

# Ego plans to turn Bulldogs into greyhounds

By **SAM BARBEE**  
Staff Writer

In a college basketball game 30 years ago, then-Indiana Hoosiers head basketball coach Bob Knight earned sports immortality when, in a game against the Purdue Boilermakers, Knight lost his composure and hurled a chair from his bench, across the lane and onto the baseline on the opposite side of the court. He was ejected, and the moment lives on in sports history as one of the most interesting forms of passion ever seen.

Dave Ego, Hermiston's interim basketball coach, has similar sensibilities.

"I won't fold my program up and watch the game quietly," he quipped. "I probably come closer to throwing a chair across the gym."

After a 20-year hiatus

from coaching basketball, Ego hopes to bring success and stability to a program that hasn't had much of either in the last five years.

Working with a largely new roster, Ego will bring discipline and pace to the Dawg-house. He believes teenagers find solace in structure and dedication in discipline.

But how much has the game changed? The last time Ego coached a high school basketball game, the game had yet to evolve into the perimeter-focused screen-and-roll game we watch today. The 3-point line is bigger than its ever been, and tall players, once banished to the low block, are starting to develop outside games.

Has this affected any of Ego's theories and philosophies? No.

"The fundamentals haven't changed," he said. "They still dribble. They still rebound. They still shoot. Does the 3-point line change anything? Some for the better, some not for the better. But I think what you're able to do — you can shoot 37 percent from that line and feel pretty good about it. It's probably changed the game, the outside game, a little, but generally not (basketball)."

He noted some college basketball teams — old Western Kentucky and Chicago Marymount squads — played a modern up-and-down style with lots of outside shooting.

"That's because the fundamentals haven't changed," he said. "Dribbling, rebounding, shooting, things like that. If you look back, defenses ha-



Ego

ven't changed as much as people think. We are still revisiting the UCLA press and some of those things people want to still do today.

"But what's really paramount is the attitude, the behavior. Right now, particularly right now in Hermiston, commitment has to be a capital 'C'. That's one of the things that's imperative."

He said commitment starts with the parents. He's going to have his players doing certain things — like eating a certain way — and he said he needs the parents on board with that.

"And that's not just at the varsity level, the JV level," he said. "We're talking about AAU programs and everything else. Parents want to be

really involved. But how do we want them involved?"

Ego puts the program above everything else. It's above a single player, a single level, a single team. He wants all four teams — varsity, junior varsity I, junior varsity II, c-squad — to all have the same uniforms so transferring players between levels is logistically easier. He's also willing to play the best players regardless of class. If that means four freshman start on the varsity roster because they deserve it, then that's what he'll do. In his mind, the program comes first.

"It's not a problem if they're ready," he said. "But if they're not ready, I won't throw them in the fire."

Behind senior point guard Austin Naillon, Ego wants to run. He's already had

conversations with Naillon about leadership and setting the example. The senior has been running with the Bulldogs' cross country team to get in shape for the up-tempo system Ego wants to run. Ego said he wants Naillon to be in such good shape when practice starts in November that he's not tired while conditioning, and hopefully that will bleed into the rest of the group who sees Naillon's work.

In addition, Ego hopes to have 6-foot-3 athlete Tre Neal come out, as well as 6-foot-5 Brok Palmer, who was on the team last year. He knows that Neal, who is the defensive end on the football team, is athletic and can bang in the post. And about Palmer?

"You can't teach 6-5," he said.

## PREP ROUNDUP

### Boys soccer

During the Umatilla boys soccer team's three-match winning streak, the Vikings scored 15 goals, showing that they still retain some offensive firepower after losing more than half of its roster from last year's playoff team.

But the Vikings have struggled to score in its past two matches, scoring just thrice and going 0-1-1 against a pair of 4A Greater Oregon opponents in Mac-Hi and La Grande. Saturday, though, in its third Special district 3 match of the year Umatilla made a habit of scoring in a 5-0 defeat of Irrigon at City Field in Umatilla.

Miguel Madrigal secured a hat trick early in the second half for the Vikings (4-4-1, 3-1) and Diego Saldana added a couple of second half goals in the blowout. After a month of trying to play bunched up in the center of the pitch and without much communication, Umatilla head coach Pedro Ortiz said his players are finally beginning to play the style of soccer Ortiz wants: a fluid, movement-oriented attack. Saturday was just that.

The Vikings consistently spread the field looking for lob and crosses that were often accurate and resulted in goals. Irrigon (1-3-1, 1-2-1) just didn't have an answer.

"I'm happy with that," he said. "I think we kept control of the game the whole time, but what I liked was they started playing the whole width of the field. They were giving a lot of passes that we haven't been doing (lately)."

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### Volleyball

The Stanfield Tigers volleyball team split a pair of matches Saturday afternoon in Athena.

Against the Pilot Rock Rockets, Stanfield was swept 25-18, 25-22, 27-25, and the Tigers did the sweeping over Heppner 25-16, 25-19, 25-17.

Coach Angie Connell said she could see a drop-off in the Tigers' serving as their arms wore out against Pilot Rock, but had few other complaints regarding the day's play.

Maddie Griffin had a staggering 12 aces against Heppner and the Tigers had 20 as a team, but had just three total against Pilot Rock.

Larissa Castellanos had six kills on the day to lead Stanfield, Kaitlyn Burns added four and at team-high three blocks, and Shyanne Connell led them with 13 assists.

CRESCENT VALLEY 2, HERMISTON 0 — At Beaverton, the Bulldogs also made a quick exit from the Westview Tournament in losses of 25-22, 25-20. No details were reported.

### Cross Country

Fabian Cardenas didn't run his fastest race of the season, but still had no

trouble winning the large school championship at the Pasco Bulldog Invite on Saturday.

The Umatilla senior broke the tape for the fourth time this season with a winning time of 15 minutes, 53.9 seconds in the 5,000 meter race.

In second was Lewiston's Austin Byrer in 16:02.9. Lewiston (ID) won the team title with 26 points, and Kennewick (WA) and Richland (WA) tied in a distant second with 96.

Umatilla was fourth with 99 and had another top 20 finisher in Bradley Bensen, who was 20th in a time of 18:47.

### Football

The Stanfield Tigers and Weston-McEwen TigerScots stood toe-to-toe in a Columbia Basin Conference slug-fest on Friday.

With both defenses delivering smash-mouth blows, the Tigers were able to deliver the knockout punch for a 19-14 win in each team's league opener.

The Tigers (4-0, 1-0) made a defensive stand on the TigerScots' final drive and then were able to run out the final 1:30 on a night that was lacking the gargantuan rushing totals each team had been putting up this season.

Weston-McEwen (3-2, 0-1) limited Stanfield running back Thyler Monkus to 78 yards on 17 carries, but quarterback Dylan Grogan was still able to run for 113 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries. He attempted just five passes, going 1 for 5 for 14 yards.

Three more Stanfield rushers combined to add 93 yards, and Abraham Gomez added a touchdown.

"It was a tough defensive game, the yards were tough to come by tonight," Stanfield coach Davy Salas said. "There was lots of hard hitting and both teams were playing their hearts out."

Stanfield takes its unblemished record on the road to face undefeated Irrigon next week while Weston-McEwen hosts Pilot Rock.

POWDER VALLEY 20, ECHO 12 — The Echo Cougars did everything

right Friday night, except finish drives.

After the Cougars and Badgers went to the locker room tied at six, Powder Valley scored twice on big plays in the third quarter and held off a late Echo charge to down the Cougars 20-12 in Echo.

Echo (2-3, 0-2), which was playing without starting quarterback Klay Jensen, out-gained the Badgers 307-186 and forced two Powder Valley turnovers. But Echo itself had trouble finishing drives, either turning it over themselves or committing a crippling penalty.

Even so, Ty Mulder filled in for Jensen by going 5-14 for 76 yards and an interception, but it was the ground game that buoyed the Cougars. Damien Curriel busted some long runs on counter plays, accruing 125 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Freshman Devan Craig also carried 15 times for 65 yards

and a touchdown.

Echo head coach Rick Thew had much praise for senior Hayden Sather, who led Echo with 15 tackles Friday night, six of which were for loss and three of which were sacks. Kyle Ranger and Curriel also pitched in with interceptions.

"It was one of the best games I've seen played in Echo in some time," Thew said. "That's what makes it so painful."

Echo stays at home to play Joseph next week at 7 p.m.

UMATILLA 28, TRI-CITIES PREP 27 — At Umatilla, the Vikings (4-1) won their second in a row against a Washington school with Friday's non-league victory. No details were reported.

Umatilla will cap a three-game swing against Washington programs next week at King's Way Christian in Vancouver.

## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

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Service Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Military Rank \_\_\_\_\_  Currently Serving  Veteran (Check One)  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver to:  
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