

SPORTS

TigerScots trample the Tigers

EO MEDIA GROUP STAFF

ECHO 62,
JOSEPH 46

The Weston-McEwen girls basketball started off its Columbia Basin Conference schedule with a 38-25 win over the Stanfield Tigers on Friday night in Stanfield.

Weston-McEwen (7-4, 1-0 Columbia Basin Conference) jumped out to an early 9-0 lead and led 11-2 after a quarter of play. The TigerScots held a 19-6 advantage at the half. Stanfield (4-7, 0-1 Columbia Basin Conference) tried to mount a rally in the third quarter, but it wasn't enough as Weston-McEwen's size and ball pressure overwhelmed the Tigers.

"It was a physical game in which neither team backed down. I thought our girls really stayed composed," WMHS coach Amber Doremus said.

Madison Carlin led the TigerScots with nine points, and Bailey Watson had seven for the Tigers.

Stanfield will have to wait longer to add to its win column, playing Pilot Rock on Jan. 16.

| WESTON-MCEWEN 38, STANFIELD 24 | 8 | 9 |
|--------------------------------|----|----|
| WMHS (7-4) 11 | 38 | 24 |
| 10 | — | — |
| SHS (4-7) 2 | 4 | 10 |
| 8 | — | — |

WESTON-MCEWEN — M. Carlin 9, C. Quaepts 6, M. Aby 5, S. Finrock 4, A. Schroeder 4, T. Entze 3, S. Quaepts 2, J. Lambert 2, S. von Borstel 2, K. Shepard 1, K. Peterson 0.

STANFIELD — B. Watson 6, A. O'Neill 5, M. Griffin 5, G. Chavez 4, Y. Chavez 4, B. Braithwaite 0, N. Esquivel 0, M. Banderas 0, S. Connell 0, C. Hopper 0.

3-point field goals — WMHS 0, SHS 2. Free throws — WMHS 6-24, SHS 10-14. Fouls — WMHS 17, SHS 17.

At Echo, the Cougars (11-2, 3-0 Old Oregon League) broke out of their slump with suffocating defense versus the Eagles (3-7, 0-2 OOL) Friday.

After winning its first 10 games of the season Echo, had lost its past two, but 35-forced Joseph turnovers keyed an easy win.

"We didn't like our losing streak, so we decided we were going to play a little better defense," Echo coach JD Brazil said.

Echo led 39-15 at the half.

Leading scorers Elizabeth McCarty and Kelsey Ranger each fell prey to foul trouble, but the Cougars received solid contributions from several reserves in the win, Brazil said.

Ranger still managed to lead the way with 17 points, McCarty chipped in 13 and bench player Taylor Swaggart added 10.

Echo travels to Nixyaawii Saturday for a battle of league unbeatens.

| ECHO 62, JOSEPH 46 | 9 | 9 |
|--------------------|----|----|
| JHS (3-7) 6 | 46 | 46 |
| 22 | — | — |
| EHS (11-2) 17 | 12 | 16 |
| 17 | — | — |

JOSEPH — N. Williams 6, A. Story 0, S. Albee 16, M. Parker 0, L. Kemp 8, A. Kilgore 0, A. Cooney 0, A. Sykora 16.

ECHO — E. Parks 5, K. Ranger 17, T. Swaggart 10, H. McCarty 6, K. Cox 1, B. Stofe 4, E. McCarty 13, B. Millbrook 5, H. Reese 1.

3-point field goals — JHS 0, EHS 1. Free throws — JHS 10-12, EHS 9-29. Fouls — JHS 18, EHS 17. Fouled out — N. Williams (JHS)



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Stanfield's Melissa Banderas (14) drives against Weston-McEwen's Matison Aby during the first half of the TigerScots' Columbia Basin Conference opener Friday night in Stanfield. Stanfield lost 38-25.

PREP ROUNDUP

Girls Basketball

HERMISTON 47,
LA GRANDE 30

At La Grande, Hermiston (10-2) used its deep bench and a few timely shots to put away overmatched La Grande (7-5) Tuesday night.

Coming off a blowout of Kennewick in which the team netted 85 points and a record 17 three-pointers, the baskets weren't as easy to come by Tuesday.

The Bulldogs scored just seven points in the first quarter before a full court press caused some turnovers and shots began to fall. That spurred a 16-point second quarter and a 23-10 halftime

lead over La Grande.

"You go into La Grande, you know it isn't an easy place to play," said coach Steve Hoffert. "We struggled at time. But hit those six three-pointers) in timely spots."

Jansen Edmiston led the way with 12 points, the only Bulldog in double figures. Edmiston scored 34 points in the lopsided win over Kennewick on Saturday.

"We rotated a lot of bodies," said Hoffert. "It's good to know I can do that. I'm not that worried when girls aren't playing well because we have such a good bench."

The slate gets much tougher for Hermiston, as they host undefeated Sunnyside (WA) next Tuesday, followed by a trip to undefeated La Salle Prep later in the week.

Hoffert said he hopes the hot shooting returns in time for those important matchups.

STANFIELD 39,
RIVERSIDE 25

At Stanfield, Stanfield used a suffocating full court press to hold Riverside to just 6 first half points and pace a defensive-minded win.

Bailey Watson and Melissa Banderas both had five steals for Stanfield (4-6). Watson also chipped in 10 points to lead the team in scoring.

Riverside (5-3) couldn't capitalize from the free throw line to keep them in the game.

BOYS BASKETBALL

STANFIELD 66,
RIVERSIDE 44

At Stanfield, Stanfield used a dominating fourth quarter to complete the evening sweep over Riverside, getting the second win on the night for coach Dan Sharp.

"We played pretty good defensively at times. We didn't at others. They got half their points at the free throw line," Sharp said.

Hunter Braithwaite paced the scoring with 20 points, while Milan Davchevski chipped in with 17 of his own, while bringing down 14 rebounds.

SUPERSTITION:

continued from page A1

game, depending on their opponent and their tendencies.

"I'd probably say, as far as superstitions, we do the exact same thing every game," head coach Scott Bow said. "No matter what — where we are or what we're doing. We're in the locker room at a set time. They're sitting at a set time. I walk in, and it's quiet. Everything is the exact same, no matter where we go."

"Home, on the road, it doesn't matter," assistant coach Mike Webb added. "Nothing changes."

"In terms of superstitions," Bow said, "it's a repetitive cycle that I go through, that I put them through. Pre-game's the exact same thing every time. In terms of their interactions, it's just their body language. What they do before each game when they talk about, like, if we play Nyssa what they have to do. When they play this team, they'll do something a little different. They know which games are hard and which games are lax, and it shows sometimes in the locker room based on what they're doing or the moves they're doing."

These things can vary, as Bow pointed out.

The Echo boys, for instance, have had multiple different hand-

shakes and chest bumps in player introductions. One night, against Helix, they were elaborate, with each player having his own greeting and one even including two starters.

"It was something we were trying to do to get them to play with a little more confidence," Echo head coach Ben Campbell said. "We told them to have fun to get them to play with a little more

confidence. We were coming out a little tight before games. We told them this is something you only do at home. You don't do it on the road."

Since then, they only do three slaps and a shoulder bump, but the purpose is still the same, Campbell said: It gets the players relaxed, focused on having fun, rather than stressing about a basketball game.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

In prior seasons, when Daniel Sharp was just coaching the Stanfield boys basketball team, he used to hide in his office in the second half of the girls' games and wouldn't talk to anyone — a superstition or habit he had to shed this season now that he is also the girls coach.



SAM BARBEE PHOTO

Umatilla's Iri Campos is double-teamed by Mac-Hi's Amanda Rhodes (24) and the Pitterners Erb during the second half of Umatilla's non-league win over the Bittern in December. To help her get motivated before a game, Campos dances, usually to OT Genesis' 'CoCo.'

GYM:

continued from page A1

not entirely sure why.

Echo is basically a small version of the Kibbie Dome in

Moscow, Idaho. The University of Idaho Vandals play there, and it's the same shape: just a series of arches in an elongated manner to create sort of half an ellipse. It's like Stanfield

in that the stands are minimal but always full. It's not like Stanfield in that the baseline has the smallest clearance I've seen, but that creates the environment. The fans, media and the

benches are right on top of the action. You're not merely watching the game; you're part of the game. Loose balls are in danger of hitting spectator's feet. Every seat is courtside. I think,

because of the shape, Echo's gym has been the loudest so far. The sound just bounces around those arches and never leaves. It's fun.

Like I said, I'm weird, and I think about these

things. Maybe soon I'll write about uniforms.

—Sam Barbee is the sports reporter for the *Hermiston Herald* and can be reached at (541) 564-4542 or sbarbee@hermistonherald.com