

Bulldogs smother Bucks

By ERIC SINGER
Staff Writer

The rivalry series between the Pendleton Buckaroos and Hermiston Bulldogs never fails to bring interesting match-ups.

Friday night's edition was much of the same, as the Bulldogs used a big second half to pull away from the Buckaroos to earn the 69-60 victory. With the win, Hermiston hands Pendleton its first conference loss of the season and also brings its six-game win streak to a halt.

Hermiston (10-11, 3-3 CRC) coach Dave Ego was ecstatic to see his team pull out the win.

"Well anytime we beat Pendleton in Pendleton we get excited about it," he said. "We shot poor against them last time in the fourth quarter, and tonight we shot better and were able to steal a win."

Chance Flores — gimpy foot and all — scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half, including two big 3-pointers in the second half that got Hermiston's offense going. Flores also headed Hermiston's offense that relentlessly attacked Pendleton's defense from start to finish.

"We started slow, weren't hitting our shots, but in the second half I think my 3s got the fire going," Flores said. "I just told the guys that we have no regrets tonight so let's get it done, and we did."

Hermiston finished the game with 15 team fouls, while Pendleton (12-7, 5-1) had a whopping 29 — with 15 in the first half and 14 in the second half. It drew much ire from Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder, as he felt his team wasn't getting fair calls and voiced his displeasure with the referees.

His frustration escalated throughout the second half, and it finally bottomed out when Buckaroos junior Caden Smith picked up his fifth foul and then a technical foul — resulting in a technical foul for himself — with seven minutes remaining in the game.

The situation resulted in six free throw attempts for Hermiston, and Austin Naillon and Andrew James teamed up to sink all six to put the Bulldogs on top 57-47.

In the end, Hermiston attempted 38 free throws from those 29 Pendleton fouls, and made 29 of them for a 76 percent success rate. The free throw shooting was especially huge in the first half, as Hermiston was able to claw back from a 10-point deficit in the second quarter to tie the game with less than one minute remaining in the half.

Ego said it was Hermiston's plan to attack Pendleton's defense as much as it could and try to get to the free throw line.

"We wanted to put them on their heels and make them

defend us one-on-one," he said. "We did it for most of the game, which got us to the free throw line and enabled us to get some easy shots inside."

In that second quarter, Pendleton put a 10-2 run together to start the quarter and gain some momentum with a 22-12 lead, forcing a Hermiston timeout. But the Bulldogs, with the help of their free throw shooting, were able to flip the momentum and put their own run together to close the deficit before halftime.

Hermiston did not lead until Flores nailed a short jumper to put the Bulldogs up 34-33 with 6:40 left in the third quarter. The two teams traded the lead back twice more before Hermiston grabbed the lead back at 39-38 with 3:30 left in the third and led the rest of the way.

As a team, Hermiston shot 35 percent (6-17) from the floor in the first half, and 50 percent (11-22) in the second half.

Hermiston will next host The Dalles on Tuesday at 7 p.m. while Pendleton will travel to Hood River for a 7 p.m. match-up.

HHS (10-11, 3-3) 10 19 11 20 — 69
PHS (12-7, 5-1) 13 18 11 18 — 60
HERMISTON — C. Flores 19, A. Naillon 19, D. Neal 15, A. James 11, P. Pederson 3, H. Walls 2, T. McCullough.
PENDLETON — C. Smith 13, K. Quinn 10, M. Foreman 10, W. Morris 9, D. Adams 8, J. Bradt 6, D. Roe 2, J. Stuvland 2, J. Peterson.
3-pointers — HHS 4, PHS 2. Foul shots — HHS 29-38, PHS 10-14. Fouls — HHS 15, PHS 29. Technicals — C. Smith (PHS), Coach (PHS). Fouled out — C. Smith (PHS), D. Roe (PHS).

Umatilla sneaks past Vale

UMATILLA 46, VALE 42 — At Vale, the Umatilla Vikings squeaked out a narrow win over the Vale Vikings to clinch the 3A Eastern Oregon League title.

Umatilla guards Aleesha Watson (21 points) and Sidney Webb (13) led the way offensively. No Vale player scored in double figures.

Umatilla is done with its regular season and awaits the start of its district tournament. As league champ, Umatilla is playing for seeding.

UHS (18-5, 7-1) 8 14 5 19 — 46
VHS (13-10, 4-4) 9 7 8 13 — 42
UMATILLA — A. Watson 21, S. Webb 13, M. Paz 7, G. Contreras 3, B. Campos 2, L. Journot, T. Coffey, G. Lemus, C. Dohman.
VALE — G. Reeve 9, A. Hamilton 9, D. Johnson 9, K. Weber 6, A. Burkhardt 5, A. Trenkel 4, M. Gonzalez, H. Dayton, H. Dearing, B. Bourasa, Grace J., Selby, W.
3-pointers — UHS 7, VHS 5. Free throws — UHS 7-15, VHS 7-14. Fouls — UHS 12, VHS 16.

ECHO 48, WALLOWA 16 — At Wallowa, the Echo Cougars topped the Wallowa Cougars in both teams' final regular season outing.

Echo (5-7, 12-12) finishes in fifth place in the Old Oregon League. Wallowa (0-11, 1-19) brings up the rear.

The Old Oregon League district tournament starts next week in Madras.

BOYS BASKETBALL

STANFIELD 55, WESTON-MCEWEN 38 — At Athena, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots could not keep pace with the Stanfield Tigers, as Stanfield pulled away with a big win to close out the regular season on Friday night.

The game started off pretty even, as the two teams battled out to an 8-8 score. But then Stanfield (16-5, 8-2 CBC) went on an 8-0 run to end the quarter, and left the TigerScots offense behind.

Dylan Grogan led the Tigers with 17 points and Jose Garcia added 11 points. Ethen Reger led the TigerScots with 14 points and added 12 rebounds, and was the only scorer to reach double figures.

Stanfield will also play on Friday against Irrigon at the CBC district tournament, with the time TBD.

SHS (16-5, 8-2) 16 17 14 8 — 55
W-M (10-11, 5-5) 8 10 11 9 — 38
STANFIELD — D. Grogan 17, J. Garcia 11, T. Monkus 8, B. Woods 5, R. Bailey 3, J. Carillo 4, A. Flores 4, A. Nunez 3.
WESTON-MCEWEN — E. Reger 14, S. Mikasell 7, B. Speed 6, A. Finifrock 4, K. Rodriguez 2, B. Rudolph 2, S. Broncheau 2, J. Patrick 1, K. Scott, X. Bailey, G. Hungerford.
3-pointers — SHS 6, W-M 1. Free throws — SHS 11-19, W-M 7-14. Fouls — SHS 19, W-M 16.

UMATILLA 63, VALE 61 — At Vale, the Umatilla Vikings won at the last second over Vale.

PREP SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 18

BOYS BASKETBALL

Umatilla @ Riverside, 7 p.m.

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

Friday, February 19

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hermiston @ Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hermiston vs. Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.

UMATILLA VS. TBD, TBD

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

Saturday, February 20

BOYS BASKETBALL

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Echo vs. TBD @ Districts @ Baker, TBD

SWIMMING

Hermiston @ State @ Gresham, TBD

WRESTLING

Hermiston @ Districts @ Bend, TBD

Tuesday, February 23

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hermiston vs. Pendleton, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hermiston vs. Pendleton, 5:45 p.m.

With the score tied at 61, Kaden Webb ran the length of the court, caught the Hail Mary pass and scored at the buzzer, giving Umatilla the last-second win. Webb had 10 points in the game, and Trent Durfey led all scorers with a season-high 14 points.

Umatilla plays Riverside Tuesday for a chance to play in the district tournament.

UHS (11-13, 3-6) 15 12 24 12 — 63
VHS (3-21, 0-9) 11 19 17 14 — 61
UMATILLA — T. Durfey 14, J. Coria 12, K. Webb 10, S. Miller 10, J. Ramirez 8, S. Garcia 6, S. Cranston 3, G. Armenta, J. Tejada, J. Garcia, J. Maret.
VALE — Brock 21, Derek 13, Jake 21, Zac 8, Rudy 7, Seth, Gustavo, Noah, Jakob, Garrett, Cody, Sam.
3-pointers — UHS 5, VHS 11. Free throws — UHS 10-17, VHS 6-10. Fouls — UHS 10, VHS 18.

ECHO 42, WALLOWA 41 — At Wallowa, the Echo Cougars ended its three-game losing streak with a close win on the road at Wallowa to end its regular season slate on Friday night. Echo (8-15, 6-6 OOL) will now prepare for the Old Oregon League tournament on Friday in Madras.

Cougars qualify two for state

Echo finished with two fourth place finishers with Kyle Ranger at 113 pounds and Jason Fitzpatrick at 182 pounds, which was good enough to qualify for state competition. The Cougars also had a pair of sixth place finishers with Austin James at 120 pounds and Damian Curiel at 145 pounds.

State wrestling competition will take place on Feb. 26-27 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

113 pounds
2) Silvestre Vazquez (Riv.) pinned by Andrew Deleon (Nyssa), 3:33.
3) Andrew Barker (Riv.) def. Kyle Ranger (Echo) by 8-0 MD.
120 pounds
6) Austin James (Echo) pinned by Orlando Paz (Vale), 2:42
126 pounds
1) A.J. Rockwell (Riv.) def. Ryan Vineyard

(Nyssa) by TF, 5:30
138 pounds
3) Teyeler Hancock (Riv.) pins McKay Bennett (Vale), 5:37
145 pounds
3) Ulises Cavillo (Riv.) pins Jonathan Holcomb (Nyssa), 1:28
6) Damian Curiel (Echo) pinned by Jonathan Ackinson (Clatskanie), 3:29
152 pounds
3) Ivan Escobedo (Riv.) pins Justice Watson (Warrenton), 2:44
182 pounds
4) Jason Fitzpatrick (Echo) pinned by Brenden Hicks (Clatskanie), 1:19
220 pounds
1) Anthony Kernel (Riv.) wins by forfeit over Ricardo Mendoza (Riv.).

TROTTERS:

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lost of their best players and had to find a new niche.

The Globetrotters steadily gained domestic popularity, but also some international fame, as well. In 1958, the Trotters signed Chamberlain, a phenom from Philadelphia who was dominating the college game, but the NBA wouldn't take him. So he signed with the only team that would let him play professionally. Then, in 1959, a Chamberlain-led Globetrotters squad went behind the Iron Curtain to play nine games in Moscow at the request of Vasily Gricorevich, the director of Lenin Central Stadium. There they met premier Nikita Khrushchev, and promptly confused the first set of fans for a half with their play before realizing it was more of a show than a display of competition.

One time, in London, the gym Abe booked misunderstood the event. They didn't have basketballs, Eloise said, they had medicine balls — heaving exercise balls — instead.

So, the next night, they were supposed to do a gag where a man named Babe Pressley was to throw a full-court pass to Goose Tatum, who would dunk. Pressley's pass was perfect. Too perfect. It went right through the basket. Pressley said playing with the medicine balls the night before made the standard basketball seem overly light. Abe said in all his years with the Globetrotters — about 30 at that time — he had never seen anyone make a basket from that far, and stood up from his place on the bench and applauded.

"Things like that happened," Eloise said. "It was nice. It was fun."

Since those first days, where a court was "put together like a puzzle," the Globies have become a part of basketball and American lore.

But what connection does Hermiston have to the Harlem Globetrotters? Well, a very good one, in fact. Gemolski, whose job brought him to Hermiston seven years ago and fell in love with the place, moving here about a year ago, has been friends with Eloise for decades. When Gemolski moved

here, he thought it would be fun to call in a favor of sorts and asked if there was any way the Globetrotters could come to Southwest Washington/Northeast Oregon. Eloise said she would make some calls, and, not too long after, asked if the Toyota Center in Kennewick was close. Gemolski said it was.

"This was maybe last summer," Gemolski said. "The Globetrotters checked out their schedule, they were coming to Washington, and we made it happen."

Once scheduled, Gemolski went looking for a partner. The city of Hermiston hesitated at first, so he went to Our Lady of Angels. There, Fr. Daniel Maxwell committed immediately.

"He was very excited about it," Gemolski said.

"I thought, 'If you could do it, by all means,'" Maxwell remembered. "Plus, it could bring some good entertainment out to the eastern part of our state ... I told people at mass last Sunday: These are the Harlem Globetrotters. Not the Heppner Globetrotters or the Hermiston Globetrotters."

Maxwell said the parish is hoping to raise some money to go against its building debt,

but also to provide a fun experience for the congregation.

"It's partly that, partly seeing a famous organization

that's known for some amazing basketball tricks and shots and things," Maxwell said. "But also it would just be

good to see my parishioners and people having fun. I just hope they don't make me do any free throws."

BULLDOGS:

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the bench and, like she has in games past, she shoots the ball like she's supposed to. And now what are you going to do with us?"

With Heehn, Edmiston, Ramirez and Raleigh Andreason each viable threats from the 3-point line, defenses have to choose between collapsing on Juul or Kynzee Padilla inside, or running out on the sweet-shooting guards.

"It's nice that (Heehn) has that confidence and tonight was a huge boost for her," Hoffert said.

The Bulldogs started the game in a full-court press, and had forced six turnovers by the 4:00 mark in the opening stanza. The Bulldogs started to rack up fouls, however — four in the first four minutes — and backed off, but only slightly.

answer, scoring only once when Hermiston could implement its press.

Hermiston is trying to keep itself sharp before the meat of the playoffs, and, in light of that, Hoffert was happy with what he saw Friday night.

"You could see Sara

Ramirez out there ... if you haven't seen her play, folks, she works harder than anybody you've seen play. That's why she's as effective as she is."

Hermiston continues CRC play on Tuesday in The Dalles against the Riverhawks at 7 p.m.

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