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PREP ROUNDUP

Hermiston girls finish 8th at state

HERMISTON HERALD

EUGENE — The Hermiston cross country team finished its final OSAA championship race Saturday at Lane Community College in eighth place. Freshman Amanda Nygard capped off her standout debut season as the Bulldogs' top finisher, coming in 29th place with a time of 20:13 and senior Melany Solorio was 43rd with a time of 20:31. Rounding out Hermiston's competitors were Julianna Joyce in 56th (20:48), Sidney Tovey 71st (21:34), Sheila Solorio 72nd (21:41), Morgan Hancock 78th (22:00) and Faith Barch in 91st (23:05).

On the boys side, Hermiston's Isaac Sanchez ended his career as one of the top runners in school history with a 25th place finish after running a time of 16:34, and fellow Bulldog senior Emanuel Ibarra came in 74th with a time of 17:57.

Crater's Andy Monroe won the individual title with a blazing-fast time of 15:19, helping his Crater team win the team title as well.

In the 3A/2A/1A boys championship, Heppner's Hunter Nichols squeezed onto the podium with an eighth place finish in the race with a time of 16 minutes, 50 seconds. Nichols' and Heppner's district foe, the Union Bobcats, won the team championship with 42 points and a huge cushion over second-place Bandon (124). Union's Alex Grafunder claimed the individual title with a time of 15:33 and teammate Tim Stevens was second place with a time of 15:48, the only two sub-16 minute times of the race.

Hermiston's hot streak ends in Bend

The Hermiston Bulldogs' final shot at an OSAA state championship came to an end as the No. 14 Bulldogs were shut out 3-0 by No. 6 Bend in the 5A quarterfinals on Saturday.

Hermiston earned its spot in the quarterfinals by upsetting No. 3 Hillsboro in overtime on Tuesday, but was not able to find the same magic to beat the Lava Bears (12-1-3 overall), a team that has not lost since Sept. 8. The Bulldogs' season ends with a 10-4-3 overall record.

The first-round upset came in a 1-0 overtime victory.

The Spartans (11-4-1) brought high pressure, as Hermiston was expecting, but the defense and efforts of junior goalkeeper Juan Navarrete solidified the shutout.

Joel Mendez put the ball in goal in the 84th minute to seal the win and send the team to Bend.



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Peter Earl dives forward out of the grasp of La Salle's Tony Huynh (55) as Jack Kohnstamm assists on the play in the Bulldogs' 47-21 win against La Salle on Friday in Hermiston.

Hermiston hosts its final home game of season in 5A playoffs

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs were coming off a not-so-hot week of practice to open Round 1 of the 5A playoffs. But after a sluggish start, the Bulldogs (8-2) responded in a way only they could and defeated La Salle Prep 47-12 to move onto to the 5A quarterfinals.

Last week, the mantra was win one to host one more. This week, as Hermiston welcomes South Albany for its first quarterfinal home game, there's a new saying.

"We keep telling our kids that we are one of eight," head coach David Faaeteete said. "After this week, we have a chance to be one of four."

Faaeteete and quarterback Andrew James both admitted that before entering last week's game, the Bulldogs didn't have their greatest week of practice. That's not the case as they enter Week 11.

"They were way more dialed in on Monday's practice than they were last week," Faaeteete said Tuesday. "Last week was maybe an emotional roller coaster, after the big Pendleton win and going into their first playoff game, but now they have settled down quite a bit."

See BULLDOGS, A14



Hermiston's Cody Wizener wraps up La Salle's Riley McDonough in the Bulldogs' 47-21 win against La Salle on Friday in Hermiston.

Bulldogs smother Falcons in first round game

HERMISTON HERALD

It wasn't the fast start Hermiston was hoping for, but the Bulldogs took control before halftime and secured a 47-21 victory over La Salle on Friday at Kennison Field and a trip to the 5A quarterfinals.

La Salle scored first and controlled the time-of-possession for much of the first 12 minutes of play but a 50-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback An-

drew James to senior wide receiver Joey Gutierrez got the wrecking ball swinging. Dayshawn Neal had five receptions for 70 yards and a touchdown, and ran for 32 yards on five carries.

James ran in a 19-yard touchdown for the second Hermiston score of the game and tossed a 35-yard pass to Jordan Ramirez for the third.

Senior power house Jonathan Hinkle racked up 129 yards, including a 10-yard

run to push Hermiston up 33-14, but he literally carried La Salle's defense on his back in some plays. The 5-foot 10-inch 185-pound backer had at least seven white jerseys on him as he fought his way for those few extra yards to extend the drive.

Junior wide receiver Youbani Razon has been a true asset for Hermiston late this season, and came up big in the fourth quarter with a 33-yard touchdown.

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