls to the Raiders program after he signed his letter of intent Tuesday.

Dawgs capture title



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Emilio Leal (2) points his fingers in the air in celebration after scoring a goal in the Bulldogs' 3-1 win against Kamiakin on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Emilio Leal scores late to secure 3-1 win for Hermiston

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Jorge Carrillo started the season on the junior varsity team, but the more Hermiston coach Rich Harshberger watched the talented freshman play, he realized he needed the young man up on varsity. The gamble paid off during the regular season, and again Tuesday night, as Carrillo scored a goal to help the Bulldogs beat Kamiakin 3-1 to win the 3A District 8 title at Kennison Field. "This is a special group," Harshberger said. "They have worked hard,

and this is the result." The trophy is just the second in the program's history, joining the 2011 Columbia River Conference title. "It's pretty cool," said Hermiston goalie Juan Navarrete, who finished with three saves. "We are not done. I'm excited to see what happens next." The Bulldogs (8-7) will open 3A state play next Tuesday with a home game against the No. 5 team from District 3/4. It is a loser-out game. Kamiakin's Caden Egli opened the scoring in the 14th minute of the game, beating Hermiston defender Jerome Stasik and beating Navarrete. "On that goal, there was a lack of communication," Navarrete said. "After that, the team stepped up and I

See Soccer, Page B2



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Jorge Carillo and Kamiakin's Garrett Grillo jockey for the ball in the Bulldogs' 3-1 win against the Braves on Tuesday.

Blazers go down hard in Denver

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic scored 25 points and tied a team playoff high with 19 rebounds, and Paul Millsap injected some experience into a series dominated by youth, sparking the Nuggets' 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night that gave Denver a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Nuggets can secure their first trip to the Western Conference Finals in a decade with a win in Game 6 on Thursday night in Portland.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half of the first lopsided game in a series that was so evenly matched coming in that Denver held a cumulative scoring advantage of 464-462.

The Nuggets never trailed and stretched a six-point lead after one quarter to 18 at the half and 28 heading into the fourth quarter. They led by as many as 31 before a parade of backups gave the starters some much-needed breathers.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 22 points but again struggled from the arc, going 2 of 9 on 3-pointers.

Whatever adjustments Blazers coach Terry Stotts tried to make at the half didn't take as the Nuggets outscored Portland 28-18 in the third quarter, and before long, the Blazers were thinking more about salvaging Game 6 and hoping to regroup for a return trip to Denver in hopes of a different outcome.

Bucks rally past Redmond to claim IMC's No. 1 spot

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Before Tuesday, both Pendleton and Redmond were tied with a 7-2 record in the Intermountain Conference baseball standings. Their meeting would determine who would break that tie. Thanks to a six-run rally in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Buckaroos took down their Panther visitors 10-4 and dethroned them as the top contender in the league. But Pendleton coach TJ Haguwood knows things could still change in an instant, just like it did for Redmond. "We haven't done anything yet," he said. "If we can hold onto that No. 1

spot until the end of the season, then it'll matter. But our win today helped." Henry Chambers' RBI triple in the top of the second, coupled with ensuing RBI singles from Rhett Haigh in the same inning and Andrew Mckague in the third, gave the Panthers an early lead. Kyle Field drove Tanner Sweek in on a double in the bottom of the second to put the Bucks on the board. "We were pretty laid back for the first three innings," Sweek said, "but we got a bit of a pep talk after the third. It was like a wake-up call — if we lose, we won't be in first." The Bucks' bats exploded in the fifth inning to turn a 4-2 deficit into an 8-4 advantage. Gabe

Umbarger and Justin Duso led off with singles, and Ty Beers, Quinn Doherty, Ryan Stahl, Sweek and Field all followed with doubles. Beers' line drive tied the score at 4-4 before his team quickly reclaimed the game. "Whenever you're up at bat, you're not aiming for the fence; you're just trying to make contact with the ball," said Beers, a sophomore first baseman. "All I wanted to do was to score two runs and give us a chance." The Bucks sent 10 batters to the plate as the Panthers spent two pitchers trying to contain them. Mckague allowed eight runs across

See Bucks, Page B2



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Gabe Umbarger, of Pendleton, crosses first base as Redmond first baseman Adam Harper hauls in a throw during Tuesday's game at Bob White Field. Umbarger was ruled out.