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Riverside Pirates clinch nonleague victories over Weston-McEwen

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

ATHENA — The Pirates may have suffered a season-opening loss to Columbia-Burbank on Wednesday, but were quick to rebound against Weston-McEwen for their first win on Thursday.

The Riverside girls basketball paid the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots a visit on Thursday evening, and took over at the end of the first quarter before tying the score twice and finally pulling away in the final eight minutes to take home a narrow 24-21 nonleague victory.

“We still aren’t shooting the ball well,” Riverside head coach

Clair Costello said. “We’re very young. We have a lot of girls without much varsity experience. In the end, we made some bad decisions, but when you win a game, it’s always good.”

Weston-McEwen senior guard Ellie Scheibner, senior forward Trinity Hearn, and freshman forward Dalana Pickard combined for an early 6-0 lead for the TigerScots before the Pirates got to work.

At 3:06 in the first quarter, Pirates senior post Megan Hegar knocked down a shot to put her team on the board, and did the same just over two minutes later to bring the TigerScots within reach. Junior guard Cinthya Diaz’s basket at 0:20 helped Riverside clinch an



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Blane Peal, of Weston-McEwen, goes up for a jump shot during Thursday's game against the Riverside Pirates.

8-7 advantage to end the quarter. Hearn and sophomore guard

Charli King put together a six-point streak to open the following quarter that helped the TigerScots regain the lead, but Riverside senior guard Bianca Avalos put up five unanswered points in the final minute, including a 3-pointer, for a 13-13 tie at halftime.

“We started off strong,” said Avalos, who stands at 5-feet, 6-inches. “We came out intimidated at our first game. We only had two returning starters, and an injured senior. A lot of our girls felt pressure. Tonight, we handled that pressure very well. I’m hoping our team chemistry continues to improve throughout the season.”

Scheibner broke the tie 26 seconds into the second half, but

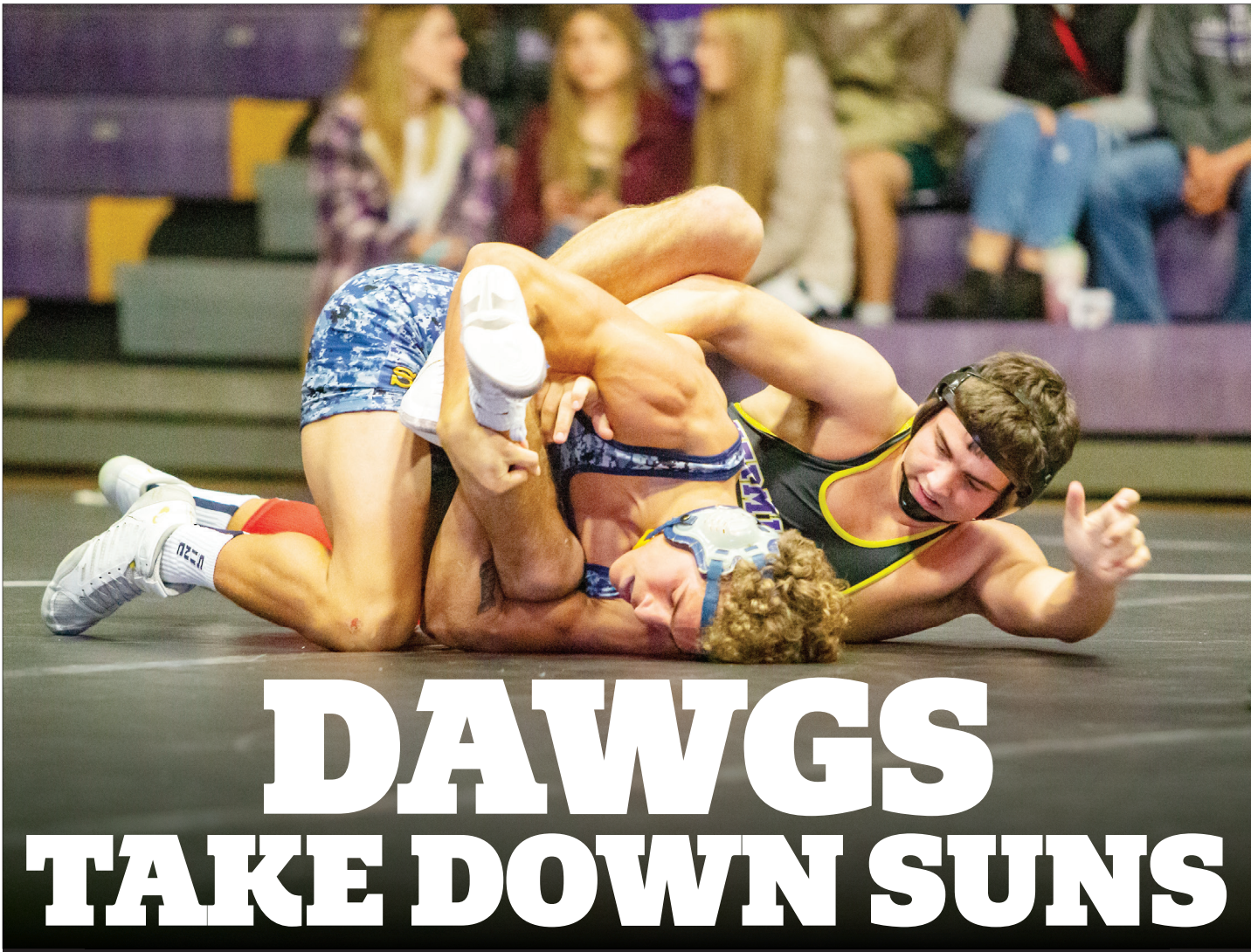
Pirates senior post Cesi Garcia evened things out with a basket one minute later. Teammate Jaylene Altamirano, a 5-5 junior wing, broke the tie for the final time with 2:39 left in the quarter.

It would be the last of three baskets for the quarter.

“Everyone seemed stressed at every timeout,” Avalos said. “Our shots weren’t going in. I told them, ‘The shots won’t go in if you don’t take them.’ I told them to keep shooting. We started rotating the ball and using our teammates. Our communication really brought us back up.”

Riverside sophomore guard

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Hermiston junior Trevor Wagner wrestles Southridge's Ryan Staybrook in the 170-pound match at Hermiston High School on Thursday night. Wagner won the match 11-4.

Hermiston never trailed on the night en route to a 41-24 MCC victory

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hunter Dyer knew he couldn’t afford to give up any points with his team leading by just nine points with two matches left.

The Hermiston sophomore did his part with a first-round pin of Arturo Cardoza at 132 pounds to put the match out of reach and help the Bulldogs to a 41-24 victory Thursday over the visiting Southridge Suns in the Mid-Columbia Conference opener for both teams.

“What I knew, is I had to come out as strong as I could,” Dyer said. “I needed to push the pace. Opening up with a win is a better start than we had last year. We have more talent than we’ve had the past couple of years.”

Southridge coach Rich Cunningham said

he knew his Suns were in for a battle.

“I knew they were much improved,” he said of the Bulldogs. “They are ranked fairly high. We have so many young kids. I’m proud of my guys.”

The Dawg House was rocking for the 170-pound match between Hermiston’s Trevor Wagner and Southridge’s Ryan Staybrook.

Wagner, who placed fourth at 160 pounds at the 3A state tournament last year, jumped out to 6-0 lead after the first round, and led 8-2 after two. An escape and a takedown in the third helped Wagner to an 11-4 victory.

“He is frickin’ ripped out of his mind,” Wagner said of Staybrook. “I wrestled my match and things turned out well. I didn’t really look at the score too much. I knew he was good and I wasn’t going to give up. It feels good to get a team win under our belts to start it off.”

Wagner said he wasn’t sure if he would

HERMISTON 41, SOUTHRIDGE 29

106 — Eli Sepulveda (S) won by forfeit. **113** — Zayne Helfer (H) md. Soe Moe Lat, 10-0. **120** — Chris Cuevas (S) p. Gavin Doherty, 3:33. **126** — Adrian Delgado (S) p. Arturo Cardoza, 1:50. **132** — Hunter Dyer (H) p. Caleb Walton, 3:09. **138** — Xavier Ruiz (S) tf. Chris Lomeli, 17-2. ***145** — Jordan Franklin (H) md. Ethan Sepulveda, 18-6. **152** — Emmanuel Carrilo (H) d. Austin Gideon, 6-4. **160** — Gavin Tarvin (H) d. Landon Davis, 7-3. **170** — Trevor Wagner (H) d. Ryan Staybrook, 11-4. **182** — Shawn Gegg (S) p. Daniel Faaeteete, 3:25. **195** — Coy Hudson (S) p. Blake Betz, 1:46. **220** — Sam Cadenas (H) p. Lucas Martin, 2:29. **285** — Dustyn Coughlin (H) p. Gavin Johnson, 2:37.

drop back down to 160 this season, but acknowledged that he could.

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PREP ROUNDUP

Pilot Rock girls, boys dominate Mountaineers

By MIKE WEBER
For the East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock girls basketball team posted a 63-point win over the Long Creek/Ukiah Mountaineers in the season opener on Thursday. The Rockets defeated the Mountaineers 72-9 at Pilot Rock High School.

The Mountaineers (0-1) only had six players available for the contest. Two players suffered minor injuries during the non-league game, which limited them to only four players at various times throughout the contest.

Rockets sophomore post Emily Lambert had a double-double, while scoring a career-high 21 points. She also led her team in rebounds with 15. Three other Rockets scored in double figures, including junior guard Rylee Bray with 11 points. Sophomore guard Madyson Moffit had 10 points and six assists, while junior guard Lillie Brewer contributed 10 points and eight steals.

The Rockets (1-0) meet the Imbler Panthers (0-1) on Friday at 3 p.m. at Joseph High School.

Boys hoops

PILOT ROCK 71, LONG CREEK/UKIAH 55 — The Pilot Rock Rockets won their season opener at home against the Long Creek/Ukiah Mountaineers on Thursday.

Junior guard Jimmy Jones scored a career-high 18 points to lead the Rockets offense. Junior Tel Thacker notched a double-double with 17 points and a team high 11 rebounds. Jones and senior guard Austin Drake each had six steals. Senior guard Logan Weinke had four steals. Senior James Kreamier scored 35 points to lead Long Creek-Ukiah.

The Rockets meet the Imbler Panthers (0-1) on Friday at 4:30 p.m. at Joseph High School.

Pendleton Round-Up named top large outdoor rodeo of the year

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — Once was good, twice is nice, but the Pendleton Round-Up is not one to settle for anything but the best.

Pendleton was named the top PRCA Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year for the seventh time — and fifth year in a row — on Wednesday night at the annual PRCA Awards Banquet.

“Winning this award once again is testimonial to the value contestants, our fans and our community place in celebrating our western heritage,” outgoing Pendleton Round-Up President Dave O’Neill said. “The Pendleton Round-Up is a one-of-a-kind experience and



Staff photo by Kathy Aney, File
The Pendleton Round-Up was named the top PRCA Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year for the seventh time — and fifth year in a row — on Wednesday night at the annual PRCA Awards Banquet.

we’re extremely grateful to be recognized by members of the PRCA as the best.”

The prestigious award is voted on by members of the PRCA, which is made up of cowboy contestants and fellow rodeo committees.

Pendleton, which also won in 2003, 2010, and 2015-18, was one of five finalists, along with the Caldwell Night Rodeo, Cheyenne Frontier Days, Deadwood and Dodge City.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by your peers in the rodeo industry,” said Randy Bracher, who will take over for O’Neill at the start of the new year. “We have the greatest volunteers that pour their heart and soul into benefiting the community, along with

some of the most talented contract personnel, we bring together a great team to entertain fans for the most epic event that is 2019 Large Outdoor Rodeo of the year for the fifth straight year.”

Not only did Pendleton bring home the top prize, but three of their contractors did, as well, making it a great year for the Round-Up.

Dusty Tuckness was named the PRCA Bullfighter of the Year, Justin Rumford was selected the PRCA Clown of the Year, and Matt Twitchell was voted the PRCA Pick-Up Man of the Year.

The Pendleton Round-Up can accommodate 17,000 fans per day. The 2020 event is scheduled for Sept. 16-19.