

Nyssa Bulldogs bite Vikings

Umatilla hangs for two sets, but Nyssa too much

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

In her first year at the helm of Umatilla's volleyball program, Sonia Borders doesn't care about results. The count on the scoreboard isn't important. What she wants to focus on is building trust between players and maintaining positivity throughout matches.

That will be a teaching point after the Vikings' 3-1 (25-16, 20-15, 25-6, 25-12) home loss to Nyssa Saturday night. The Vikings played Vale at noon, and those Vikings swept Umatilla 3-0 (25-10, 25-6, 25-12) in a match Borders said Umatilla "played a little scared."

"Honestly we're trying to focus on a team aspect more than anything," Borders said. "But there's great things that happened to night, and we fell apart in some aspects tonight. Overall, I'm trying to fix the positive composure piece on my court. Right now, I don't really care about the points."

In terms of points, Umatilla (4-11, 0-3) was right with the Bulldogs (11-6, 2-0) for the first two games. Umatilla led by 8-7 at one point in that first set before a 5-0 Nyssa run put the Bulldogs up for good. The Vikings made a run, cutting the lead to three at 17-14 and four at 20-16, but Nyssa held on.

Set 2 was back-and-forth as well. Nyssa scored four of the first five points, but Umatilla responded with a 3-0 run to push the count to 4-3. It was even from there until Umatilla, down 9-7, went on a 6-0 run to take a 13-9 lead, a lead they would not relinquish en route to a 25-20 set win. Umatilla's Jeira Carrillo came alive in the set,

scoring four kills.

From there, though, it was all Nyssa. Tall middle blocker Cassidy Hashagen pounded kill after kill in a set that saw Nyssa score the first 12 points in front of server Asu Trujillo. Hashagen had six kills and a block in the set win. And Game 4 was the same. Nyssa was held to just the first seven points this time, and Umatilla made a brief run to pull within six at 14-8, but Nyssa was too much.

Borders, though, didn't think Nyssa's size or talent had anything to do with the blowouts in Sets 3 and 4.

"We fell apart as a team," she said. "I don't think it had anything to do with size or them being a better team or not a better team. One piece of our puzzle started to slip and the rest of us slipped. And that's what I'm trying to fix."

But despite the slippage, Borders is still happy with the progress of her program. In a month, Borders said she's received all sorts of compliments from officials, opposing coaches, fans and administrators about the improved attitude and quality of her volleyball team. But there's still a ways to go, she said.

"It's a whole new facade," she said. "Every time I walk out the door they say, 'Wow, this looks so much better.' I've had compliments all the way around. It's working, it's just a slow, slow process. It's gonna take a few years to have them get used to my coaching style, too."

"We're still getting used to having the heart to just the next girl, having the heart to trust the next girl standing next to us. We're still not quite there with that yet. But we don't have a game 'til next Thursday so that gives us some time to work on it."

That Thursday match is at Riverside with a 7 p.m. start.

ROUNDUP

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quickly in the first quarter as Lewiston tallied 28 points — including three total touchdowns from talented quarterback Colton Richardson.

Richardson had a strong night overall, completing 22 of his 34 passes for 398 yards and five touchdowns.

The scoreboard eventually read 35-0 before the Bulldogs got the offense going, when Mitchell Brown scampered 43 yards to the end zone to get Hermiston on the board. The Bulldogs found the end zone again in the second quarter when quarterback Dayshawn Neal punched it in from five yards out to cut the halftime score to 42-14.

Neal had perhaps his best statistical game of the season, running for 125 yards on 12 carries, as well as completing 18-29 passes for 236 yards and two touchdowns.

The first touchdown pass came early in the third quarter when he hooked up with Nathan Hunsaker for a 47-yard touchdown.

The Bulldogs found the end zone twice more in the fourth quarter, on a touchdown run by Jonathan Hinkle and a short touchdown pass from Neal to Jerry Ramirez. Jose Rodriguez also added a 44-yard field goal.

Hermiston will look for win No. 1 Friday when they host Coeur d'Alene at 7 p.m. The Bulldogs' only loss in 2014 was to the Coeur d'Alene Vikings on the road, the only blemish on their state championship winning season.

WALLOWA 66, ECHO 22 — The Echo Cougars lost doubly Friday afternoon against Wallowa.

The home Wallowa Cougars pulled away from the visting Echo Cougars 66-22 in a rare 2 p.m. start, but Echo lost its starting quarterback Klay Jenson to

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

3	2	9	6	8	1	7	4	5
8	7	1	5	2	4	3	6	9
6	4	5	9	3	7	1	2	8
1	9	6	4	7	5	2	8	3
5	3	2	1	9	8	4	7	6
4	8	7	2	6	3	9	5	1
7	1	4	3	5	6	8	9	2
9	6	3	8	4	2	5	1	7
2	5	8	7	1	9	6	3	4

a dislocated left knee in the third quarter. He is likely out for the season.

With Jenson under center, Echo (2-2) moved the ball well against Wallowa (3-1), but had trouble finishing drives. Head coach Rick Thew thought his team surprised Wallowa a little with its sound offense, but the wind was taken from the sails with Jenson's serious injury. He said he didn't blame his players for losing a bit of steam with heart and soul Jenson on the sideline.

Before his injury, Jenson 190 yards on 34 carries and a touchdown. Devan Craig had 69 yards on 10n carries, and Damien Curiel had 37 yards on six carries and a touchdown, and also returned a kickoff for a score.

"We played our hearts out," Thew said. "I'm happy with how the boys played and stepped up to the challenge. They let down a bit when Klay went down — he's the heart of

the team — and I don't blame them."

UMATILLA 48, SWAN LAKE 12 —Umatilla got back on the winning track with a 48-12 win over Swan Lake (WA) Friday night in Umatilla.

The Vikings (3-1) host Tri-Cities Prep next Friday at 7 p.m.

Boys Soccer

HERMISTON 4, ROOSEVELT 0 — At Hermiston, the Bulldogs shutout Roosevelt in the last non-league game of the season.

The Bulldogs (5-1-1) scored two goals in each half to secure the victory. No other details were reported.

Hermiston next hosts The Dalles on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

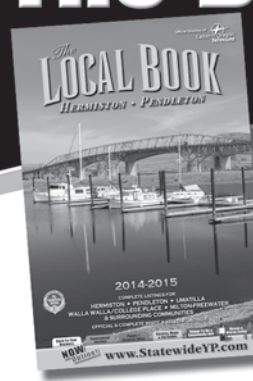
HERMISTON 5, CENTURY 2 — At Hillsboro, the Hermiston Bulldogs stayed on a roll with a win

Super Crossword

Answers

R	E	D	S	E	A	L	S	P	A	T	U	B	S	O	S	C	A	R	
A	D	E	P	T	L	Y	H	E	B	R	A	I	C	P	L	A	N	E	
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O	C	E	A	N	C	A	N	O	E	U	T	O	P	I	A	S	B	R	
N	E	E	R	S	I	X	S	T	R	A	P	L	E	S	S	B	R	O	
N	E	E	R	F	A	T	L	I	P	S	E	Z	M	E	S	A	N		
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G	O	E	S	F	O	R	B	L	O	K	E	R	A	T	S	B	A	N	
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D	E	F	B	I	G	O	T	L	O	O	T	O	D	E	A	T	H		
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C	R	U	S	E	T	A	C	K	L	E	R	O	U	T	M	O	D	E	
H	E	R	E	S	S	H	O	U	L	D	A	W	R	E	S	T	E	D	

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IN BRIEF

Bulldogs looking to offset tournament costs

The Hermiston Bulldogs girls basketball team is raising money to play in the Nike tournament of Champions in mid-December in Phoenix.

To offset travel costs, such as airfare, lodging, food and other transportation, the Bulldogs are holding a raffle and have started a GoFundMe.com page.

Raffle prizes are a quilt donated by Dezi Matthews comprised of Hermiston Bulldogs memorabilia and a spray-on

bed liner donated by Jeff Gritz and Brian Moss of Keystone Custom Coatings.

Raffle tickets may be purchased at Hermiston's home volleyball and football games in the month of October.

Tickets are \$5 or three for \$10.

Echo Sage Trail Run deadline Friday

The Echo Sage Trail Run, comprised of a 10k, 25k and 50k, is quickly approaching. Laid out across land owned

by Lloyd and Lois Piercy, the Echo Sage Trail run weaves around the ridges and vineyards used to create wine for Sno Road Winery.

The registration deadline is Oct. 2, and you can register at EchoSageTrailRun.com.

The 10k, starting at 9 a.m., costs \$25; the 50k, with an 8 a.m. start, costs \$30; the 50k, starting at 7 a.m., runs at \$50.

For more information contact race coordinators Greg and Linda Spike at (541) 521-4793 or (541) 554-2517, or by email at echosagetrailrun@gmail.com.

Bulldogs blow past The Dalles

By **SAM BARBEE**

Staff Writer

With a week until Hermiston takes on defending state champion Hood River Valley, Hermiston boys soccer coach Rich Harshberger was hoping for something better Tuesday night against The Dalles.

Freddy Rodriguez scored two goals and Hermiston won, 3-1, in its Columbia River Conference opener, but Harshberger said that if the Bulldogs (7-1, 1-0) want to avoid last year's debacles at the hands of the Eagles, they will have to play better than they did Tuesday night.

"We definitely have to go in focused and ready to play against Hood River," he said. "And if we don't we'll be in trouble... Winning streaks are always good, but they can be trouble. When you come back to Earth, you come back pretty hard — and Hood River has a habit of doing that to us."

The match started well enough for the Bulldogs. John Mejia got a shot in the first minute and his brother, Mark, had a shot saved in the third minute. Hermiston got its first goal in the sixth when, off a long ball, John found Edwin Rosales on a one-touch drop-off that Rosales buried. After nine Hermiston shots to just three from The Dalles, Freddy Rodriguez got his

first of the night in the 31st when he just softly tapped it with the outside of his right foot into the vacated back corner of the net.

Hermiston added its third when he headed a pass from John past the back-up keeper for a 3-0 lead in the 57th minute. For the next 10 minutes Hermiston pelted the net with shots — many coming from headers — but none could find its mark. While most of the second half was played in the Riverhawks' end, they started to make more and longer forays into the Hermiston end. They finally broke through in the 69th when Abraham Garibay, with defenders on either hip chipped one over Hermiston keeper Antonic Campos' head and into the top far corner.

Harshberger said his side "let off" a bit in the second half, a far cry from the intense pressure applied by the Bulldogs from the first 50 minutes or so.

"I think early on we felt we had the game in hand, and there was a lot of nerves, a lot of anxiousness in the first half," he said. "Then in the second half we just kinda let off. ... I just felt like there was a lack of desire."

"Luckily we got some time before our next game," Harshberger said.

The top-ranked Hood River Eagles host the third-ranked Bulldogs next Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Westside Elementary in Hood River.

Girls Soccer

MADISON 1, HERMISTON 0 — At Madison, Hermiston wasn't able to cultivate much offense in the 1-0 loss.

Hermiston (2-3-2) next plays at The Dalles on Tuesday at 4 p.m. for the first CRC matchup of the season.

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