

Stanfield staying afloat in uncharted waters



Stanfield's Savannah Sharp (10) drives the ball over the net toward a pair of Union blockers in their Oct. 10 match. The Bobcats defeated the Tigers in three sets in Stanfield.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan, File

Tigers seeking first state win when they take on Vernonia in the first round

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — There is a banner that hangs in the Stanfield High School gym that reads: “It’s about the experience.”

The Stanfield volleyball team is in the midst of the best season the Tigers have had in 29 years, and they are soaking it all in.

“We are having fun,” senior Savannah Sharp said. “It’s nice to see the community come and support us, as well as the support from the other teams in the league.”

The Tigers (19-8) will travel to play Vernonia (20-7) in the first round of the Class 2A state tournament

at 3 p.m. Saturday at Vernonia High School.

It’s the first time the Tigers have earned a state berth since 1990, and just the fourth time in school history. They have never won a match at the state level.

“It’s crazy,” Sharp said. “But you can see the lack of performance in girls sports (she points to the near-empty banners on the gym wall). Kendra (Hart) and I were talking about things from our freshman and sophomore years. We don’t remember much, but we have seen the growth of the team.”

Stanfield coach Blaine Ganvoa said the Loggers are similar to the Tigers size-wise, and that they match up

well athletically. But there is one big difference.

“They key everything around one player (outside hitter Jordan Walters),” Ganvoa said. “We have more options offensively at the net in every rotation, especially with Kendra being left-handed. Having that, with our outsides, is a threat. Their serving is consistent, and we are going to have to minimize our serving errors.”

The Tigers have a mix of talent, from freshman sensation Zuri Reeser, to sisters Brielle and Brooke Howland, who transferred from Pilot Rock, to Sharp and Hart, who have weathered

See Volleyball, Page B3



EO file photo

Teresa Griffin, 9, of the Stanfield Tigers spikes a return against Imbler during the state playoff match in Stanfield on Friday, Nov. 9, 1990. Her teammates Micki Svetich, 5, and Teena Griffin, 4, watch the action. Stanfield was eliminated from the playoffs.

Bucks topple top-ranked Ridgeview to end season

Pendleton scores two goals in the first half to bury No. 1 Ravens

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Despite near-freezing temperatures, the Pendleton boys soccer team played their season’s hottest match to cap the year off.

On Thursday, the Intermountain Conference’s fourth-ranked Bucks (6-6-2, 5-4-1 IMC) toppled the top-ranked visiting Ridgeview Ravens (11-2, 8-2 IMC) in a 2-0 shutout, dropping the Ravens to No. 2 in the league and ending their season in spectacular fashion, exacting revenge after their 1-0 loss to the Ravens earlier in the year, and celebrating senior night for six players.

“We were hoping for the win and that we could match up with (Ridgeview),” Pendleton head coach Alex Erazo said. “We just wanted to finish the season off with a win. We

wanted to send the seniors off right.”

The Bucks came out strong with a goal from junior midfielder Jamie Mendoza, who sent the ball soaring well over Ridgeview keeper Dalen Buckley-Noonan’s reach in the fourth minute.

Ravens sophomore midfielder Evan Newell attempted to pull even with a shot 13 seconds later, but the kick would pass just right of the net.

Pendleton senior keeper Andrew Wolotira knocked down three saves off of Ridgeview penalty kicks in the first half to keep the Ravens off the scoreboard.

“I think we knew going into it that if we played the game how we play it, we could win,” Wolotira said. “We knew it was going to be really hard. The guys were looking forward to it. We caught ‘em off guard.”

Nearly half an hour ticked by before senior forward Jon Lopez sunk a penalty kick to give the Bucks a 2-0 advantage going into the half.

“It felt like a bunch of weight was lifted off my shoulders,” Lopez said of his successful penalty kick. “We



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jamie Mendoza (17), of Pendleton, intercepts the ball during Thursday’s Intermountain Conference game against Ridgeview in Pendleton.

just rode that wave.”

The Ravens’ defense stiffened in the final 40 minutes, keeping the Bucks away from their net for the entire second half. Newell returned for two back-to-back shots on goal

in the 52nd and 53rd minute, but Wolotira grabbed both saves.

Ravens sophomore midfielder Juan Pasquin sent a ball sailing toward Pendleton’s goal, but the ball flew over the net and Ridgeview

would remain scoreless for the rest of the match.

Pendleton is the second team this season to hold the Ravens without a goal. Hood River Valley, who took over the top spot in the conference standings after Ridgeview’s loss, was the only other team to shut out the Ravens, handing them a 3-0 loss earlier in the year.

“We played with our hearts,” coach Erazo said. “I’m so proud of this group. They played with everything they had.”

With a win to end their season under their belts, Wolotira, Lopez, defender Michael Rodriguez, and forwards Evan Evans and Tyler Browning celebrated their final moments on their home field after the match. Mendoza, a foreign exchange student from Spain, also played his last match on the Bucks’ turf.

“It feels amazing,” Wolotira said of the win. “I owe a lot to my defense. They made it an easy day at the office for me. This was a great way to end the season.”

PREP ROUNDUP

Bucks can’t crack top 10 at IMC districts

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Pendleton Buckaroos could not outrun the likes of Crook County, Hood River Valley, Ridgeview, The Dalles, and Redmond at Thursday’s cross-country Intermountain Conference District Championships.

The Bucks also did not place any runners in the upcoming 5A state championships.

“Our kids ran strong,” Pendleton head coach Ben Bradley said. “Most of them set personal bests or season bests. The girls were a whole lot closer. That second place spot could have been anybody’s. Maybe on another day, that spot could have been ours. We’re setting a good path for the future.”

Pendleton junior Jordyn Murphy was the highest-placing Buckaroo, taking 14th at 21:26.60. Freshman Isabelle Gee turned in a time of 21:48.90 for 17th place, and juniors Kendall Bonzani (22:05.50) and Ellaynah Brown (22:08.20) took 23rd and 24th, respectively. Senior Ashlee Zaugg was 26th at 22:45.00.

The Pendleton girls took fourth in the team rankings with 104 points, bested by Crook County at third (89), The Dalles at second (69), and Hood River Valley at first (24). They outran Redmond (110) and Ridgeview (129).

Sophomore James Thatcher was Pendleton’s top runner in the boys varsity race, placing 19th at 18:29.50. Senior Aaron Luke was 23rd at 18:43.90. Jonathan Mendoza, a freshman, placed 26th at 18:57.20, and sophomore Ethan Harrsion was 28th at 19:14.40. Junior Garrett Rimbach crossed the finish line at 19:42.30 for 30th place.

The Pendleton boys were the bottom-ranked team at 123 points. Redmond took fourth (96), Hood River Valley third (47), Crook County second (46), and The Dalles first (42).

Girls soccer

RIDGEVIEW 9, PENDLETON 0

— The Intermountain Conference’s fifth-ranked Bucks couldn’t hold off the No. 1 Ravens on Thursday, ending their season with a road loss.

“It was an interesting match,” Pendleton head coach Paul Parker said. “(Pendleton) played really well for about half the game and really rough for about half the game. It was kind of jumbled. We were down a couple of starters that changed the dynamic of the game drastically.”

Pendleton ended their season with a 2-12 overall record and 2-8 in conference action.

“I’m happy with the improvement they made this season,” Parker said of his team. “The improvement we had with such a young team was phenomenal. The girls got better game by game. That’s the sign of a maturing team. They kept their head in the game all the way through till the end.”