

Bulldogs clinch second place

Hermiston's big second half too much for Hood River

EO Media Group

The Hermiston boys basketball team will join its War on 84 rivals in the playoffs this season after a 69-46 win in Hood River

clinched the second spot in the Columbia River Conference.

Chance Flores led all scorers with 21 points, Dayshawn Neal added 25, and Tre Neal had "a basket full of rebounds," according to head coach Dave Ego in his return from a broken finger.

"It was nice to have Tre back," Ego said. "He gave

us a presence inside." Neal also shot 6-9 from the free throw line.

Hermiston didn't play well defensively in the first half and a game Ego called "a mirror" of their last outing against The Dalles last week. But they turned up the defense in the second half and outscored the Eagles by 19 points.

Hermiston concludes its regular season with a home game against Pendleton on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

HHS (12-11, 5-3) 16 17 22 14 - 69
HRV (3-17, 2-6) 15 10 6 - 46
HERMISTON — C. Flores 21, D. Neal 15, A. James 11, T. Neal 8, A. Nailon 7, H. Walls 6, J. Garcia 1, P. Wicks, P. Peterson, C. Schwirze.
HOOD RIVER — N. Noteboom 19, D. Buckley 15, P. Kennedy 7, T. Stinzi 4, R. Mosqueda 1, Z. Moore, T. Fulk, S. Fults, I. Enriquez, A. Roberts, Z. Ellsworth.
 3-pointers — HHS 8, HRV 3. Free throws — HHS 23-32, HRV 11-15. Fouls — HHS

Grizzlies claim spot in state tournament

EO Media Group

The Helix Grizzlies clinched a spot in the state tournament as they held off a late charge from the Echo Cougars in an Old Oregon League consolation game for a 45-42 win on Saturday afternoon.

The Grizzlies (17-9) pulled out the win with its inside game, as posts Sadie Wilson and Paden Flerchinger each scored 12 points to lead the team. Both players also dominated the rebounding battle, as Wilson finished with 17 rebounds and Flerchinger had 8 and as a team, Helix out-rebounded Echo 45-22.

Helix shot 48 percent (20-41) from the floor, and held Echo to just 28 percent shooting (16-56).

Echo (13-14) led Helix 17-13 after the first quarter, but the Grizzlies responded to outscore Echo 12-3 in the second quarter to head into the break with a 25-20 lead. The Grizzlies kept motoring in the third quarter to lead 38-26 after three.

But the Cougars made a run in the fourth quarter, outscoring Helix 16-7 behind 6-15 shooting (40 percent) but it just was not enough to overtake the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies now await the tournament scheduling, as Echo ends the season falling just short of the post-season.

EHS (13-14) 17 3 6 16 - 42
GHS (17-9) 13 12 13 7 - 45
ECHO — K. Ranger 20, T. Swaggart 10, H. McCarty 6, D. Tarvin 5, L. Cox 1, E. Parks, S. Stone.

HELIX — S. Wilson 12, P. Flerchinger 12, C. Bennett 9, M. Tullis 8, E. Fehrenbacher 2, M. Mize 2, H. Christman, B. Newton.
 3-pointers — EHS 5, GHS 2. Free throws — EHS 5-12, GHS 3-5. Fouls — EHS 14, GHS 10.

Boys Basketball

POWDER VALLEY 65, ECHO 49 — At Baker City, the Echo Cougars fell short of a third-place finish at the Old Oregon League district tournament with a loss to Powder Valley on Saturday afternoon.

Michael Thompson led the Cougars (9-17) with 18 points on 7-12 shooting and hit two 3-pointers, as well as turning in 11 total rebounds in the game. Carlos Chavez added 11 points for Echo, while Brock Moffitt had seven points and 13 rebounds.

Echo shot well in the game, hitting 17-47 total shots (36 percent), but could not keep up with Powder Valley for four full quarters. The Badgers (17-6) outscored Echo in every quarter, and attempted 24 more field goals with the help of a whopping 23 offensive rebounds. Overall, Powder Valley out-rebounded Echo 52-40.

The Cougars end the season with a fourth place finish in the league.

EHS (9-17) 14 17 12 6 - 49
PV (17-6) 18 25 15 7 - 65
ECHO — M. Thompson 18, C. Chavez 11, C. Medrano 7, B. Moffitt 7, B. Gibbs 3, Z. Gerke, J. Dorn, D. Craig, T. Mulder.
POWDER VALLEY — T. Eubanks 13, I. Colton 10, C. Browne 10, G. McGinn 9, S. Dixon 7, C. Day 6, H. Davis 6, O. Benites 2, J. Zink 2, B. Zink, D. Smith, M. Baldwin.
 3-pointers — EHS 4, PV 7. Free throws — EHS 11-21, PV 8-23. Fouls — EHS 21, PV 21. Fouled out — S. Dixon (PV).



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Maddy Juul fights for a rebound contested by Hood River's Marlie Bloomster and Cassidy Davidson (20) in the Bulldogs' 87-38 win against the Eagles on Friday in Hermiston.

GIRLS

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"We take pride in that," Hoffert said of the defensive effort.

In fact, Hermiston did just about everything it wanted to do.

Turnovers and smothering defense? Check.

Efficient offense? Double check.

Hermiston shot 77 percent from the floor in the first quarter, mostly off layups. The Bulldogs were also 3-3 from 3-point range that frame. The one blemish is a 1 of 5 from the free throw line.

For the game, Hermiston shot 60 percent (37 of 62) from the field, 55 percent (10 of 18) from deep, but just 3-11 from the free throw line.

Edmiston said free throws, and making the right basketball decision, were two little things they must work on moving forward.

"The little things, we could've tuned those up a little bit," she said. "(Like) lay-ins and free throws. Our extra little passes, we need to make the right decision when we get into the paint."

It's an interesting place the Bulldogs have found themselves with one regular season game to play — at home against Pendleton on Tuesday. The Bulldogs haven't had a result inside 10 points since beating Sunnyside (WA) 63-62 on Jan. 12, and Hermiston's average margin of victory in 2016 is a whopping 26.54 points.

Perhaps all those blow-out victories will soften the Bulldogs with the state tournament approaching.

Edmiston said it provides motivation in close games. Hoffert said the blowouts are evidence of success.

"I don't think it's a bad thing because we're try-



Hermiston's Jansen Edmiston passes the pass in front of Hood River's Nohea Bailey in the Bulldogs' 87-38 win against the Eagles on Friday in Hermiston.



Hermiston's Sara Ramirez shoots the ball in front of Hood River's Abby Walker in the Bulldogs' 87-38 win against the Eagles on Friday in Hermiston.

ing to put ourselves in a position where we're in a playoff game," he said. "This is how we need to

play when we get someone down. You have to put your foot on them and hold them down."

Whatever the large margins mean, Hermiston (ranked fifth by the OSAA) has to this point done exactly what it intended.

Hoffert and his players set their sights high before the season and knew an appearance in the state championship game was attainable. With it less than a month away, the Bulldogs has begun preparing themselves mentally to get back to the pinnacle of Oregon 5A girls basketball.

"Right now we shouldn't be focusing on the future, but we need to," Edmiston said. "We already know we clinched the conference championship, and now we need to think about the playoffs."

Hermiston finishes its CRC slate Tuesday night when it hosts Pendleton at 5:15 p.m.

HRV (3-17, 0-7) 12 10 14 - 38
HHS (19-3, 7-0) 32 13 18 24 - 87
HOOD RIVER VALLEY — M. Bloomster 17, N. Bailey 6, K. Davidson 4, M. Malone 3, E. Curtis 2, N. Lopez 2, L. Orr 2, J. Lara 2, A. Walker, M. Vallejo.
HERMISTON — J. Edmiston 19, S. Ramirez 16, K. Heehn 13, M. Juul 10, H. Thompson 7, C. Wheeler 6, R. Andreason 5, J. Thomas 5, H. Meyers 4, K. Padilla 2.
 3-pointers — HRV 0, HHS 10. Free throws — HRV 10-17, HHS 3-11. Fouls — HRV 9, HHS 11.

WRESTLING

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C.J. Hendon (138), Valen Wyse (152), Brock McDonough (170), Bob Coleman (182), and Sam Colbray (195).

Colbray and Coleman each won their championship matches with pins, as Colbray pinned Summit's Jacob Thompson at the 3:20 mark and Coleman pinned Hood River's Oscar Villegas just 31 seconds into the match.

Hermiston also earned two second-place finishes with Joey Gutierrez at 160 pounds and Beau Blake at 285, five third place finishes with Jesus Rodriguez (120 pounds), Devin Bosner (160), Julio Leiva (170), Kenny Brevan (182), and John-Henry Line (195).

Will Sharkey rounded out Hermiston's state qualifiers with a 10-6 decision over Ridgeview's Julio Osorio to earn a fourth place finish at 145 pounds. All-in-all, Hermiston qualified 16 wrestlers for the state tournament on its quest for a 10th state championship.

Isaiah Aguilar (sixth, 120 pounds), Oscar Lopez (sixth, 145 pounds), and Corey Mason (fifth, 220 pounds) just missed the cut for state qualification for Hermiston.

In Pendleton's sixth-place finish, the Bucks placed just six wrestlers and qualified four for the state tournament.

At 145 pounds, Morgan Holcomb moved to 30-1 on the year with a first-place finish after pinning Redmond's Dayton Woodward just 50 seconds into the match. The Bucks' next highest finisher was Alex

Rendon at 126 pounds; he turned in a third-place finish following a 5-0 decision over Redmond's Wyatt Goss.

Lane Evens finished fourth at 106 pounds and Scott Chambers was fourth at 138 pounds to round out the state qualifiers for the Bucks. Marcus Taylor (220 pounds) and Jacob Banks (285) just missed the cut with fifth-place finishes.

The state tournament will take place on Feb. 26-27 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

- 5A Special District 4 Placers**
- 106 pounds**
 4) Lane Evens (Pendleton) loses to Trae Bolken (Redmond) by TF 15-0
- 113 pounds**
 1) Liam Tarvin (Hermiston) def. Noah Wachsmuth (Hood River) by 11-5 dec.
 2) Jesus Rodriguez (Hermiston) def. Jack McEathron (Redmond) by 11-7 dec.
 3) Isaiah Aguilar (Hermiston) loses to Quinton McCoy (Summit) with injury
- 120 pounds**
 1) Andy Wagner (Hermiston) def. Jason Shaner (Hood River) by 7-6 dec.
 2) Alex Rendon (Pendleton) def. Wyatt Goss (Redmond) by 5-0 dec.
- 132 pounds**
 1) Adrian Tuia (Hermiston) def. Thomas Brown (Summit) by 3-1 dec.
- 138 pounds**
 1) C.J. Hendon (Hermiston) def. Matthew McCain (Redmond) by 7-4 dec.
 2) Scott Chambers (Pendleton) loses to Chase Boutlier (Bend) by 13-7 dec.
- 145 pounds**
 1) Morgan Holcomb (Pendleton) pins Dayton Woodward (Redmond), 0:50
 4) Will Sharkey (Hermiston) loses to Julio Osorio (Ridgeview) by 10-6 dec.
 6) Oscar Lopez (Hermiston) loses to Tami-one Dunnigan (Redmond) by 8-6 dec.
- 152 pounds**
 1) Valen Wyse (Hermiston) def. Grant Leiphart (Summit) by 8-3 dec.
- 160 pounds**
 2) Joey Gutierrez (Hermiston) pinned by Mitchell Willet (Redmond), 2:40
 3) Devin Bosner (Hermiston) pins Hunter Smith (Redmond), 2:29
- 170 pounds**
 1) Brock McDonough (Hermiston) def. Jacob Dupuis (Bend) by 9-4 dec.
 3) Julio Leiva (Hermiston) def. Humberto Ruiz (Bend) by 7-3 dec.
- 182 pounds**
 1) Bob Coleman (Hermiston) pins Oscar Villegas (Hood River), 0:31
 3) Kenny Brevan (Hermiston) pins Trystan Fisher (Hood River), 2:38
- 195 pounds**
 1) Sam Colbray (Hermiston) pins Jacob Thompson (Summit), 3:20
 3) John-Henry Line (Hermiston) def. Austin Hill (Redmond) by 6-4 dec.
 5) Marcus Taylor (Pendleton) pins Jason Soto (Bend), 0:43
- 220 pounds**
 1) Corey Mason (Hermiston) pins Damian Garcia (Ridgeview), 2:40
- 285 pounds**
 2) Beau Blake (Hermiston) pinned by Jacob Brauchler (Redmond), 1:14
 5) Jacob Banks (Pendleton) pins Justin Wilson (Hood River), 5:05

Mustangs, Knights dominate All-CBC teams

By ERIC SINGER

Staff Writer

The Heppner Mustangs and Irrigon Knights battled on Saturday afternoon for the CBC crown, proving their worth as the conference's two best

teams.

CBC All-League Team
 Player of the Year: Fredy Vera, senior, Irrigon
 Coach of the Year: Jeremy Rosenbalm, Heppner
First-team
 Patrick Collins, senior, Heppner
 Dylan Grogan, junior, Stanfield
 C.J. Kindle, senior, Heppner
 Logan Grieb, junior, Heppner
 Shaw Broncheau, junior, Weston-McEwen

Second-team
 Hayden White, junior, Irrigon
 Brett Speed, sophomore, Weston-McEwen
 Austin Rice, junior, Irrigon
 Ryan Bailey, junior, Stanfield
Honorable mention
 Xavier Rambo, junior, Irrigon
 Bryson Pierce, Pilot Rock
 Weston Putman, Heppner
 Brody Woods, Stanfield
 Shyler Mikesell, Weston-McEwen
 Chris Weinke, Pilot Rock
 Tony Flores, Stanfield
 T. Bogart, Culver

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, February 26

WRESTLING

Hermiston @ State @ Memorial Coliseum, TBA

Girls Basketball Umatilla vs.

Blanchet Catholic, 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 27

WRESTLING

Hermiston @ State @ Memorial Coliseum, TBA

37TH ANNUAL HERMISTON SPORTS BOOSTERS STEAK FEED & AUCTION

Saturday, March 5th • 5:30pm
Auction starts at 7:00pm
Hermiston Community Center

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS, call Paul 541-567-5215 or formore info., call Joe 541-571-4478

Everyone 21 years & over welcome.
All proceeds will assist Hermiston High School boys and girl athletic programs.

\$40 per person

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