

Hermiston sweeps Southridge

Boys and girls combined to win by 42 points

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

They say it's not how you start, but how you finish. With how the No. 5 Hermiston girls basketball team started Friday night, it didn't much matter how they finished.

The Bulldogs jumped to a 13-0 lead while forcing six-straight Southridge Suns turnovers and went on to win 52-27. Jansen Edmiston led the way with 16 points for the Bulldogs, and Maddy Juul and Sara Ramirez were also in double figures with

11. No Suns were in double figures.

"Defensively we did a great job early shutting Southridge down to (nine) points in the first half," head coach Steve Hoffert said. "So we take away a lot of good things. We need to take away the things we do well and the things we do in practice: the shooting, defensive help, weak side help was much better."

It was the defensive effort that propelled the Bulldogs (3-0). Southridge (1-2) didn't score a point until the 4:22 mark in the first quarter when Ari McKenzie made one of two free throws, and the Suns didn't record a field goal until Megan Solensky, Southridge's only freshman, hit a layup with 27 seconds

on the clock.

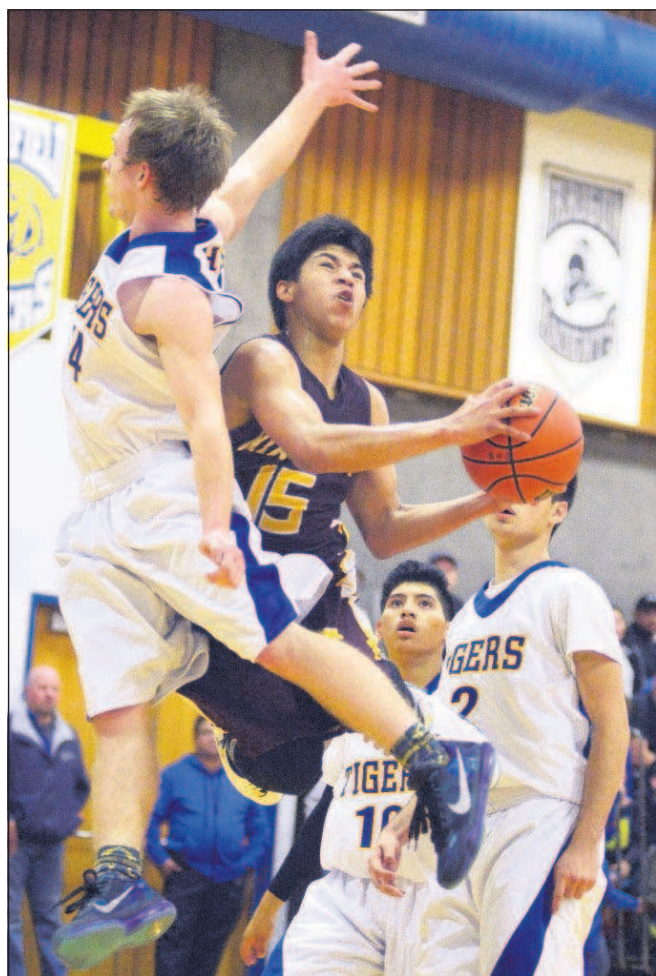
In that first quarter, Southridge turned the ball over a total of ten times, while the Bulldogs coughed it up just twice.

"The last two days we worked on a lot of denials and ball pressure — let your teammates make the steals, don't reach, don't foul and let somebody make it happen for you," Hoffert said. "You

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STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston sophomore Maddy Juul (center) drives into a crowd of Southridge Suns including Shyler Sullivan (21), Haley Thomas (2) and Jaid Harris during the Bulldogs' 52-27 win Friday night in Hermiston.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Nixyaawii's Hunter McKay shoots the ball guarded by Stanfield's Tyler Monkus in the Tigers' 75-65 win against the Golden Eagles on Monday in Stanfield.

Tigers, Golden Eagles split in Stanfield

Nixy girls win by 20, Tiger boys by 10

By **SAM BARBEE**
STAFF WRITER

Despite shooting just 33 percent in the first half, the 1A Nixyaawii Golden Eagles were hanging with the 2A Stanfield Tigers in an inter-division non-league basketball game Monday night in Stanfield.

The Tigers shot 55 percent that half, and 60 percent from 3-point range, but led just 31-29. Nixy's zone defense and athletic backcourt forced nine first-half turnovers by the Tigers and turned them into 12 points, staying close despite the poor shooting. But a 14-2 Tigers run to start the second half gave Stanfield all the cushion it would need, and it withstood a desperate 4th quarter by the Golden Eagles to hold on for a 75-65 win to give the Golden Eagles their first loss of the young season. Nixyaawii was playing without its 6-foot-7 junior forward Chandler Case.

"Obviously they hit some shots, and we didn't stick with the game plan," Golden Eagles coach Shane

Rivera said. "They were the better team tonight for sure."

Stanfield (4-1) was looking to rebound after a poor performance Saturday in a 54-52 loss to Union where it didn't shoot the ball well. The Tigers most certainly rebounded offensively, shooting 51 percent (25-49) from the field as a team and 53 percent (8-15) from deep. Juniors Dylan Grogan and Thyler Monkus did most of the damage — Grogan inside and Monkus from range.

Grogan occupied the high post against Nixy's (6-1) 2-3 zone, and was a force rebounding and scoring. He finished with 22 points, with 20 of those coming in the second half and 15 in the deciding third quarter. Monkus did most of his damage from the 3-point line, making a game-high four threes to eventually knock the Golden Eagles out of their preferred zone defense.

"Considering the way we shot the ball Saturday, I was really happy the way we came out today (and shot)," Stanfield coach Victor Baros said. "It's like I

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Hermiston goes 2-1 in 4-way dual

Back-to-back pins loses Bulldogs one dual

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

Sandwiched by two largely uneventful duals, Hermiston Bulldogs found themselves in a fight with the Post Falls Trojans and came up just a hair short.

After easily dispatching the Caldwell Cougars 45-15, Hermiston found itself down 19-3 after five of the first six matches went the Trojans' way. But Hermiston responded in the higher weights, recording six straight wins and three by fall. All 285-pound sophomore Beau Blake had to do was not get pinned and Hermiston, up 30-19 at the time, and the Bulldogs would wrap up the come-from-behind victory. Blake scored a two-point take down in the third period to go up 3-1, but two escapes by his opponent, senior Kameron Welker, sent the match to overtime, where he took down Blake then pinned him with one second left. That put it to 106-pounder Daylon Eng to try the same, and he was pinned much sooner, giving Post Falls a come-from-behind dual victory at 31-30.

"I kinda feel like it was our Kuna dual from last year," Bob Coleman said, referencing a meet against a tough Idaho school that left Hermiston with a win. "You could definitely see that their team was just better ... We had good guys lose, we had bad guys lose, but it was little things, like one point away from a major decision and not getting it or one point for a stalling call so it would go into bigger points."

Down 19-3, Hermiston showed why it's probably Oregon's best wrestling program.

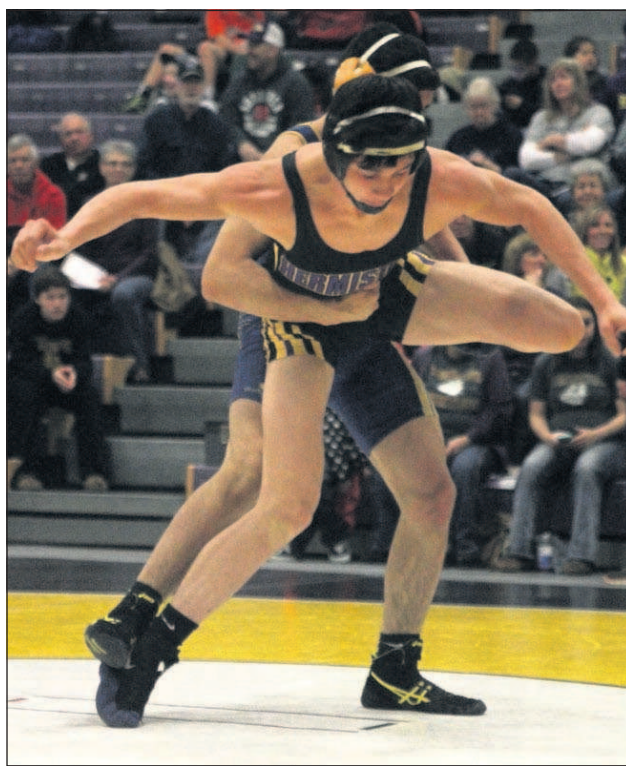
Valen Wyse, who went 3-0 on the day, started the comeback with a 6-3 decision over Alius DeLaRosa, followed by a 3-2 decision by sophomore Joey Gutierrez over Colten Kazmierczak and Brock McDonough topping Kaleb Ferris 11-4 at 170 pounds.

Then the pins started. Coleman quickly stuck Kellen Dwyer, John Henry Line pinned Brad Noesen in the second round, then Sam Colbray easily defeated Isaac Shadduck to put Hermiston up 30-19 after being down 19-3. It was a huge swing



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston senior Sam Colbray (top) controls the head of Deer Park senior Trevor Eicher during a 4-way dual meet Saturday at Hermiston High School. The two-time Idaho state champ Eicher beat the three-time Oregon state champ Colbray by decision in double overtime.



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston junior CJ Hendon (front) is lifted by Caldwell junior Cyrus Salcedo during a 4-way dual meet Saturday at Hermiston High. Hendon won by decision.

for Hermiston after the lower weights were totally dominated by Post Falls.

Former state champ Liam Tarvin was topped by Matt McLeod 4-2, with Tarvin not doing much on the offensive. CJ Hendon couldn't do much, either, against TJ Wolf at 145 pounds, and Jason Burchell scored a major decision over AJ Tuia at 11-2.

For first-year head coach Kyle Larson, the comeback was great. But the loss, however narrow, demonstrates what they must improve at.

"We had two overtime matches that we lost," he said. "We had state placers

getting beat. Those are the kinds of situations where you can't have that stuff and win dual meets. We can't get pinned, that's six points. That's a lot of points. I think we'll learn from it, and maybe it's the best thing for us."

In the bookend meets, Hermiston was clearly the better team. With the exception of the Robert Rodriguez pinning to Christian Hudson and Tuia, Gutierrez and Blake losing by decision, Hermiston largely cruised past the Caldwell Cougars. Isaiah Aguilar, wrestling at 113 pounds, and Liam Tarvin started the dual with decision

victories over Dante Carreno and Ismael Cerros, respectively, before Hudson pinned Rodriguez to move the overall count to 12-6. Andy Wagner then beat Brandon Gonzales 10-4, followed by Victor Barba's decision over Tuia 7-5.

Hermiston then took control of its first dual of the day, winning four straight matches with three by pin. McDonough stuck Ben Solis in 3:23, Coleman pinned Matthew Rohrdanz in 4:46, and, after Line cruised to a 9-2 decision over Travis Mitchell, Colbray pinned Triden Mitchell in 3:57.

The final dual of the day for Hermiston provided one highlight, and it was unexpected.

The first ten matches of the dual provided points for Hermiston. Tarvin and Rodriguez both earned forfeits, quickly putting Hermiston up 12-0. Wagner then pinned Jake Miller in 42 seconds, followed by Tuia's longer pin at 3:37.

Hendon, with a 6-4 decision, topped Brent Hodgson and Wyse pinned Dean Lockwood in 42 seconds, as well. Gutierrez and McDonough each slipped by with decisions to put the Bulldogs up 45-0, the Line earned a forfeit to put Hermiston ahead 51-0.

This set up a largely inconsequential matchup between the three-time state champ Colbray and a two-time Idaho state champion Trevor Eichner. It was a re-

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