

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Stanfield volleyball headed to 2A state playoffs

Tigers qualify for state for the first time in 29 years

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

UNION — Twenty-nine years is a long time.

In 1990, there were no cell-phones or email, and gas was \$1.15 a gallon. It also was the last time the Stanfield volleyball team advanced to the state tournament.

That drought is over after the Tigers earned the Blue Mountain Conference's No. 2 seed to the 2A state playoffs Saturday afternoon.

"They are really excited," Stanfield coach Blaine Ganvoa said of his team. "This is what they have been trying to achieve."

The Tigers will have to wait until Tuesday night to learn their

first-round opponent. Being a No. 2 seed, Stanfield will play on the road.

A win Saturday would send the Tigers to the final eight Nov. 8-9 at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

The Tigers (19-8 overall) opened play Saturday with an 18-25, 25-17, 26-24, 25-21 victory over Grant Union, putting them in the title game against Union and earning a spot in the state playoffs.

"In the first set, we had a different lineup," Ganvoa said. "In the second, we went back to our regular lineup and did our thing."

Freshman Zuri Reeser led the Tigers with 17 kills and 18 digs, while Kendra Hart added nine kills and six digs. Brooke How-

land had six kills and 21 digs; Savannah Sharp 18 digs and 15 assists; and Brielle Howland five kills, two blocks and 14 assists.

Stanfield faced Union in the title match, falling to the Bobcats 25-14, 25-7, 25-21.

"We had never been in that position before," Ganvoa said. "We had to shake off the nerves, and we weren't attacking as much."

Reeser had nine kills and 14 digs to lead the Tigers, while Alexis Shelby had seven blocks. Brooke Howland had 15 digs; Sharp 11 assists; and Brielle Howland five digs and five assists.

Union (21-3) will host a state playoff game Saturday. The Bobcats will find out who their opponent is Tuesday night.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Stanfield volleyball players celebrate with members of the crowd following their win over Heppner on Oct. 22, 2019, at Stanfield High School. The Tigers placed second at the Blue Mountain Conference tournament Saturday to earn a trip to state.

Pirates dominate Nyssa

Neftali Pacheco nets hat trick to help Pirates stay No. 1 in EOL

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — For the seventh time this season, Riverside proved they were untouchable.

The Eastern Oregon League's top-ranked girls soccer team posted a 5-0 shutout over the visiting Nyssa Bulldogs on Saturday afternoon for its seventh match of the season in which it didn't allow a goal.

It would be the second time the Pirates kept the Bulldogs without a goal, following their 4-0 victory at Nyssa earlier in this fall.

"They're a challenging team," Riverside senior forward Neftali Pacheco said of the Bulldogs. "They put a lot of pressure on us, but we've been practicing a lot on our control."

Pacheco and Pirates senior forward Yoanna Lopez both had early shots on goal within the opening five minutes of the match, but were stopped short by Nyssa junior keeper Paola Trinidad. Trinidad was able to grab one more save before Riverside sophomore midfielder Valeria Echevarria sunk the match's first goal at 27:47.

Pacheco turned around to score another goal not two minutes later, and did the same again at 19:57 to keep the Pirates ahead 3-0. Riverside hit a minor roadblock when sophomore forward Marisol Pacheco was walked off the field with a leg injury, suffered after attempting a goal, but the Bulldogs still remained scoreless as the Pirates held onto their advantage by the buzzer.

"We were trying to analyze how (Nyssa was) playing in the beginning," Riverside coach Carlos Velasco said. "We were passing the ball well. They brought a lot of pressure, but they got tired as the game went on."

Marisol Pacheco was back on the field to start the second half and knocked down two back-to-back shots on goal in the 49th minute, but could not connect. Neftali Pacheco took matters into her own hands, completing a hat trick at 24:47, sinking a goal into the bottom left corner of the Bulldogs' net.

"The chemistry was there today," she said. "Everything was working. We played really well as a team. We always want to make sure we're focusing on our teamwork."

Junior midfielder Cynthia Diaz capped off scoring with a goal in the 63rd minute. Meanwhile, Nyssa couldn't slip past Riverside sophomore keeper Areli Cambero.

"It's the way that we practice. We want to pass the ball to whoever has the best chance to score," Velasco said. "In practice, we always work on sharing the ball. Our passing was great today. The girls gave the ball to the player with the best shot."

The Pirates (10-2-2, 6-0-1) will finish the regular season at 4 p.m. Wednesday with a road match against the Irrigon Knights.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Cynthia Diaz, of Riverside, makes a kick on goal during Saturday's game against the Nyssa Bulldogs.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Neftali Pacheco, of Riverside, makes a shot on goal during Saturday's game against the Nyssa Bulldogs.

PREP ROUNDUP

Echo Cougars sweep for district championship

East Oregonian

ECHO — It's been so long since the Echo Cougars volleyball team has been crowned district champions that coach Janice Scott had a hard time recalling.

"It's been a while," she said. "There's been (Echo) teams previously that have gone to districts, but not won it."

Scott's team changed that Saturday on its home court.

The Cougars opened the Big Sky District Tournament with a 25-22, 25-20, 25-16 sweep of Ione/Arlington before recording another three-set win in the form of a 25-19, 25-17, 25-22 victory against South Wasco County.

"It is so awesome," Scott said of winning the district title. "The girls were so ready for today. Everything that we had been telling them and asking them to do, they did. It just all came together."

Faith McCarty, Elliot Glenn, Morgan Hendrix, and Katrina Morrison all served 100% against the Cardinals. McCarty also added five kills and 12 assists, while Glenn chipped in eight kills, and Natalie Toombs 24 digs. Tylene Skillman went 14 of 15 at the service line, had five aces, 10 kills, and put up four blocks.

Skillman would go on to serve 100% against South Wasco County with 11 kills and five blocks. McCarty was 11 of 13 with seven kills, 12 assists, and 17 digs. Glenn also had 17 digs, along with eight kills. Hendrix recorded six assists.

Echo (19-7) will have a bye for the first round of the 1A volleyball state championships, and will host the second round Saturday.

Boys soccer

UMATILLA 7, FOUR RIVERS 0 — Jefri Coria netted a hat trick, and the Vikings also got

See Prep roundup, Page B2

SPORTS SHORTS

2 women who flashed breasts at World Series banned by MLB

HOUSTON (AP) — The two women who flashed their breasts from behind the backstop during Game 5 of the World Series have been banned from major league ballparks.

Major League Baseball sent the women a letter shortly after their escapade Sunday night.

Julia Rose and Lauren Summer identified themselves on social media. Popular on Instagram, they

lifted their tops and exposed themselves as Houston Astros ace Gerrit Cole was set to pitch to Ryan Zimmerman of Washington in the seventh inning at Nationals Park.

The women were standing in the second row, slightly to the first base side behind the plate. Their stunt was seen live on Fox by a camera shooting from center field.

Cole stepped off the mound, but it's unclear whether he saw

the women.

MLB says the ban from big league stadiums is indefinite.

"The fans who were involved in exposing themselves during Game 5 of the World Series violated the Nationals' fan code of conduct. As a result, they were removed from the stadium and are suspended indefinitely from attending an MLB ballpark or facility," MLB said.



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

Nationals Park on Sunday before Game 5 of the World Series between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals.