

Herald Sports



Bulldogs finish busy week 2-0

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**
STAFF WRITER

After a 69-60 win over Hanford (WA) on Tuesday to start Hermiston's busy week consisting of two double headers, head coach Casey Arstein knew Chiawana would have the size advantage before entering Friday's match up. But a late addition to the group, Matthew Kroner — the 6-foot-9 center who was only cleared to play earlier that day — made things interesting for the Bulldogs.

His presence in the paint wreaked havoc as Hermiston was out rebounded 32-22, but the Bulldogs stuck to their game plan and pulled off a 76-67 win over the Riverhawks (0-5).

"They definitely tried to stick to their game plan and we had to stick to ours," Arstein said. "(The) kids battled. Things didn't go our way and they still kept battling, didn't pout their heads, I was proud of them."

The boys played in the second game of Friday's doubleheader, and things were interesting from the jump.

The match up didn't start with the usual tipoff. Instead, junior Ryne Andreason stepped up to the free-throw line for two shots as Chiawana earned a technical foul during warm ups. After Andreason successfully made one of his two attempts, the Bulldogs (3-2) got the ball back and increased their early lead thanks to Andreason.

The first quarter had eight lead changes before Hermiston ended it with a 21-18 lead. Chiawana, with the help of Kroner and its other top shooter, senior Austin Penny, battled back to force two ties during Hermiston's 12-8 run at the end of the first.

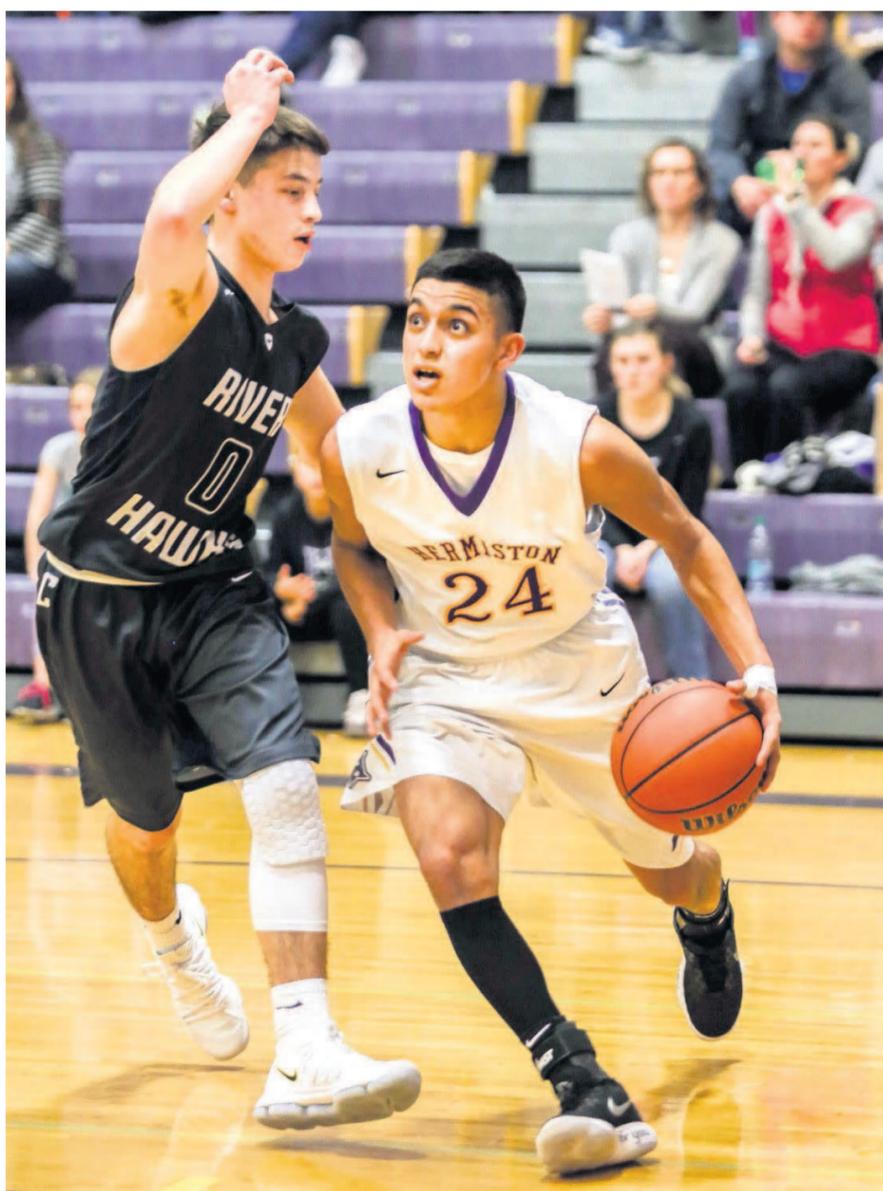
Junior Cesar Ortiz got the packed house on their feet at the buzzer as he nailed a deep 3-pointer to secure the lead.

Both teams ended the game combined for 19 threes with Ortiz knocking down the most for Hermiston and Kroll coming up big for Chiawana.

Late in the game, Kroll's buckets gave Hermiston a scare as the Riverhawks began to chip away at the lead the Bulldogs would end up holding until the final buzzer.

"They've got some shooters," Arstein said of the three's the teams traded in the fourth quarter. "We have some shooters too, but, man, for a while there I was like, 'someone get a stop.' Preferably us."

Hermiston was able to slow down some of Chiawana's



Hermiston's Ryne Andreason (1) drives toward the basket around Kobe Young (12), of Chiawana, during Friday's non-league game in Hermiston.

momentum with a huge and-1 from senior Patrick Wicks.

It was the start of the fourth quarter, and the Riverhawks pulled within 10 points after a 22-point third quarter performance. On the first play of the fourth, Wicks drew the foul on a reverse layup and converted the free throw attempt into a three-point play.

That gave not only Hermiston a spark, but set a fire under Chiawana and the Riverhawks went on a 10-3 run to threaten Hermiston's lead more than half way through the final quarter.

"In basketball it's a game of runs and I told the guys at the time out, we just have to withstand the run," Arstein said.

The Bulldogs did just that and held on for their third consecutive victory.

Andreason and Ortiz continued to lead Hermiston in points. After the pair scored 24 and 23 points, respectively, in Tuesday's win against Hanford (WA), the duo once again knocked down the most shots Friday.

Ortiz led all scorers with 22 points on the night. Andreason and Wicks both chipped in 12 each for Hermiston. For Chiawana, senior Taylor Kroll (17), Kroner (17) and Penny (11) were the top shooters.

Hermiston continued its home stand with another game in the Dawg House on Tuesday against Cleveland. The results were not available at press time.



Above: Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez (24) drives toward the basket around Isaiah Cantu (0), of Chiawana, during Friday's non-league game in Hermiston.

Left: Hermiston's Andrew Earl (2) goes up for a shot during Friday's non-league game against Chiawana in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTOS
BY KATHY ANEY

Umatilla takes the crown in Columbia River Clash

UMATILLA — The home court advantage served the Umatilla Vikings well in the championship game of the Columbia River Clash. The host school faced Pilot Rock to wrap up a busy three-day tournament, and ran away with a 50-27 victory.

The last game of the tournament proved to be a good one as both teams entered undefeated but thanks to the effort from Umatilla's bigs, the Vikings (5-0) were the ones to remain perfect on the season. Junior Uriel Garcia led the team with 14 points and fellow junior Christian De Loera was the only other Viking to score in the double digits with 10 points.

To get to the final game, Umatilla had two days of competition to get through.

First, the Vikings defeated Union 83-35 on Thursday.

Senior Seth Cranston led the Vikings with 20 points, junior Sebastian Garcia had 16 points and senior Moises Garcia led the Bobcats by a 42-19 score at the break, and then exploded for 37 points in the third quarter to cruise to the victory.

Umatilla then advanced to the championship game with a big 70-18 win over Echo on Friday



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Stanfield head coach Devin Bailey draws up a play during a time out during the Tigers' 61-58 win against Arlington at the Columbia River Clash on Thursday in Umatilla.

night.

Senior Kaden Webb scored 12 points with six assists and Cranston had 12 points, five steals and four rebounds to lead the Vikings.

PILOT ROCK ROCKETS

To open the tournament senior Bryson Pierce was the start of the show, as he scored 22 points in the 56-34 over Riverside.

After Pierce, seniors Chris Weinke scored 11 points for the

Rockets and Riley Lankford had 10, while sophomore Levi Thieme contributed nine.

On Friday, Piece again led Pilot Rock in a 66-37 win over Stanfield to advance to the championship game. Pierce scored a game-high 23 points.

Sophomore Bodie Key added 19 points for the Rockets and Weinke chipped in 14.

Umatilla was able to shut Pierce and company down in the

final day of the tournament, holding him to only nine points, all of which were in the first half. After the loss, the Rockets moved their record to 5-1 and keep their place at the top of the Class 2A Columbia Basin Conference standings.

STANFIELD TIGERS

Before the loss to Pilot Rock, Stanfield fared well in the Clash. The Tigers first knocked off Arlington with 61-58 victory over the Honkers.

But they couldn't keep up that momentum against league-opponent, Pilot Rock, and fell 66-37. Eduardo Nunez led the Tigers with 10 points and Elias Esquivel and Brody Woods both finished with nine.

Stanfield managed to turn things around Saturday and end the tournament with a 56-52 win over Echo, and now sit 3-5.

RIVERSIDE PIRATES

The Riverside Pirates opened the three-day tournament with a forgettable game Thursday, a 56-34 loss to Pilot Rock.

Sophomore Cristian Rea led the Pirates (1-3) with 10 points and senior Felix Aparicio chipped in seven.

The Pirates rebounded well and

the squad picked up their second win of the season by putting away the Arlington Honkers on Friday night.

Junior Mario Madrigal led the Pirates (2-3) with 12 points and senior Mason Hegar notched 11 points. Their momentum continued into the final day of play.

Despite the low scoring affair for the Pirates to wrap up the Clash, Riverside held on to its lead narrowly defeating Union 33-32.

Union battled back in the second half but after two missed free throws as time expired in the fourth quarter, the Bobcats were unable to complete the comeback.

Riverside improved to 3-3 on the season behind a team-high eight points from Madrigal and Aparicio.

ECHO COUGARS

At the Clash, Echo notched its first win of the season over Faith Bible on Thursday.

But fell back to its losing ways against the host school, and dropped Friday's game 70-18. Morgan Marcum led the Cougars (1-3) with five points.

Echo wasn't able to bounce back from that loss as the Cougars dropped their final game 56-52 to Stanfield on Saturday.