

BULLDOGS:

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Ramirez added 12 points and eight rebounds and sophomore Maddy Juul chipped in 11 points. The Bulldogs out-rebounded Liberty 40-28 while causing 23 turnovers and committing just 14.

Liberty's Jaidyn Thomas led the game with 19 points and Pimentel added 16.

The win earned the Bulldogs a seventh-straight trip to the state quarterfinals and the bracket's final site, which will begin Wednesday at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

While the Falcons may not have given the Bulldogs much preparation in the way of a tightly contested game, they did help them prepare for the physical style of play they expect to encounter. Lib-

erty was whistled for 24 fouls, a number most purple and gold clad fans in attendance felt could have been much higher — and they weren't wrong. The Bulldogs were able to match the Falcons in the physicality department, though, without racking up fouls of their own and finished with seven. "Usually we don't play very physical teams and so playing a physical team was nice because now we're going to be playing more physical teams a state," Edmiston said. "So it's a good refresher of better teams than were in our conference."

The No. 5 Bulldogs will open the tournament bracket against hometown favorite No. 4 Corvallis at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

"We're excited because we've been working really hard in practice and we

were kind of upset with last year's results," Andreason said of their 51-46 loss in the championship game, "so it's a good feeling to get back."

"They know that this game is the only way they're going to get back to have a shot," Hoffert said. "If we don't win that first game we don't get a shot at what we want. My seniors keep the team focused and they know that one game at a time was how we got to the finals last year, and so that's how we're going to approach it this year."

LHS (13-12) 11 14 7 16 — 48
HHS (22-3) 20 14 20 17 — 71
LIBERTY — J. Thomas 19, Ke. Pimentel 16, A. Grenfell 9, C. Smotherman 2, A. Gallegos 2, Ka. Pimentel, B. Romeo, K. Magera, M. Jobe, C. Estocapio, E. Maki, M. Williams.
HERMISTON — R. Andreason 15, J. Edmiston 13, S. Ramirez 12, M. Juul 11, H. Meyers 7, S. Gilbert 7, K. Heehn 3, K. Padilla 2, C. Wheeler 1, H. Thompson, J. Thomas.
3-pointers — LHS 7, HHS 4. Free throws — LHS 5-8, HHS 11-32. Fouls — LHS 24, HHS 7. Fouled out — E. Maki, A. Gallegos (LHS).

Red 2 Red reverberates across Echo

By ANTONIO SIERRA
Staff Writer

No cyclist took longer than Joe Myers to complete the Echo Red 2 Red Cross Country Mountain Bike Race on Saturday.

But the true accomplishment of his race was not reflected in the seven hours and 15 minutes he spent on the 32-mile course. It was that he was the only person to complete the race on just one wheel.

After hugging his wife, the Bellingham, Washington man gave a simple answer to the question of the biggest challenge of unicycling through a mountain bike course.

"Finishing," he said. Myers, 59, took up mountain unicycling, or "municycling," as a way to improve his health and has been riding in Red 2 Red



PHOTO BY ANTONIO SIERRA

Two cyclists bike by the Umatilla River at the Echo Red 2 Red Cross Country Mountain Bike Race.

for the past four years. While he used to start with the rest of the pack, the laborious nature of municycling meant he was forced to leave the course

before he could finish. So this year, he started at 6:10 a.m. and spent the next seven hours going over a course that winded many seasoned two-wheel riders.

HEPPNER:

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double digits for the remainder when he dropped in a trey with 1:25 left in the frame to make it 35-23. He finished tied with Tiller with 11 points.

Heppner was led by senior forward Weston Putman with 10 points going 3 for 5 from beyond the 3-point arc, and hit one of those to give the Mustangs a 9-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Junior post Kevin Mur-

ray chipped in four points on 2-of-2 shooting, but the Mustangs' primary scorers were limited to 13 total points.

Senior post Patrick Collins finished with seven, junior guard Logan Grieb had five, and senior guard C.J. Kindle was held to a single free throw.

"They're a physical team," Hueckman said of the Mustangs. "We've played physical teams all year though. Our league is extremely physical, I mean, playing through the refs, playing through everything,

we were used to that."

Rosenbalm was happy with how the players represented themselves on the court, though, and the Mustangs continued to play like the game was on the line even as Burns put it out of reach in the fourth quarter.

"They fought until the end, until the final buzzer," he said. "That's we talked about. You have to play with whatever you

have for 32 minutes and that's what they did. They never gave up, they never hung their heads, they never got wrapped up in anything else, they just played basketball. And as a coach that's all you can ask for."

He said the end of the season always hurts, whether it's in defeat or victory — like their football season that finished with a state title.

"Even in football, it was terrible to say the goodbyes, to have that group split up one last time, and we won the state championship," said Rosenbalm, who was an assistant coach for the football team. "It's emotional both ways and it's just bad that all this group won't be together again. That's the worst part of it."

Win or lose, Burns will go through that process to-

day when it plays Imbler in the 4th/6th place game at 10:45 a.m. at Pendleton Convention Center.

BHS (22-6) 8 15 12 14 — 49
HHS (21-5) 9 4 10 6 — 29
BURNS — T. Hueckman 19, Z. McDonald 11, T. Tiller 11, S. Davies 5, N. Modey 2, T. Reid 1, B. Friedrichsen, T. Recanzone, J. Blackburn, T. Case, A. Stewart-Graf. (17-49)
HEPPNER — W. Putman 10, P. Collins 7, L. Grieb 5, K. Murray 4, W. Steagall 2, C. Kindle 1. (10-43)
3-pointers — BHS 7-22, HHS 3-16. Free throws — BHS 8-14, HHS 6-15. Fouls — BHS 11, HHS 14. Fouled out — P. Collins (HHS).

TITLE:

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the ball down the floor and take advantage of their height," Hoffert said. "If they can take advantage of your height, beat you down the floor and get a post on the block before you can react, then they have an advantage. But as far as five-on-five speed, we have the advantage. We have to take advantage of that in transition on the offensive end, and the defensive press side to make them make mistakes."

If the Bulldogs are to win the three games necessary and is crowned champion of Oregon girls 5A basketball, it wouldn't be just for this team, these seniors or this town. To Hoffert, it

would be a culmination of the program's extra work, from alumni like Maloree Moss and Jenny Hoffert, like Tavin Headings and Abi Drotzmann, and countless others.

"It would be an amazing finish to a year and it would give a lot of respect to all the teams that were there in the last eight to 10 years," Hoffert said. "It would make a lot of girls happy — Tavin, Abi, going back to my daughter's class (with) Maloree Moss and Jenny ... I could name dozens of players in the last 10 years it would mean a lot to. They know we have this saying, 'Tradition never graduates.' And they're still gonna feel responsible for the finish we had this year. Winning the title or not, they have respect for us."

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