

Herald Sports



Swim team earns first place in Hood River

HERMISTON HERALD

HOOD RIVER — On Saturday, Hermiston joined nine other schools, including Pendleton, at the Hood River Valley Invitational.

The Hermiston boys swim team ran away with first place by more than a 20-point margin. The Bulldogs earned 147 points behind top finishes from Carson Wrathall and

Ryan Barnard. The pair had top finishes in their individual races.

Neither girls team cracked the top three, with Pendleton finishing in fourth place with 72 points and Hermiston only scoring 22 points for ninth.

Overall, Pendleton fell just outside the top three and finished in fourth place with 171 points. Hermiston followed in fifth with 169 points.

Barnard's success came early in the 200-yard individual medley. He finished in 2:11.95, nearly six seconds faster than the rest of the field. His top spot earned 14 points for the team. In his next event, the 100-yard butterfly, he finished in second place (57.77).

In the 100-yard freestyle, Wrathall added another 14 points to the team total when he finished in 51.71. Like Barnard, he also

claimed second in another individual event.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Wrathall finished seconds ahead of a Buckaroo and seconds out of first place. He earned second in 1:06.06.

The Bulldogs had two other top-three performances to help boost them above the competition. The 200-yard medley relay team consisting of Wrathall, Barnard,

Seth Buck and Lane Stevenson finished second out of a field of 10. The boys clocked 1:53.59, just 0.54 seconds shy of first place.

Hermiston's boys relay teams continued to impress as the 200-yard freestyle with the same swimmers from the medley relay again earned the top spot. The Bulldogs edged out a third place Pendleton squad and second place La Grande to take first in 1:38.50.

PREP ROUNDUP

Hermiston girls win first league game

HERMISTON HERALD

THE DALLES — On Friday, the Hermiston Bulldogs were on the road for their first league game, and with it came their biggest victory of the season.

Hermiston has won three consecutive games and sit at 5-11 on the season, and now 1-0 in the Columbia River Conference.

Up 44-21 at the half, the Bulldogs maintained their lead to put the Riverhawks (6-9 overall, 0-1 CRC) at bay.

IRRIGON 32, NYSSA 28 — The Irrigon girls basketball team had a quick turnaround this weekend. The Knights were coming off a 56-49 loss Friday, and hosted Nyssa for its second home game in as many days.

However, Saturday's outcome favored the Knights as they defeated the Bulldogs 32-28.

"We finally caught Nyssa in the fourth quarter, hit a couple big shots, and made 7-of-10 free throws to pull out a big win for us," head coach Mike Royer said.

Senior Jada Burns led the Knights' efforts, and scored a game-high 12 points. Fellow senior Taylor Davis was three points shy of a double-double, as she grabbed 12 rebounds and finished with seven points. To go along with Burns' team-best shooting, she also notched five steals and two assists.

Leading Nyssa (8-8 overall, 2-2 Eastern Oregon League) was sophomore Britain Hartley with nine points.

Next, Irrigon (14-3, 3-2) will travel to Riverside for a 6 p.m. matchup with the Pirates on Tuesday.

NHS 7 8 6 7 — 28
IHS 4 6 8 14 — 32
 NYSSA — B. Hartley 9, A. Arredondo, A. Hernandez 7, B. Arredondo 3, B. Trujillo 1.
 IRRIGON — J. Burns 12, T. Davis 7, B. Rice 5, A. Zacarias 4, N. Romero 4.
 3-pointers — NHS 3, IHS 1. Free throws — NHS 5-12, IHS 9-16.

HELIX 51, ECHO 33 — For the second consecutive day, Helix earned a victory over a league opponent. On Friday, the Grizzlies grinded out a 21-point win and Saturday at Echo, Helix defeated the Cougars 51-33.

Senior Emma Fehrenbacher

See **ROUNDUP, A11**

DAWGS SHOW BITE

Hermiston opens league strong with two straight

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**
 STAFF WRITER

If you ask the Hermiston boys basketball team about the losing skid that started late December and chased them into the new year, they just brush it off.

It started with a win on Tuesday against La Grande.

Turnovers and missed opportunities hurt Hermiston during its first outing versus the Tigers, but a cleaner performance at home gave the Bulldogs the advantage for the entire game and ultimately a 68-64 win.

Junior Andrew James stepped in for an injured Jordan Ramirez, who is suffering from a hamstring injury, and aided in Hermiston's efforts to go up 14-10 at the half.

James didn't record any points on the night, but his selfless play and help moving the ball led to the Bulldogs opening the game with three consecutive 3-pointers and a total of 11 by the end of the night.

Cesar Ortiz has been a reliable shooter behind the arc for Hermiston, but it was Cole Smith who got things started for the Bulldogs with the first 3-point of the night. Ortiz led the team with 29 points, while Smith was the only other player to hit double digits with 11.

The Tigers struggled to get anything going in the opening eight minutes. Their first basket was a free throw from GT Blackman, who finished with 15 points, but that was nearly three minutes into the game.

La Grande's top scorer Kaden Chandler was just one of three players to score in the first quarter for the Tigers. Chandler finished with 20 points, 14 of which were in the second half.

It would take La Grande nearly two full quarters to finally find its rhythm.

The Tigers went on 9-2 run to cut their deficit to only five points going into the break. Hermiston had a tight grip on its 28-23 lead, something they weren't able to come by so quickly on the road against La Grande.

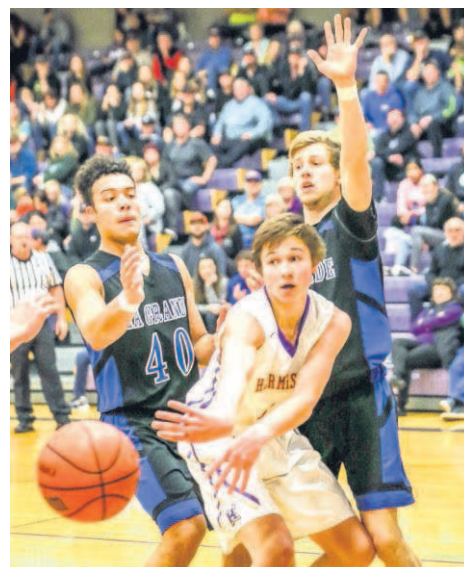
The two teams traded buckets in the third quarter, but the Tigers never quite got within reach. It was only after another short run capped off by Cade Reed dishing in the layup as time expired that La Grande was back in it.

"I was about ready to sit down, I thought we'd have a 10 point lead and stretch it to 12 but they play hard," coach Casey Arstein said.

See **DAWGS, A11**



Andrew Earl, of Hermiston, drives to the basket during Tuesday's game against La Grande at the Dawg House.



Hermiston's Ryne Andreason shovels a pass to a teammate Tuesday against La Grande at the Dawg House.



Hermiston's Andrew James (15) gets tangled up with a La Grande player Tuesday at the Dawg House.

Echo wins division, Hermiston misses top-15

Riverside finishes in third after spending day in Heppner

HERMISTON HERALD

HILLSBORO — At the Reser's Tournament of Champions, one of the biggest events on the calendar for Oregon wrestlers, Hermiston is sitting in 17th place.

Two wrestlers remain unbeaten and in the winner's bracket after the first day of competition.

Adrian Villareal (22-8) won his first three matches of the tournament in the 138-pound division. He won by major decision over

Crook County's Tyler Fioravanti 14-2 in the quarterfinals to remain undefeated and move on. In the semifinals Saturday, he will face Brandon Gibson of North Marion.

In the 285 pound division, Beau Blake (22-6) got two wins after a first-round bye, defeating Ashton Brecht of Dallas as a 3-1 decision in the quarterfinal. He has scored 11 points for the Hermiston team, and has the opportunity to earn more when he faces off Saturday against Tristan Osborn of Newburg.

Other Bulldogs who won multiple matches including Ruben Madrigal in the 106-pound division, Gage Shipley at 120 pounds, Adrian Tuia at 145, and Joey Gutierrez at 195.

Hermiston has 49 points thus far with the opportunity to score more. But Crook County has more than doubled the Bulldogs already and sits at 105 points after Friday.

On Saturday Hermiston jumped one spot in the standings to finish in 16th place at the Liberty Invitational.

In the final day of competition, four Bulldogs placed with Villarreal having the team's best finish after earning fourth place in the 138-pound weight class.

Villarreal made it to the semifinal match before North Marion's Brandon Gibson won by a 5-3 decision to knock him into the consolation bracket.

After defeated Jack Evans of Newberg when a 7-3 decision

went his way, Villarreal wrestled West Linn's Cael Brunson for third place. Brunson won in sudden victory-1 over Villarreal (5-3).

Blake finished in third place after a sudden victory went his way.

Blake was defeated by Newberg's Tristan Osborn (Dec. 3-2) to move into the consolation semifinals. There he won by fall in just 47 seconds. He then faced Liberty's Dylan Thygersen and won 3-1 to claim the Bulldogs' only third place finish.

Madrigal and Gutierrez finished in sixth place. Madrigal was pinned by Micah Worthington of Newberg in 2:21, and Milwaukie's

See **WRESTLING, A11**

SCHEDULE

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday
 Umatilla at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
Friday
 Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
 Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.
 Pine Eagle at Echo, 7 p.m.
 Riverside at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
 Echo at Joseph, 5 p.m.
 Heppner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday
 Umatilla at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Friday
 Pine Eagle at Echo, 5:30 p.m.
 Riverside at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
 Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
 Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
 Heppner at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
 Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Wednesday
 Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Saturday
 Echo at New Plymouth Invite (ID), TBD
 Heppner at Pine Eagle Invitational, TBD
 Hermiston, Irrigon, Riverside at Hermiston, TBD

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday
 Hermiston, Pendleton at La Grande, TBD