

Dawgs pick up pair of MCC wins on the mat

Hermiston posts big wins over Richland and Kennewick
By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

RICHLAND, Wash. — A strong showing by the middle and upper weights helped Hermiston record a pair of Mid-Columbia Conference wins Thursday night at Richland High School.

The Bulldogs (3-1 MCC) opened the night with a 63-12 victory over Richland, then toppled Kennewick 44-15 in a match that saw two wrestlers rally to win in overtime.
“We are on our way,” Hermiston coach Kyle Larson said of the wins. “There are matches were we could have made better decisions. We need to keep working and keep fine tuning our technique.”
Hermiston’s Trevor Wag-

ner put in less than 2 minutes of work between his two 170-pound matches, pinning Richland’s Estevan Yanez in 30 seconds, and Kennewick’s Andrew Hawkins in 1:21.
At 195, the Bulldogs got a pair of wins from Blake Betz, who earned a 6-0 decision over the Bombers’ Julian Hayne, and a 13-4 major decision over the Lions’ Caleb Gragg.
Cole Abbott (126), Jordan Franklin (145), Jaxson Gribskov

(160), Sam Cadenas (220) and Dustyn Coughin (285) also had two wins for Hermiston.
Against the Lions, Hermiston’s Adrian Delgado was trailing Ler Pwen Htoo 10-3 in the second round of their 120-pound match. Delgado came to life in the third, wearing down Htoo, who was dinged three times for stalling to the tune of four points. He last infraction tied the score at 12-12 with 10 seconds left.
In overtime, Delgado regis-

tered a takedown 29 seconds in, and got a 2-point near fall for a 16-12 victory. His win opened up a 31-6 lead for Hermiston.
Delgado also pinned Richland’s Brian Quintana in 1:14 for a clean sweep.
Kennewick picked up wins at 132 and 138 before Franklin righted the ship with a 58-second pin of Ker Nay Lay at 145.
In the final match of the bout,

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Echo’s Rachel McCarty (4) drives past Stanfield’s Maggie Sharp (21). The Stanfield Tigers defeated the Echo Cougars 63-32 in Stanfield Thursday night. Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Tejeda and Hart score a combined 32 points to lead Stanfield against Echo in nonleague action

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — The Stanfield girls hit the court expecting a fight from Echo, but it was a fight that wouldn’t start until the third quarter.
On Thursday, the Stanfield girls basketball team allowed just one basket in the first quarter, and withstood a 10-point Echo run in the third on the way to a resounding 63-32 nonleague home win over the Cougars.

“We expected it to be tough,” Stanfield head coach Daniel Sharp said. “The kids grew up with that rivalry there. It was a slow start for both of us. We missed a lot of layups. We missed a lot of shots we should have made.”
Cougars senior Rachel McCarty made Echo’s only basket in the first quarter, while Stanfield got four points from senior Kendra Hart and two points each from seniors Kylee McClure and Savannah Sharp, and sophomore Jennifer Flores. Senior Brielle Howland hit a free throw at the line to leave the Tigers up 11-2 by the quarter’s end.
Sharp extended the lead to 10 points with a

shot midway through the second quarter at 19-9. McCarty scored two at the line to cut Echo’s deficit down, but Stanfield sophomore Courtney Gregerson turned around and pushed it back to 10 points in response. Hart knocked down her game’s second of two 3-pointers with 18 seconds left in the half as the Tigers took a 29-13 advantage into the locker room.
“We knew we were a much better team than that,” Stanfield senior shooting guard Nyah Tejeda said of her team’s slow start. “Our shots

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OSAA realignment could affect local football teams

Irrigon and Umatilla would drop to 2A
By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Nothing is set in stone just yet, but come February a few local football teams could be switching levels and leagues.
The OSAA Football Ad Hoc Committee forwarded its recommendations to the executive

board for review this week, and the pending adoption is Feb. 10.
For Irrigon and Umatilla, that means a step down to the 2A level, while Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii will go from 1A to 2A, and McLoughlin/Griswold would join a hybrid 4A/3A Special District 6 league with Baker, Burns, La Grande, Nyssa, Vale and Ontario.
The Pioneers, who played an independent schedule this fall, would compete at the 3A level.
“That’s what we are antici-

pating,” Irrigon athletic director Mike Royer said of the proposed realignment. “It looks likes 2A for football, but we are hoping it is for other sports as well. The recommendation came from the OSAA for us and Umatilla.”
Part of the criteria used was a team’s winning percentage over the past two years. Those whose number was 22% or less were considered for movement.
For Umatilla, that number



Umatilla’s Eric Hoyas (11) runs the ball as Stanfield’s Brad Sample (34) moves in for a tackle during their Sept. 19, 2019, game in Umatilla. If an OSAA recommendation is approved in February, Umatilla and Irrigon would drop from 3A to 2A for football. Staff photo by Kathy Aney, File

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