

Echo pulls even in OOL

ECHO 44, WALLOWA 35 — At Echo, the Echo Cougars finished strong to jump past the Wallowa Cougars in the Old Oregon League standings on Saturday.

Michael Thompson and Carlos Chavez each scored 10 points to lead fourth-place Echo (5-12, 3-3 OOL) and the pair combined for 12 rebounds.

Echo found its advantage in the posts and outscored Wallowa (3-10, 2-3) 24-14 inside the key.

Travis Hiaga led Wallowa with 15 points.

Echo hosts Helix on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m. for its next game.

WHS (3-10, 2-3) 10 9 8 8 — 35
EHS (5-12, 3-3) 15 9 15 — 44
 WALLOWA — T. Hiaga 15, C. Nobles 8, C. Hafer 6, K. Frye 4, N. Allen 2, G. Burns (11-42)
 ECHO — C. Chavez 10, M. Thompson 10, B. Gibbs 7, B. Moffit 6, C. Medrano 5, J. Dorn 4, C. Caldera 2, H. Gerke, Z. Gerke, D. Craig, T. Mulder (16-44)
 3-pointers — WHS 2-6, EHS 3-11. Free throws — WHS 11-13, EHS 9-16. Fouls — WHS 11, EHS 13.

JOSEPH 58, HELIX 26 — At Joseph, the Helix Grizzlies dropped their fifth straight game on the season with a loss to Joseph on Saturday.

“Joseph put a lot of pressure on us in the first half,” said Helix coach Ben Maney, “but the boys came out and played much better in the second half.”

Justin Williams was the Grizzlies’ high-scorer with six points, while Jonathan Shaw and Bradee Cope each added five points.

Helix will next host Pine Eagle on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

GHS (2-13, 0-5) 4 4 8 10 — 26
JHS (8-6, 4-1) 23 14 13 8 — 58
 HELIX — J. Williams 6, J. Shaw 5, B. Cope 5, C. Christman 4, T. Fehrenbacher 4, C. Marks 2, G. Newton, T. Wilson.
 JOSEPH — C. DeLury 17, A. Borgerding 13, T. Horman 8, T. VanWinkle 7, J. Chrisman 6, C. Murray 5, V. Smith 2.
 3-pointers — GHS 0, JHS 3. Free throws — GHS 4-16, JHS 11-23. Fouls — GHS 19, JHS 16. Fouled out — J. Williams (GHS).

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday, January 20			(Liberty HS), 9 a.m.
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	4 p.m.	Echo vs. Joseph	@ Parma (ID), TBD
Thursday, January 21			
		BOYS BASKETBALL	
	7:30 p.m.	Umatilla vs. Riverside	
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	6 p.m.	Umatilla vs. Riverside	
Friday, January 22			
		BOYS BASKETBALL	
	7 p.m.	Hermiston vs. The Dalles	
		WRESTLING	
	4:30 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Weston-McEwen	
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	7 p.m.	Hermiston @ The Dalles	
		WRESTLING	
	6 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Weston-McEwen	
		Tournament of Champions	
		WRESTLING	
	9 a.m.	Hermiston @ Reser's	
Saturday, January 23			
		BOYS BASKETBALL	
	4 p.m.	Echo vs. Helix	
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	5:30 p.m.	Echo vs. Helix	
		SWIMMING	
	11 a.m.	Hermiston @ Hood River	
		WRESTLING	
	9 a.m.	Hermiston @ Reser's	
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	7:30 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Sherman Co.	
		WRESTLING	
	7:30 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Sherman Co.	
Tuesday, January 26			
		BOYS BASKETBALL	
	7:30 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Sherman Co.	
		GIRLS BASKETBALL	
	6 p.m.	Stanfield vs. Sherman Co.	

Big first half leads Echo past Wallowa

ECHO 55, WALLOWA 12 — At Echo, a big second quarter gave Echo a 25-6 halftime lead as they pulled away for an Old Oregon League rout on Saturday.

Echo (8-9, 2-4 OOL) finished with 32 steals and were led by Hannah McCarty (19 points, 7 steals), Devyn Tarvin (16 points, 9 steals) and Taylor Swaggart (12 points, 7 steals).

No player scored more than three points for Wallowa (1-13, 0-5).

Echo's next game is Tuesday against Hermiston JV at 7 p.m.

WHS (1-13, 0-5) 2 2 4 — 12
EHS (8-9, 2-4) 8 17 20 — 55
 WALLOWA — B. Johnston 3, R. Goller 3, C. Poudereux 2, R. Ferre 2, G. Pendarvis 2, M. Hulse, M. Jones, K. Diggins, S. Nobles, B. Phelps, J. Scott, J. Lee (5-27)
 ECHO — H. McCarty 19, D. Tarvin 16, T. Swaggart 12, E. Parks 5, L. Wiggins 3, S. Stone (24-50)
 3-pointers — WHS 0-2, EHS 2-6. Free throws — WHS 2-6, EHS 5-15. Fouls — WHS 13, EHS 13.

IRRIGON 48, STANFIELD 36 — At Irrigon,

Jada Burns knocked in a game-high 18 points lead the Irrigon Knights over the Stanfield Tigers in league play on Saturday.

With those 18 points, Burns also added three rebounds, three assists and two steals. Beatriz Aguilera netted 10 points for Irrigon to round out the double-digit scorers.

Yazzmin Chavez led Stanfield with 12 points and Cynthia Curiel added nine points.

Irrigon (6-9, 2-2 CBC) will next travel to Culver on Friday at 6 p.m. and Stanfield (6-7, 2-2) will host Umatilla on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

STAN (6-7, 2-2) 10 2 10 14 — 36
IHS (6-9, 2-2) 11 18 9 11 — 48
 STANFIELD — Y. Chavez 12, C. Curiel 9, C. Hopper 5, B. Braithwaite 4, M. Griffin 3, A. Lemmon, S. Connel, A. Carrillo, M. Banderas, G. Chavez.
 IRRIGON — J. Burns 18, B. Aguilera 10, T. Davis 6, K. McLaughlin 5, L. Mills 4, A. Zacarias 2, L. Ramirez 2, N. Romero 1, B. Rice.
 3-pointers — STAN 4, IHS 1. Free throws — STAN 8-16, IHS 19-32.

UMATILLA SWEEPS VALE AT THE PIT

By **SAM BARBEE**
 Staff Writer

Though the Umatilla Vikings girls basketball scored only six points in the first quarter Saturday against Vale and just 10 in the first half, don't tell them it was a slow start.

“It was just two great teams going at it,” senior Sidney Webb said.

In all, the blue and orange-clad Vikings used an exceedingly rare six-point play in the third quarter to down the black and silver-clad Vikings 36-25 at The Pit despite having no scorers in double figures.

Vale's Alisa Burkhardt led all scorers with 10 points, and Aleesha Watson led Umatilla with eight. With the win, Umatilla (13-4, 3-0) takes a one-game lead over Vale (10-6, 2-1) in the Eastern Oregon League and has won four straight games.

Neither team could find any footholds early on. They combined to shoot 5-18 in the first quarter and neither team made a field goal in the second quarter. Umatilla shot 15 percent in that half and Vale shot just 14 percent. Both

teams were heavily pressuring the ball and not allowing either offense to be comfortable or get good looks.

Then Umatilla's offense finally got into a groove in the third quarter.

“We're usually a second half team,” Webb said.

Aleesha Watson hit a 3-pointer — the first of the game — with 5:52 on the clock, and two minutes later Gaby Contreras hit a 3-pointer to put Umatilla up 16-11. A foul was called on the play on Vale away from the ball, counting the basket and keeping possession with Umatilla. Off the in-bounds, Webb hit a 3-pointer providing the rare six-point play, giving Umatilla its big lead at that stage at eight points and jump-starting the offense.

“Once you get us going, it's usually there,” Webb said.

Vale came back. Abby Hamilton scored four points and Amanda Trenkel scored two, but the lead was eight headed into the final period, where Umatilla started to pull away.

The eight-point lead ballooned to 12 when Brenda Campos scored with 5:37 re-

maining in the game and 13 when Watson made two free throws with 13.7 seconds left, and Vale couldn't shrink the lead under eight points.

With two more contests against Vale, Umatilla isn't assuming anything. But this win got it through the first round of EOL play unscathed. Webb said her team wants to go undefeated in EOL play.

“We want it,” she said simply.

VHS (10-6, 2-1) 7 2 8 8 — 25
UHS (13-4, 3-0) 6 4 15 11 — 36
 VALE — A. Burkhardt 10, A. Trenkel 6, K. Weber 4, A. Hamilton 4, B. Bouras 1, D. Johnson, M. Gonzalez, G. Reeve, H. Dearing.
 UMATILLA — A. Watson 8, C. Dohman 7, S. Webb 7, G. Contreras 5, B. Campos 4, T. Coffey 3, M. Paz 2, L. Journot, G. Lemus.
 3-pointers — VHS 0, UHS 3. Free throws — VHS 3-12, UHS 15-24. Fouls — VHS 20, UHS 17. Fouled out — D. Johnson (VHS), K. Weber (VHS).

Boys Basketball

Desperate for a win, the Umatilla boys basketball team finally got it, downing the Vale Vikings 47-38 Saturday night at The Pit.

Umatilla head coach Derek Lete used a different starting lineup Saturday, leaving the seniors on the bench. Juan Coria, Aaron Simmons and Tristen Sanguino came off the bench in favor of fresh-

man Sebastian Garcia, sophomore Seth Cranston and freshman Trent Durfey in an effort to improve the offensive production. Umatilla (8-9, 1-2) was yet to score 40 points in EOL play and hadn't scored 40 since a 40-29 win over Mac-Hi two weeks ago.

“We were just trying to make a chance,” Lete said.

“We just weren't producing. We hadn't had any offensive production. We scored 30-something points the last couple of games and just went with some younger kids to kinda send a message to the older kids that, ‘Hey, you're job's on the line,’ kinda thing.”

“I just wanted to see them respond, and I thought they responded well today.”

With the Umatilla starters on the bench, Vale (2-12, 0-3) jumped to a quick 6-2 lead, but a 6-0 run to close the first quarter got the home Vikings in front 8-6 heading into the second period.

There, Umatilla built a six-point lead when Coria hit a 3-pointer two and a half minutes into the frame at 16-10. Vale, though, roared back.

Cody Towers had four

points and Zach Jacobs had four, and Brock Mattos had two as Vale pushed ahead 20-19 despite another Coria 3-pointer. Vale would go into the locker room for halftime up 22-21.

Umatilla did enough offensively to build a halfway comfortable lead, and Kaden Webb caught fire.

Down 24-23 with around three minutes left in the third quarter, Webb showed why there is a cause for optimism. He scored 12 straight points for the Vikings capped by a layup, and suddenly the Umatilla was up 35-26 heading into the final period.

“I was nice to see Kaden,” Lete said. “I wouldn't say Kaden's had a rough year, but he hasn't lived up to everyone's expectations. I think it was kind of a confidence thing. I think he's been pressing on himself and he's got high expectations as we all do for him. It was nice to see him get some shots to drop and get up some points.”

There, Umatilla tried to take the air out of the ball and kill the clock, but Vale didn't make it easy. The visiting

Vikings cut the lead to three when Derek Hiatt scored two points, but Simmons scored on the ensuing possession pushing the lead back to five, and it was quickly 10 when Simmons got another basket.

Umatilla had multiple chances to put Vale away from the free throw line, but missed five of eight free throws down the stretch the leave the door if not open, at least unlocked.

But Umatilla's defense held firm and sent the Vale Vikings east without a win west of the Blue Mountains.

“Great first league win,” Lete said. “It's good to get it under our belt. I'm happy for the boys.”

Umatilla heads to Stanfield for a non-league double-header on Tuesday. The girls tip at 5:30 p.m. and the boys tip at 7 p.m.

VHS (2-12, 0-3) 6 16 4 12 — 38
UHS (8-9, 1-2) 8 13 14 12 — 47
 VALE — C. Towers 10, Z. Jacobs 8, D. Hiatt 8, B. Mattos 6, J. Buckholz 4, G. Bahena 2, V. Carlson, J. Jernstetten, G. Harris, J. DeLong, R. Gomez, S. McLaughlin.
 UMATILLA — K. Webb 14, J. Coria 11, T. Sanguino 9, J. Ramirez 2, T. Durfey 2, S. Cranston 2, G. Armenta 1, J. Tejada, S. Garcia, J. Maret.
 3-pointers — VHS 0, UHS 6. Free throws — VHS 3-7, UHS 5-13. Fouls — VHS 17, UHS 13.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hermiston Booster Club Steak Feed scheduled

The Hermiston Booster Club's annual steak feed and primary fundraiser is scheduled for March 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center.

Tickets for the dinner are \$40 with a silent auction, raffle and live auction, which begins at 7 p.m. Items are still being secured and donated, but they are expected to be similar to last year's event which featured Seahawks and Ducks tickets plus other enticing possibilities. To reserve a seat, contact Paul Barnett at 541-567-5215.

Harlem Globetrotters perform Jan. 21

Hermiston resident Mark Gomolski is organizing a group with Our Lady of Angels Catholic church to attend the game and maybe meet a few of the Globetrotters themselves.

Prospective participants do not have to be members of Our Lady of Angels and can contact the church at 541-567-5812, or visit the building at 565 W Hermiston Ave. The project is a fundraiser for the church's building fund.

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