

# Herald Sports



## Hermiston travels to Pendleton for Buckaroo Classic



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Lesly Santoyo blocks a hit by Kristen Hale Saturday morning during the Buckaroo Classic at Warberg Court.

## Bucks, Dawgs faced non-league matchups in final weekend of regular season

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

There was a lot of action inside Pendleton High School's gymnasium Saturday morning. The Buckaroo classic brought four schools together — Pendleton, Hermiston, Putnam and Milwaukie — for four matches beginning at 9 a.m.

The two Columbia River Conference schools each played the Putnam Kingsman and the Milwaukie Mustangs from the Northwest Oregon Conference.

The Buckaroos swept their competition, and won the first match against the Kingsman, 3-1 (25-20, 14-25, 25-19, 25-17), and then got it done against the Mustangs in three straight sets — 25-8, 25-8, 25-21.

Hermiston was also able to take advantage of non-league matches late in the season, and were able to accomplish something the Bulldogs had not yet been able to with their young team. Hermiston picked up its first three-set sweep of the season against Milwaukie. The Bulldogs opened play Saturday against the Mustangs, and battled back in the last two sets to pick up the 3-0 win (25-13, 26-24, 26-24).

"We were able to grind and do the things we needed to do, like the little things and take of things at the net," head coach Amy Dyck said. "We struggled a little bit at times and again that comes back to the fact we don't have a ton of experience playing in those big matches so for us, getting a huge lead like that kind of throws us on our heels a little bit because we aren't used to it."

The Bulldogs opened play with a huge 9-1 run to take the lead over the Mustangs. Milwaukie chipped away at its deficit, but it simply wasn't enough. But like Pendleton, Hermiston faced a whole new team af-

ter winning the first set.

Milwaukie came out hot, and made Hermiston work to earn its next two set victories. The Bulldogs broke a couple of set points, and had big offensive performances late in each game to get the eventual win. It was an effort Dyck was proud of.

"We were able to push through and even when we were down and they had some set points in the second and third games — for us to be able to come back and finish is huge," Dyck said. "That's showing the growth that we've had over the season."

However, the second match wasn't as favorable as the first. Putnam bounced back from its loss to Pendleton, and swept Hermiston in straight sets (25-21, 25-13, 25-17).

The Bulldogs played hard in the first set against the Kingsmen, but lost steam at the end, which allowed Putnam to go on a 4-2 run to hand Hermiston its first loss of the day.

The next two sets had longer runs from the Kingsmen, along with communication breakdowns from the Bulldogs, which gave Putnam the advantage.

"It's been a busy week," Dyck said as the girls immediately left Pendleton for homecoming back in Hermiston. "So the fact they were able to hang in there as much as they did, I'm really happy about. We definitely started getting a little bit squirrely there and lost focus there in the second match."

Despite dropping the second match, some Bulldogs still had a good day on the court. Senior Breana Wadekamper had one of the best all-around performances, as she recorded five aces, 10 assists, and eight digs. Sophomore Halee Stubbs and senior Masie Hancock led the team with 21 digs each. Junior Sophia Streeter had a team-high nine kills, and freshman Kendall Dowdy notched 13 assists.

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## Bulldogs hold off Lava Bears

Hermiston wins fourth straight

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

After his final homecoming game, Hermiston senior Dayshawn Neal was at a loss for words, reeling. First, he had to catch his breath, and second, he was reeling from the Bulldogs' 35-32 win over the Bend Lava Bears that did not come easy.

"I'm feeling it," said Neal, who finished with 122 receiving yards and three touchdowns. "It's just hard to explain."

Bend came to town on a five-game winning streak, and had yet to lose a league game. The Bulldogs (5-2 overall, 4-1 Special District 1) weren't threatened by the Bears' record, and came out on the hunt for a win, scoring their first touchdown in the opening drive.

Junior quarterback Andrew James hit his favorite target of the night, senior Dayshawn Neal, for a 90-yard touchdown. Hermiston was up 7-0 just two minutes into the game.

The second drive with James and the rest of Hermiston's offense on the field had the same result. This time senior Jonathan Hinkle ran in a 1-yard score after he had moved the ball 53 yards on the previous play.

However, the 14-0 lead would only last until the end of the first quarter.

After Neal recorded his first interception of the night on his own 4-yard line to stop the Lava Bears (5-2, 4-1) from scoring, Bend's defense stepped up and opened the second quarter with a safety. Its defense continued to make big plays by recovering a ball fumbled by Neal on what would have been a Hermiston first down.

Five plays later, Hermiston senior Joey Gutierrez got a pick-6, intercepting quarterback Cooper Simmonds and running 68 yards to the house.

The two teams didn't just swap turnovers, they swapped the lead too. It happened four more times. But Hermiston stuck with it, all 48 minutes.

"It's a testament to their growth as young athletes," head coach David Faeteete said. "When adversity struck they didn't turn on each other and start pointing fingers, they got



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Tyler Rohrman tackles a Bend player in the end zone Friday at Kennison Field, jarring the ball loose.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Dayshawn Neal runs 90 yards for a touchdown early in Friday's game against Bend at Kennison Field.

after it. They rallied behind one another and moved on to the next play. When your team does that it just shows how much they've grown as a group, and how much they have each other's back and what not."

After Gutierrez's big defensive play, Bend scored 24 unanswered points that stretched from halfway through the second quarter to over 10 minutes into the third.

Simmonds connected to junior Tysen Scott for the Bears first touchdown. The 6-foot 2-inch, 195-pound wide receiver was tough to cover. Scott recorded one more touchdown just three minutes after his first. He ended the night with 108 yards on three receptions.

Bend senior Haakon

Kjellesvik got one touchdown under his belt, a five-yard run that pushed the Lava Bears over the Bulldogs for the first time Friday night.

Down 26-21, the Bulldogs were struggling to make anything happen. Silly mistakes and costly penalties extended Bend's drives and ended their own.

"We can't let that get to us," Neal said. "We've just got to start dominating, start playing."

Hermiston was finally brought back to life near the end of the third quarter when James once again found Neal for an 11-yard touchdown. Hinkle ran in the two-point conversion, and Hermiston was back on top, 29-26.

Bend responded in a

way that any previously unbeaten SD1 team would, and executed in the red zone for a score.

Hermiston answered with one of its own, and every fan was on the edge of their seats as Bend got the ball back with seven minutes left in the game. The Bears were down by three as the score read 35-32, but the way the game had been going no body would have been surprised if they had scored. And they almost did.

An offensive pass interference call in the end zone pushed Bend back outside of the 20-yard line. Desperate to make anything happen with the clock now at three minutes, Simmonds throw a bullet inside the 10. The only problem for the Bears was that a Bulldog caught it instead.

Neal made the game-winning play deep in his own territory, securing Hermiston's fourth consecutive win.

James finished 11-of-15 for 211 yards, one interception, and three touchdowns. Hinkle led the ground game with 141 yards on 16 carries. He recorded a touchdown of his own, and the two point conversion that gave the Bulldogs the edge they need to best the Lava Bears.

"It was a great atmosphere tonight," Faeteete said. "There were big plays on both sides of the field and it was just a fun football game to watch and be a part of."

### PREP ROUNDUP

## Riverside coasts through season

BY HERMISTON HERALD

The Riverside boys soccer team continued its dominance, and shut out Umatilla, 7-0. The Pirates (10-0 overall, 4-0 Special District 4) came out hot, scoring five of their goals in the first half.

Umatilla has struggled of late, and pushed its losing skid to four games after this road loss. The Vikings (1-9-1, 1-3) can look forward to facing Irrigon, the only league team they have beat this season.

Riverside's regular season will stretch on, as the Pirates have four more games to play before the playoffs. First up is a non-league opponent, Prescott (WA) on Monday. Riverside will have a quick turn-

around and travel to Nyssa just five days later.

### Girls soccer

Riverside hosted Umatilla on Saturday and was able to come back from its 1-0 loss just four days earlier. The Pirates shut out the Knights, 3-0, and moved to 6-2-2 on the season and 3-0-1 in the league.

Riverside sits in first place with a one-game lead, and is facing a must-win situation for its next match. The Pirates will travel to Nyssa to take on the Bulldogs, who are trying to knock Riverside out of playoff contention.

Only one team from the Special District 2 will advance into the postseason.

If Umatilla wants a chance it will have to turn its season around and win out.

The Vikings (2-6-3, 1-1-2) took a break from

league play to face Portland Christian/Columbia Christian on Tuesday.

**NYSSA 4, IRRIGON 1** — The Bulldogs did damage on the road and earned a much needed victory to keep playoff hopes alive. While Nyssa did let one by, its three goals in the second half sealed the deal and moved them into second place in the league.

The Bulldogs (2-4-1 overall, 2-1-1 Special District 2) had not seen a win since their Sept. 23 victory over Irrigon. They will need to keep the momentum past their non-league match up next week if Nyssa wants to see the playoffs.

The Knights (2-8-1, 0-4) have yet to win a league game and will only have two more chances to do so. Irrigon will have a whole week to recover, and host Umatilla on Saturday.

### Cross country

The Hermiston Bulldogs competed in one of their last meets before they enter post season, the George Fox XC Classic on Saturday.

The boy's team ran in the 5,000-meter varsity silver race, and finished seventh with 171 points.

Once again, Hermiston was led by its No. 1 runner, senior Isaac Sanchez. Sanchez finished in eighth place, clocking 16:31.17. The field was stacked with many fast runners, as the first two ran sub-16. The next Bulldog to finish was just shy of the top-25. Senior Emanuel Ibarra placed 26th in 17:10.09

Hermiston will run in the Kyle Burnside Wildhorse Invite on Thursday. Heppner, Pendleton, Riverside-Irrigon, Stanfield, Umatilla, Weston-McEwen and others will be joining the Bulldogs.