

Burns brings end for Heppner

Mustangs off mark for second day in a row

By **MATT ENTRUP**
Staff Writer

Two games does not define the Heppner Mustangs' boys basketball team.

That was the message coach Jeremy Rosenbalm left his team with following their 49-29 loss to Burns in the consolation bracket of the OSAA 2A state tournament on Friday.

For the second day in a row, the Mustangs struggled to find their shot and finished a mere 10 for 43 (23.3 percent) from the field as the Hilanders pulled away with a pedestrian 17 of 48 (35.4 percent).

The loss brought a disappointing end to what could only be considered a successful season for the Columbia Basin Conference and district champions, and Rosenbalm made sure the players knew how proud he and their community was of their accomplishments. "I told them, 'We can't let these two games justify our whole season,'" he said. "Going 21-5 is a heck of a season. There are a lot of teams around the state at every level who would love to be 21-5."

"They did represent Heppner extremely well. They're high character people, on the floor they're not

complaining, they're playing the way basketball is supposed to be played. For me, as a coach, that's what I'm proud of. This is a special group, and a group like this doesn't come around very often at all. They're better men off of the court and off of the field than they are on it."

Heppner's shooting woes in Pendleton — they went 14 for 49 (28.6 percent) in a 41-33 quarterfinal loss to Bandon — were certainly perplexing for a team that entered the final bracket averaging 56.5 points a game.

"Our offense went away from us for two game, and that's the bottom line," Rosenbalm said. "That was the difference. We had our looks. We did what we've done for the previous 24 game coming into this weekend. We attacked the rim, we got good looks, we got to the free throw line, we got open perimeter looks — nothing's changed in that aspect. The ball just didn't go in the cylinder for us for two games."

Don't be mistaken, though, Burns (22-6) wasn't gifted their win.

The Hilanders hit the big shots they needed to, when they needed them, and generally made life difficult for any Heppner (21-5) player trying to get to the rim.

Senior guard Ty Hueckman provided many of



Heppner's Patrick Collins hugs head coach Jeremy Rosenbalm after fouling out late in the Mustangs' 49-29 loss to Burns on Friday in Pendleton.



Heppner's Logan Grieb shoots the ball over Burns' Ty Hueckman and Scott Davies (3) in the Mustangs' 49-29 loss to the Hilanders on Friday in Pendleton.

Burns' early highlights as he scored 16 of his game-high 19 points in the first half to lead the Hilanders to a 23-13 halftime lead.

"Coming off a tough loss we knew we had to come out firing," he said, referencing their 44-42 loss to

Vernonia in the quarterfinals. "I've been kind of in a slump the last few games but I knew it would come out sometime, just keep shooting."

The only other player to sink a basket in the first half for Burns was senior guard

Trace Tiller, but the Hilanders added some balance in the second half that started with senior post Zach McDonald's first of three 3-pointers.

"Zach's always been clutch for us," Hueckman said. "Anytime a big shot

comes he's going to nail it, every time."

Heppner was able to trim the lead to single digits three times in the third quarter, but it was McDonald that pushed it back to

See **HEPPNER, B3**

Vikings hold on for fourth

Umatilla wins first state trophy since 2011

The Umatilla Vikings went the entire fourth quarter without making a field goal, but hit just enough free throws to hold off Portland Adventist 41-39 in the OSAA 3A fourth-place game on Saturday at North Bend High School.

Aleesha Watson's jump shot with 1:33 left in the third quarter capped an 11-1 run by the Vikings to take a 36-27 lead into the final frame. She then sank one of two free throws with 25 seconds left in the game to reach the final tally.

Portland Adventist's Kaitlynn Knapp pulled her team within one with 40 seconds left when she hit a three-pointer that made it 40-39, but with a chance to tie in the final seconds Emma MacLachan missed a layup and Umatilla's Courtney Dohman grabbed the last of her nine rebounds to secure the win.

Dohman scored the first points in the game, which had six lead changes and four ties and finished with six points.

Watson led Umatilla with 13 points and added seven rebounds, Brenda Campos went 3 for 4 at the free throw line in the fourth quarter and finished with nine points and nine rebounds, and Sidney Webb dished out 11 assists and also hit a free throw in the fourth.

Umatilla led 21-18 at halftime when Campos and Dohman hit layups in the final minute to cap a 5-0 run.

Portland Adventist held its last lead of the game with 6:29 to play in the third quarter when MacLachan scored on a fast break.

Sarah Halvorsen paced Portland Adventist with 19 points and 11 rebounds, but was shut out for the final 6:46.

Umatilla was making its first appearance at the final site since 2011 when they placed third.

UHS (24-6) 9 12 15 5 - 41
PA (24-7) 7 11 9 12 - 39
UMATILLA — A. Watson 13, B. Campos 9, C. Dohman 6, L. Journot 5, S. Webb 4, T. Coffey 4, G. Contreras, G. Lemus. (14-48)
PORTLAND ADVENTIST — S. Halvorsen 19, E. MacLachlan 6, K. La Sage 5, T. Johnson 4, K. Knapp 3, I. Ortman 2, S. MacLachlan, K. Chamberlain, M. Boskind. (14-51)
3-pointers — UHS 2-10, PA 2-19. Free throws — UHS 11-15, PA 9-16. Fouls — UHS 14, PA 17.

Hermiston falls to Wilsonville

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

The Hermiston boys basketball team's season was ended on Saturday after an 87-45 loss to top-seeded Wilsonville.

Hermiston coach Dave Ego said Wilsonville's size and athleticism were impressive. Zach Reichle, a 6-foot-4 junior, scored 34 points and went 14-15 from the free throw line. Austin Naillon was the only Bulldog in double figures with 13 points.

"They're just a really good basketball team," Ego said. "And they're deep."

In his only season at the helm, Ego improved the Bulldogs by six wins over last year's effort and advanced to the state tour-

namment. Powerful forward Tre Neal missed nearly a month with a broken finger, and Hermiston lost twice in the Columbia River Conference during his absence.

Still, Ego was largely happy with the season.

"Given all the circumstances, our kids represented themselves well," he said. "We got into the state tournament, which I don't think a lot of people expected. 13-13 isn't bad given the circumstances."

HHS (13-13) 12 8 14 11 - 45
WHS (22-3) 23 24 28 12 - 87
HERMISTON — A. Naillon 13, C. Flores 9, A. James 7, T. Neal 6, H. Wallis 5, D. Neal 4, P. Wicks 1, C. Schwirze, J. Garcia, C. Ortiz, P. Peterson.
WILSONVILLE — Z. Reichle 34, H. Steiger 14, T. Hieb 14, Z. Rossetti 6, S. Bullock 5, N. Overholt 5, C. Larsen 3, A. Burkhead 2, R. Napoli 2, Z. Woodworth 2, C. Riewald. 3-pointers — HHS 4, WHS 4. Free throws — HHS 8-11, WHS 25-30. Fouls — HHS 21, WHS 12. Technical fouls — HHS bench.

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