



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston forward Tre Neal (center) is double teamed by Kamiakins' Hayden Nelson (33) and Champ Greyson under the basket during the Braves' 85-59 season-opening win last Friday in Kennewick.

## NEAL:

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thing.”  
“I honestly ... when I first started playing football I didn't expect to make it this far,” Neal said. “I was playing to play. I enjoyed it, and I still do. It was a fun trip.”

Neal joins an Eastern program that at 6-5 (5-3 Big Sky) had a down year when compared to recent seasons. The previous home of Oregon quarterback Vernon Adams, Jr., the Eagles are coming off their worst season since 2011-12. In their previous three seasons, the Eagles averaged just more than 11 wins and made the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs all three seasons. In 2011-12, Eastern went 13-2 and won the FCS championship.

“He's definitely worked hard to get where he's at,” Stefani said. “Now you just need to get that work ethic going in your bookwork too.”

Neal said he's been talking to the Eastern coaching staff since the end of last school year and drove through the campus one time on their way to visit family in Spokane and liked it. In late October, Neal took an unofficial visit to watch the Eagles host Weber State, a game the home team won 14-13.

Finally, this past week-

end, Neal took his official visit to Cheney and committed there.

“I just felt like it was the best fit, honestly,” he said. “I love the program, the coaching staff, the theory behind it and they have a really good academic plan. “(And) just how tight-knit and close ... it's a really family atmosphere with the coaching staff and players.”

In his two seasons at Hermiston, Neal was a defensive force. He led the Bulldogs in tackles for loss (33.5), sacks (19.5), total tackles (161) and quarterback hurries (35). He also forced five fumbles, recovered three of them and returned one for a touchdown, and knocked down three passes at the line of scrimmage.

Neal said he's “all for” remaining at Eastern for four or maybe five years and that he will likely play defensive end, though he could be moved inside to tackle.

Neal is currently injured on the boys basketball team with an injury sustained in Hermiston's 81-71 loss last Tuesday at Sunnyside (WA). Neal slammed his hand against the backboard and broke his index finger near the first knuckle. He had a follow-up Wednesday to determine if surgery would be needed. It is likely he could miss the rest of the basketball season but should be healthy enough to start practices with Eastern in August.

## HOOPS:

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ing Falcons to a 21-11 lead. La Salle shot 8-11 in the first quarter and 4-6 from 3-point range.

Hermiston used the second quarter to climb back in, using the first five minutes of the period to trim La Salle's lead to 23-21 on Dayshawn Neal's two-pointer. The 10-2 run was propelled by tough ball-hawking defense that forced five Falcons turnovers, twice on consecutive possessions.

But the Falcons responded, finishing the period on a 6-0 run with 3-pointers from Burns and Andrew Lam to put them up 49-41 at halftime.

La Salle built its 14-point lead in the third



PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Hermiston senior Austin Naillon (center) pump fakes on the baseline in front of La Salle's Jake Lyver.

quarter mainly on “defensive breakdowns” from the Bulldogs, said Ego. Berger, who had been quiet all first half, began to make his presence felt by opening up driving lanes for Toku and others.

“We had some breakdowns (on) defense,” Ego said. “They were able to go to the hole on us some

when they shouldn't have been able to.”

Hermiston slowly chipped away at the lead in the fourth, which started at 40-30 and slowly dwindled until Austin Naillon's layup with 1:15 left cut the Falcon lead to 47-45. La Salle coughed it up the ensuing possession and Hermiston blew

its best shot to tie when an errant pass ended the fast break.

“There's nothing to like except that we play hard,” Ego said. “When you get behind and they're still playing hard, I think that's a credit to the kids. Sometimes when you get used to losing it's easy to play hard and lose. We don't want to do that. We've got to win some ballgames now.”

Hermiston is off until next Friday when it hosts The Dalles in both schools' Columbia River Conference opener.

**LSP (4-9) 21 8 11 13 - 53**  
**HHS (7-8) 11 10 9 17 - 47**  
LA SALLE — A. Toku 13, M. Berger 10, J. Burns 9, A. Lam 6, S. Robertson 6, J. Lyver 5, J. Boyd, M. Niebergall, C. Reyes, T. Bosco, N. Parisse.  
HERMISTON — C. Flores 19, D. Neal 6, A. Naillon 6, C. Ortiz 6, H. Walls 5, A. James 5, P. Wicks, J. Garcia, B. Palmer, P. Peterson.  
3-pointers — LSP 7, HHS 6. Free throws — LSP 8-13, HHS 5-9. Fouls — LSP 12, HHS 14.

## OWC:

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why he is a top contender at 152 pounds. After cruising through pool play with four pins, Wyse scored 32 points in two matches against Central's Colin Swinehart — a 16-4 win — and Crater's Logan Meek, which Wyse won 16-10.

“He's no. 2 in the state,” Larson said of Wyse, “and he wrestled (Meek) and he went out there and he did not wrestle the name, he didn't wrestle the team, he went out and wrestled the guy in the singlet.”

“Valen wrestled really well. He put the pressure on people and scored a lot of points.”

Larson also praised the effort of Coleman, who beat Hillsboro's Hunter Morse 3-2 in the 5A final. Coleman had wrestled Morse each of the past three seasons and lost every time in close decisions. The senior finally broke through on Saturday.

“Bob just stuck to the gameplan and stuck to positions he's good at,” Larson said. “It's finally paying off, the hard work and dedication. He's finally getting wins he should.”

### HERMISTON 78, RIDGEVIEW 6

106 - Daylon Eng (H) pins Carson Keith, 2:23 (6-0)  
113 - Isaiiah Aguilar (H) pins Steven Bryant, 1:03 (12-0)  
120 - Liam Tarvin (H) win by forfeit (18-0)  
126 - Andy Wagner (H) pins Abraham Nonato, 1:41 (24-0)  
132 - Adrian Tuia (H) pins Mike Potter, 3:30 (30-0)  
138 - CJ Hendon (H) pins Micah Cupp, :50 (36-0)  
145 - Julio Osorio (R) pins Will Sharkey, 3:01 (36-6)  
152 - Valen Wyse (H) pins Lane Johnson, 1:05 (42-6)  
160 - Joey Gutierrez (H) win by forfeit (48-6)  
170 - Brock McDonough (H) win by forfeit (64-6)  
182 - Bob Coleman (H) pins Jacob Love, 1:47 (60-6)  
195 - Sam Colbray (H) win by forfeit (66-6)  
220 - Corey Mason (H) win by forfeit (72-6)  
285 - Beau Blake (H) pins Damian Garcia, :47 (78-6)

### HERMISTON 60, MOUNTAIN VIEW 21

106 - Carsen Johnson (M) pins Daylon Eng, 1:21 (0-6)  
113 - Evan McLean (M) def. Isaiiah Aguilar, SV-1 3-1 (0-9)  
120 - Caleb Dunn (M) pins Liam Tarvin, 3:40 (0-15)  
126 - Andy Wagner (H) pins John Cole, 3:09 (6-15)  
132 - Adrian Tuia (H) pins Tristan Baker, 3:49 (12-15)  
138 - CJ Hendon (H) pins Dean Warmack, :12 (18-15)  
145 - Holden Kingery (M) win by forfeit (18-21)  
152 - Valen Wyse (H) pins Jace Horner, 2:28 (24-21)  
160 - Joey Gutierrez (H) pins Dylan Grell,

5:51 (30-21)  
170 - Brock McDonough (H) pins Izaak Moffit, :55 (36-21)  
182 - Bob Coleman (H) pins Adam Dehm, 3:13 (42-21)  
195 - Sam Colbray (H) pins Daniel Clark, :58 (48-21)  
220 - Kenny Bevan (H) pins Austin Keller, 1:29 (64-21)  
285 - Beau Blake (H) pins Reed Sehorn-Hurst, 2:44 (60-21)

### HERMISTON 68, ST. HELENS 9

106 - Daylon Eng (H) pins Joseph Austin, 1:12 (6-0)  
113 - Isaiiah Aguilar (H) pins John Dewitt, :35 (12-0)  
120 - Liam Tarvin (H) win by forfeit (18-0)  
126 - Andy Wagner (H) def. Elias Fields, TF 17-0 (23-0)  
132 - Michael Bowen (S) def. Adrian Tuia, 10:5 (23-3)  
138 - CJ Hendon (H) pins Thomas Lavoie, 1:54 (29-3)  
145 - Colton Beasley (S) win by forfeit (29-9)  
152 - Valen Wyse (H) pins Logan Carter, 1:16 (35-9)  
160 - Joey Gutierrez (H) pins Cody Leanna, :45 (41-9)  
170 - Brock McDonough (H) pins Rachawn Lee, :45 (47-9)  
182 - Bob Coleman (H) win by forfeit (53-9)  
195 - Sam Colbray (H) pins James Poland, :32 (59-9)  
220 - Corey Mason (H) win by forfeit (65-9)  
285 - Beau Blake (H) def. Colton Albertson, 4-3 (68-9)

### HERMISTON 71, CENTRAL 6

106 — Daylon Eng (H) pins Luis Martinez, 2:57 (6-0)  
113 — Isaiiah Aguilar (H) pins Nicholas Kunkle, 0:47 (12-0)  
120 — Liam Tarvin (HS) pins Manuel Martinez, 0:30 (18-0)  
126 — Andy Wagner (H) pins Rick Simmons, 1:18 (24-0)  
132 — Adrian Tuia (H) over Caedman Whisenhunt, maj. 9-0 (28-0)  
138 — C.J. Hendon (H) pins Alan Vargas 0:56 (34-0)  
145 — Will Sharkey (H) pins Juan Mendoza, 4:00 (40-0)  
152 — Valen Wyse (H) def. Collin Swinehart, 16:4 (44-0)  
160 — Joey Gutierrez (H) 9-2 pins David Lippmeyer, 3:03 (50-0)  
170 — Brock McDonough (H) pins Gabriel Arreguin 1:59 (66-0)  
182 — Bob Coleman (H) def. David Negrete, 9-2 (59-0)  
195 — Sam Colbray (H) pins Sam Crow, 1:58 (65-0)

### HERMISTON 51, CRATER 18

106 — Zeth Brower (C) pins Daylon Eng, 0:53 (0-6)  
113 — Isaiiah Aguilar (H) pins Hunter Grant, 3:16 (6-6)  
120 — Liam Tarvin (H) pins Mitchell Childress, 0:34 (12-6)  
126 — Andy Wagner (H) pins Bryce Cwiklinski, 1:32 (18-6)  
132 — Adrian Tuia (H) def. Collin Lee, 10:5 (21-6)  
138 — C.J. Hendon (H) pins Isiah Griffith (C), 0:54 (27-6)  
145 — Will Sharkey (H) pins Nathan Santoni (C), 0:59 (33-6)  
152 — Valen Wyse (H) def. Logan Meek, 16:10 (36-6)  
160 — Joey Gutierrez (H) pins Logan Lowder, 0:42 (42-6)  
170 — Tommy Winningham (C) def. Brock McDonough, 5-1 (42-9)  
182 — Bob Coleman (H) def. Cayin Gillespie, 7-6 (45-9)  
195 — Sam Colbray (H) pins Wally Pendleton, 0:28 (51-9)  
220 — Beau Crawford (C) pins Corey Mason, 1:25 (51-15)  
285 — Javon Gill (C) def. Beau Blake, 7-6 (51-18)

### 5A FINALS

**HERMISTON 45, HILLSBORO 12**  
106 - Kevin Mathews-Garza (H) pins Ruben Madrigal 0:59 (0-6)  
113 - Isaiiah Aguilar (H) def. Nick Peterson, 4-3 (3-6)  
120 - Liam Tarvin (He) win by forfeit (9-6)  
126 - Andy Wagner (He) def. Peyton Bell, 3-2 (12-6)  
132 - Jose Valero (Hi) def. Adrian Tuia, 5-4 (12-9)  
138 - CJ Hendon (He) def. Eddie Kalamau III, 5-1 (15-9)  
145 - Will Sharkey (He) def. Ruben Rodriguez-Saenz, 5-2 (18-9)  
152 - Valen Wyse (He) pins Gabe Schade, 2:40 (24-9)  
160 - Joey Gutierrez (He) pins Kobe Smith, 0:53 (30-9)  
170 - Sage Roundtree (Hi) pins Brock McDonough, 5-3 (30-12)  
182 - Bob Coleman (He) def. Hunter Morse, 3-2 (33-12)  
195 - Kenny Bevan (He) def. Jarred Eichstadt, 5-1 (36-12)  
220 - Sam Colbray (H) pins Enrique Guerra, 4:41 (42-12)  
285 - Beau Blake (He) def. Nicholas Beede, 3-2 (45-12)

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