

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

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## Vikings rally to escape Knights

Umatilla girls post big second and fourth quarters to defeat Irrigon in EOL opener

By **BRETT KANE**  
*East Oregonian*

UMATILLA — It may have taken the Vikings three quarters to finally shake the nerves of starting league play, but they finally rallied together when it mattered the most.

The Umatilla girls trailed behind their Irrigon visitors for three quarters and the opening two minutes of the fourth, and used key 3-pointers

and scoring runs in the second and fourth quarters to chip away at their deficit and overcome the Knights 53-49 in an Eastern Oregon League basketball opener on Wednesday night.

“There were a lot of nerves,” Vikings head coach McKenzie Davis said. “A lot of us came out flat-footed. I’m still waiting for us to play a full game of basketball.”

Irrigon junior Brianna Perez and sophomore JaLay Burns helped the Knights to an early 5-0 lead in the opening quarter, and Umatilla managed just one basket and a point at the line for the entire eight minutes — both from junior Devina Mon-

real. Irrigon junior Princesa Chavez notched a trey with four minutes left, and Perez and freshman Joylene Harrison strung together a four-point run across the final three minutes that kept Irrigon up 12-3 at the buzzer.

The Vikings came to life in the second quarter, outscoring the Knights 22-19. Umatilla would pull within two points of a tie at 18-16, but Chavez and Burns responded with an 8-2 scoring run that gave the Knights some distance at 26-18 with 3:11 left in the quarter. Irrigon stayed ahead 31-25 at halftime.

“We went into the locker room, and I told them one of two things

could happen,” Davis said. “Either they could continue to play how they were playing, or they could step it up and show them what Umatilla basketball is all about.”

Umatilla sophomore Taylor Durfey opened the second half with a basket that got the Vikings within four points, and hit two at the line for a 33-31 game two minutes later. Umatilla junior Chantal Lemus followed with a basket to knot the score at 33-33, but Irrigon responded with an eight-point streak to keep them alive.

“We came out cold in the third

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan  
**Umatilla's Taylor Durfey (34) goes in for a layup during the second quarter against the Knights. The Umatilla Viking defeated the Irrigon Knights 53-49 at Umatilla High School Wednesday night.**



AP Photo/Matthew Hinton

**New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson goes to the basket before the start of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020. Williamson is not scheduled to play.**

## Pelicans project Zion Williamson debut for Jan. 22

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
*Associated Press*

METAIRIE, La. — Zion Williamson, the top choice in last summer's NBA draft, is scheduled to make his regular season debut for the Pelicans on Jan. 22 when New Orleans hosts the San Antonio Spurs, Pelicans basketball operations chief David Griffin said Wednesday.

“Everything's moving in the right direction,” Griffin said. “I really believe very strongly he is a radically improved physical version of himself in way that frankly we took the extra time to ensure.”

The former Duke star has missed New Orleans' first 41 games this season while rehabilitating from arthroscopic surgery to repair the lateral meniscus in his right knee. The timeline set for his return calls for him to miss three more games, starting with Thursday night's home game against Utah.

New Orleans also hosts the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday and visit Memphis on Monday.

Griffin also indicated that Williamson's minutes will be closely monitored and likely limited for the time being.

“From a sustaining health standpoint, we're certainly going to treat him differently,” Griffin said.

The Pelicans have gone 15-26 without Williamson, but have won nine of their last 13 to pull within four games of the final Western Conference playoff spot with half the season left.

The 6-foot-6, 285-pound Williamson is relatively heavy for an NBA player, never mind one who moves well and often soars above the rim for the kind of dunks that have made him an internet sensation since high school in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The purpose of his mid-October surgery was to repair cartilage that serves as natural padding in the knee joint. So the club has taken a cautious approach to his rehabilitation in hopes of minimizing the possibility of a setback.

Williamson returned to practice on Jan. 2 and more recently has been seen dunking during Pelicans pre-game warm-up sessions.

Williamson played in four preseason games before his injury, averaging 23.3 points and 6.5 rebounds. He had surgery in mid-October.

He averaged 22.6 points per game at Duke during the 2018-19 season and also was voted to the ACC's All-Defensive Team after averaging 8.9 rebounds, 2.12 steals and 1.8 blocked shots per game.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Hermiston's Trevor Wagner pins Kamiakin's Logan Howard on Wednesday night in their 170-pound match.**

Wagner and Cadenas each have two pins as Hermiston improves to 5-1

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
*East Oregonian*

**H**ERMISTON — Trevor Wagner and Sam Cadenas won both of their matches by fall to help Hermiston pick up Mid-Columbia Conference wins Wednesday night over Kamiakin and Hanford.

The Bulldogs opened the night with a 46-26 victory over Kamiakin, and then rallied from a 16-0 deficit to beat Hanford 50-23.

“I think we have made leaps and bounds from last year,” Hermiston coach Kyle Larson said. “We have kids who want to be in the wrestling room, and want to be here. The attitude is different. The work ethic is better than it has been, and the results are showing that. The fans are seeing that.”

The wins put the Bulldogs at 5-1 in the MCC standings. Last year, Hermiston finished 3-5 in their first year in the conference, and lost their duals to Kamiakin and Hanford.

Wagner (170 pounds) pinned Kamiakin's Logan Howard in 3:06, and then followed with a pin of Hanford's Nathan Bushman in 1:29.

“Trevor is a guy we can count on,” Larson said. “He gets bonus points for us. He does everything hard. It

### HERMISTON 46, KAMIAKIN 26

106 — Aiden Favorite (H) p. Jaxon Boyce, :59.  
113 — Zayne Helfer (H) won by injury default over Payton Smith. 120 — Adrian Delgado (H) p. Austin Hayward, 5:57. 126 — Guillermo Ramirez Diaz (K) d. Hunter Dyer, 4-1. 132 — Antonio Nicasio (K) p. Trevor Kirkpatrick, 2:21.  
\*138 — Ryan Plumb (K) p. Isaac Montes, 2:49.  
145 — Jordan Franklin (H) md. Dylan Slover, 14-5. 152 — Emmanuel Carrillo (H) won by forfeit. 160 — Joel Chavez (K) md. Jaxson Gribbskov, 12-3. 170 — Trevor Wagner (H) p. Logan Howard, 3:06. 182 — Daniel Faaeteete (H) won by injury default over Ethan Buroker. 195 — Gilbert Marquez (K) md. Blake Betz, 12-4. 220 — Sam Cadenas (H) p. Stone Eskelsen, :35. 285 — Jaxin McCallum (K) d. Dustyn Coughlin, 4-3.

### HERMISTON 50, HANFORD 23

106 — Aiden Favorite (Herm) won by forfeit. 113 — Zayne Helfer (Han) d. Zayne Helfer, 7-6. 120 — Adrian Delgado (Herm) won by forfeit. 126 — Hunter Dyer (Herm) tf. Rex Perkes, 19-3. 132 — Dalton McCorkle (Han) md. Trevor Kirkpatrick, 15-5. 138 — Isaac Montes (Herm) p. Braden Shahan, 3:31. 145 — Liam Lucas (Han) won by disqualification. 152 — Treyton Keller (Han) p. Emmanuel Carrillo, 5:59. 160 — Caleb Mendenhall (Han) md. Jaxson Gribbskov, 13-1. 170 — Trevor Wagner (Herm) p. Nathan Bushman, 1:29. 182 — Daniel Faaeteete (Herm) won by forfeit. 195 — Blake Betz (Herm) d. Guillermo Alfaro, 6-4. 220 — Sam Cadenas (Herm) p. Jakobie Reynolds, 1:53. 285 — Dustyn Coughlin (Herm) won by forfeit.

works for him.”

Cadenas, who is ranked fourth in the state at 220 pounds, needed just 35 seconds to pin Kamiakin's Stone Eskelsen, and then took down Hanford's Jakobie Reynolds in 1:53.

“They have some tough kids in the upper weights who will do good things in the postseason,” Hanford coach Dom Duncan said.

The Falcons opened the match with consecutive wins at 145, 152 and 160, and then along came Wagner at 170. Hanford forfeited at 182, Blake beta picked up a decision for Hermiston at 195, and Cadenas added six points. Another Hanford forfeit at 285 put the Bulldogs up 27-16, and the route was on.

In total, the Falcons forfeited four matches.

“We were missing kids who have finals tomorrow (Thursday),” Duncan said.

That group includes state-ranked Austin Patton at 120 pounds (7th, 4A).

“That is frustrating,” Duncan said. “That could have been a 12-point swing if he was there.”

Against Kamiakin, the Bulldogs won eight of 14 matches. Zayne Helfer's win by injury default at 113 put the match out of reach for the Braves.

Aiden Favorite (106) and Adrian Delgado (120) also had pins in the match for the Bulldogs.

“We are chugging right along,” Larson said. “Overall, we did a fairly good job. The goal is the postseason. You want to show up every day and make sure you are a little better than when you got there.”

Hermiston will host the Farm City Invitational on Saturday. Other teams include Chiawana, Othello, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione and Deer Park, Washington.

## Lillard leads Trail Blazers past Rockets

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**  
*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — Damian Lillard scored 25 points and CJ McCollum added 24 as the Portland Trail Blazers withstood a late surge from the Houston Rockets to get a 117-107 win Wednesday night.

The Trail Blazers led by double figures for most of the game, but the Rockets began cutting into the lead in the fourth. A 3 by Ben McLemore got them within five with about five minutes to go.

But McCollum and Carmelo Anthony then made consecutive 3-pointers for Portland to make it 111-100 with four minutes left, and Houston didn't threaten again.

When Hassan Whiteside made four points in a row, capped by a dunk, later in the fourth to make it 115-102, the home fans began streaming for the exits.

Russell Westbrook had a triple-double with 31 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds on a night when James Harden scored a season-low 13 points.

Houston lost consecutive games for the first time since a season-high three-game skid from Nov. 20-24, and has dropped three of its last four.

Anthony added 18 points with 12 rebounds for Portland in his first game against Houston since the Rockets parted ways with him after just 10 games last season.

The Rockets had a tough shooting night after losing to Memphis 121-110 on the road Tuesday night and shot just 39.6%. Harden shot 3 of 12 and center Clint Capela was

just 7 of 14.

Houston scored the first five points of the fourth quarter, but Portland got 3s from Gary Trent, Jr. and Anthony Tolliver to make it 96-82.

McCollum made all of Portland's points in a 6-3 spurt later in the fourth to leave the Trail Blazers up 102-88.

Westbrook was at the free throw line soon after that, and he and Lillard both received technical fouls for jawing at each other.

Houston finally found some

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