

Herbert ends memorable Oregon career after Rose Bowl win

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

PASADENA — Most stories don't have a great ending. In fact, most don't even have a good one. Whether it comes too soon, too late, or fails to deliver altogether, endings can be hard to grapple with. As Justin Herbert knelt, hanging his head for an extra moment while the clock wound down on Oregon's 28-27 win over Wisconsin in last Wednesday's 2020 Rose Bowl Game, he had to grapple with his own ending. In his four years in Eugene, the Ducks' hometown signal caller was never an

open book when it came to letting the public in. We'll never know what exactly was going through Herbert's head at that moment, but after years of hollow words and coach-speak answers, you could finally see what this career had meant to him. In 2016, Herbert joined the Ducks as an unheralded freshman from the Eugene powerhouse of Sheldon High School in what would become one of the most critical periods of Oregon football's history. After a failed attempt by then-head coach Mark Helfrich to cycle in Dakota Prukop as his next graduate transfer quarterback, Herbert got thrown in the

fire and he got burnt. Washington snapped its 12-game losing streak to Oregon with an embarrassing 70-21 blowout in Herbert's first career start. And then to end 2016, Oregon State snapped its 8-game Civil War losing streak 34-24. In the following days, Oregon scrapped its coaching staff completely for the first time in decades, firing Helfrich after a 4-8 season. It signaled the end of an era — the removal of "Win The Day" — and an uncertain future. Contrast the end of 2016, the torrential rain coming down on the Reser Stadium field as Herbert left with his head held low,

with the ending at the Rose Bowl, and the significant journey that Herbert and the Ducks have traveled is obvious. But in between them is probably what many will, or maybe even hope, to forget. Five games into his sophomore season, Herbert broke his collarbone. He missed the next five games, Oregon went 7-5 in its first year under Willie Taggart — who then left Eugene for his dream job at Florida State — and the Ducks finished the year with a loss to Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl. One year later, another new head coach in Mario Cristobal, and Herbert was blossoming into a star. Heisman and draft hype

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COMMENT

BUCKS BEST TIGERS IN DOUBLE OVERTIME

Pendleton finishes nonleague game with a four-point streak to take the victory

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Both sides of Warberg Court expected an intense battle in Pendleton and La Grande's first meeting of the season, and intensity is exactly what they got. After Pendleton junior Natalie Neveau put back an offensive rebound for a bucket at the tail end of regulation, the Buckaroos girls basketball team survived two periods of overtime to clinch a 56-53 nonleague win over the visiting Tigers on Tuesday night. Pendleton sophomore Muriel Hoisington gave the Bucks their final lead two minutes into the second overtime period, and two points at the line from Neveau and sophomore Daisy Jenness sealed the win. "We're very well matched against each other," La Grande head coach Brian Wright said. "We didn't handle things as well as we would have liked, but we responded well in overtime. I don't ever fault the kids' efforts. They were playing as hard as they could. And credit to Pendleton — they didn't give in." Hoisington and sophomore Josie Wilson scored two straight 3-pointers to open the game, but the Bucks allowed a 12-point La Grande run that gave the Tigers their first lead. Jenness notched a basket with 2:25 remaining in the second quarter for a 23-22 game, and Hoisington scored on a steal to take a 24-23 Pendleton advantage. La Grande sophomore Grace Neer reclaimed the lead 30 seconds later, and Pendleton senior Carissa Cooley scored two at the line to clinch another Pendleton advantage. Tigers junior Lauran Rinker hit a shot at the line in the final eight seconds for a 26-26 tie at the half. "Our team handled it really poorly," Bucks head coach Kevin Porter said. "We had leads late in the game, but lost them with our carelessness." The Bucks opened the second half with a five-point streak that put them up 31-26 as the Tigers were held scoreless in the opening five minutes. But the Tigers managed a 33-31 lead at the end of the quarter.



Natalie Neveau (3), of Pendleton, shoots the ball during Tuesday's nonleague game against La Grande at Warberg Court.

Neveau scored two at the line to even the score at 41-41 with 1:08 left in regulation, and sophomore guard Chloe Taber hit a 3-pointer to give Pendleton a 44-41 lead. Tigers junior Camryn Collman, who finished with a game-high 23 points, knotted the score with a basket and a free throw with 15 seconds remaining, and Neveau's last-second bucket forced overtime. "I was expecting a tough game," said Taber, who had 13 points on the night, "but we didn't really come out like we needed to. We needed to just calm down and move the ball. La Grande is tough. They have great players. They're super scrappy."

Pendleton took two leads in the first overtime period — the first coming from Jenness at 3:45, and the next from another Taber trey nearly two minutes later. Tigers senior Alexyss Chamberlain scored two free throws for a 51-50 game with 49 seconds left, and Hoisington responded with a free throw of her own 20 seconds later. Collman scored two more at the line to tie the game at 52-52 and send it into double overtime. "(Collman) is a fantastic basketball player," Porter said. "She's got some great

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Bucks trample Tigers for nonleague road win

By RONALD BOND
EO Media Group

LA GRANDE — Pendleton head coach Zach Dong emphasizes the importance of the first three minutes of the second half to his team. It was during that stretch Tuesday that the Buckaroos distanced themselves as they went on to earn a 62-46 road win over La Grande in nonleague action. "We preach to our guys coming out (of the locker room) the first three minutes of the second half is the most important, and they came out and played well," he said. "Defensively, we made some adjustments. We got some easy buckets in transition because of it, and that created that gap for us that we needed." Pendleton's Greyson Sams

hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give the Bucks a 29-21 lead at the half, and they pushed the lead to 14 during that vital three minutes of the third quarter, taking a 35-21 lead on a steal and layup by Lane Maher, who had 11 points for Pendleton, with 5:37 to play in the third quarter. La Grande got back within 39-29 less than 90 seconds later when Cristian Mendoza hit a 3-pointer to cap a mini 8-4 run, but Pendleton pushed the margin back to as much as 18 in the period before taking a 47-31 lead into the fourth. That's when the Bucks put the game away for good. Stockton Hoffman, who also had 11 points, scored seven during a 9-0 run that extended the lead to 58-34 with

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Pendleton teammates Lane Maher, left, and Dakota Sams, right, trap La Grande's Cristian Mendoza in the corner Tuesday during the second half of Pendleton's 62-46 win at La Grande High School.

EO Media Group/Ronald Bond

MCC GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dawgs defuse Bombers

Romero leads the way for Hermiston with 14 points

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

RICHLAND, Wash. — Hermiston faced a 10-point deficit at the half. The 3-point shots weren't falling, and Richland was dominating the boards. Good thing every game has two halves. Jazlyn Romero scored 11 of her game-high 14 points in the second half, and the Bulldogs outscored the Bombers 34-19 over the last two quarters en route to a 47-42 Mid-Columbia Conference win Tuesday night at Art Dewald Gymnasium. "Tonight, we showed our mental toughness," Romero said. "What we have been taught, showed tonight." Any way you slice it, the win could be classified as the biggest victory for Hermiston (6-4, 3-3 MCC) since it joined the MCC last season. "This is confidence booster tonight," Romero said. "We are competitive in the MCC. That will shift over into our next game against Walla Walla (on Friday)." Trailing 23-13 at the half, Hermiston coach Maloree Moss challenged her players to shut down the Richland perimeter and apply more pressure going into the third quarter. "We put pressure on them a little

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MCC BOYS BASKETBALL

Big second half propels Richland over Hermiston

By ANNIE FOWLER
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RICHLAND, Wash. — The Hermiston Bulldogs opened a few eyes Tuesday night. Jaiden Ruloph scored 12 of his 20 points in the second quarter as the Bulldogs pulled within 41-39 at the half against Richland. It was a fleeting moment of accomplishment. The Bombers (7-4, 4-3 MCC) regrouped at the half, and promptly went on a 23-8 run in the third quarter to pull away for an 85-62 Mid-Columbia Conference win at Art Dewald Gymnasium. "The first half, that was fun," Hermiston coach Drew Preuninger said. "We have been talking about having fun, and me giving them a little bit longer of a leash. We should have gone into half-time tied, but we couldn't take care of the ball the last few seconds." Ben Fewel scored nine of his 17 points in the first quarter, floating through the key for easy baskets and

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