

Hancock takes the reins of Pendleton wrestling program

2012 PHS grad takes over for Phillips, who stepped down after 18 years

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Trevor Hancock knows he has big shoes to fill as Pendleton High School's next wrestling coach.

He replaces Fred Phillips, who stepped down after 18 years at the end of the season.

Phillips was one of just three coaches to lead the Bucks over the past 50 years. The other two were Rollin Schimmel and Dale Freeman.

"It's neat to carry on that tradition," Hancock said. "They are legends in Pendleton, and they have influenced me. It's nice to be the next guy coming in."

Hancock, 25, graduated from Pendleton in 2012, where he was a four-time state placer and wrestled for Phillips. He then went on to Southern Oregon University, where he wrestled and graduated in 2015.

He returned to his hometown, and was an assistant for Phillips for two seasons.

"It had always been a goal of mine to come back and coach," Hancock said. "When Fred stepped down, we had a talk. When the job opened up, I applied."

Phillips and others had Hancock in mind for years.

"I tried to push him in this direction when he went to college," Phillips said. "Then I brought him on. We tried to help him grow in the position to take over the program."

Hancock, who teaches fourth grade at McKay Elementary School, is familiar with the program and returning wrestlers, which he said will help the transition.

"I think it is helpful that I'm not too far removed from what they are going through now," Hancock said. "Working out and keeping your grades up. You have to earn



Trevor Hancock is the new head coach of the Pendleton High School wrestling team.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

the respect of the kids, and a lot of them I have grown up around. A lot of them were in the kids program when I was in high school. It's nice to see them grow up."

Taking over a program steeped in history can be a bit daunting — Phillips leaves the wrestling room with a 336-71 record, and he never had a losing dual meet season —

but Hancock said he is up for the challenge.

"There is pressure with any job," he said. "I've been around the program a long time, and Rollin was a good friend of my grandpa (Scott Hancock)."

Phillips knows Hancock can handle the job.

"He's a wrestler, that speaks

for itself," Phillips said.

Hancock will have the Bucks on the mat this summer. They will go to a camp in early July in Illwaco, then host a Rollin Schimmel Foundation camp July 12-13 at the high school.

Hancock and his wife Lindsee have two sons, Finley, 5, and Huxton, who is 1 month old.

MCC SOFTBALL

Hermiston places six on all-conference team



Noland



Stefani

Shortstop Sydney Stefani has signed to play at Idaho State

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Hermiston softball team made a good impression during its first year in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

The Bulldogs were the MCC's No. 3 seed to the District 8 tournament, but they played their best ball down the stretch to earn a trip to the 3A state tournament. They finished the season 15-10.

The Hermiston players were rewarded for their play by the conference coaches, with six earning all-conference honors.

Shortstop Sydney Stefani and utility player Bailee Noland were selected to the first team, while third baseman Grace Studer and outfielder Daisy Maddox were named to the second team. Second baseman Ashley Cameron and outfielder Sam Atilano were honorable selections.

All but Stefani, who has signed to play at Idaho State, will return next season.

Stefani, a senior, hit .486 in the lead-off position. She had 36 hits, including 23 singles, nine doubles, two triples and two home runs. She scored 30 runs.

Noland, who pitched and caught during the season, hit .575. The junior led the Bulldogs with 46 hits, including 31 singles, five doubles and nine home runs. She had a team-high 35 RBIs and scored 30 runs. She

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Kevin Durant out for Game 3 of NBA Finals

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors will take the floor once more without two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant, counting on their depth and home court to carry them as they try to inch closer to a three-peat.

Durant is out for Game 3 of the finals on Wednesday night, still not ready to return for the two-time defending champions as he works back from a strained right calf suffered during the Western Conference semifinals.

Durant didn't practice with the Warriors on Tuesday, and he has yet to get on the court for a structured session since getting injured May 8 in Game 5 against the Houston Rockets. Durant was set to some work on the court later Tuesday at the practice facility.

Guard Klay Thompson practiced two days after sustaining a mild strain to his left hamstring that forced him out of Game 2. He is listed as questionable for Game 3.

The best-of-seven series with the Toronto Raptors is tied at 1-all. Thompson said his discomfort Tuesday was bearable — "the pain level wasn't too crazy at all."

"It will be a game-time decision. But for me personally, it would be hard to see me not playing. Hopefully, I'll feel much better tomorrow and be a go for tipoff," Thompson said.

Along with Durant, Golden State is also down backup big

man Kevon Looney. He suffered a non-displaced cartilage fracture on the right side of his collarbone area and will miss the remainder of the finals.

"He's had such a great season, such a great postseason run," coach Steve Kerr said. "Fortunately it won't affect his future, but it's a big loss for us."

Here are some things to watch for going into Game 3:

KAWHI SORE? NAH

Don't mind Kawhi Leonard's limp. Like Thompson, little will keep Toronto's star guard off the court on the NBA's biggest stage. Not with no more than five games left.

"A hundred percent," Leonard said of his health. "I'm on the floor. There are no excuses. Everybody knows everyone's banged up, bruised up at this moment."

Leonard is averaging 30.9 points this postseason.

BOX-AND-ONE?

Raptors coach Nick Nurse was still hearing about his move to use an old school box-and-one with Fred VanVleet on Curry.

"In ninth grade a team played one against me," Kerr joked. "Very proud to announce that. I had a box-and-one, just like Steph."

"Yeah, I know, everybody's making fun of me for it, right?" Nurse quipped.

COUSINS' IMPACT

DeMarcus Cousins shined during his first NBA Finals start



AP Photo/Ben Margot, File

Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, center, limps off the court during the second half of Game 5 of the team's second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Houston Rockets on May 8, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

and just the fourth postseason game of his career.

The big man had 11 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and two blocked shots over 28 minutes while playing in foul trouble in

the 109-104 Game 2 win Sunday.

All that after he had been out with a torn left quadriceps muscle sustained in Game 2 of the first round against the Clippers. Cousins didn't even make his sea-

son debut until Jan. 18 at the Clippers following a nearly yearlong absence while recovering from surgery for a torn left Achilles

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