

# DAWGS

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The Tigers would cut the lead down to as little as two points, but the Bulldogs didn't budge. Hermiston played sound, smart ball the last few minutes — something that was a rarity early in the season — and with the help of some clutch free throws from Smith and Andrew Earl, the Bulldogs held on to the lead.

Earl's efforts off the bench was the highlight of Hermiston's defense. Despite some missed opportunities by the sophomore in the first half, Earl had to back-to-back buckets to put the Bulldogs up by two possessions.

Then, on the final inbound with 7.6 seconds left on the clock, Earl jumped in front of a Tiger for a steal and was fouled on his breakaway to the basket. He sunk both and pushed the lead to 66-59.

La Grande hit a three to eclipse 60 points in the final two seconds, but Earl had already sealed the deal.

"He's an athletic kid,

only a sophomore, and it's nice to have a kid off the bench to provide a spark and he's very quick when he wants to be," Arstein said of Earl.

Arstein dug deep into his bench, playing 10 of his 13 players. And for the guys who didn't touch the rock, their efforts were still noted.

Hermiston stayed at home for its league opener Friday night. For all intents and purposes, the Bulldogs came into the game with a clean slate — an 0-0 record as they began Columbia River Conference play with a simple message.

"The message was, you can't worry about the past," head coach Casey Arstein said. "We know we lost some games we should have won but at the same time I thought even games we lost we prepared for, got a little bit better and we've played good competition and that's huge going into league."

## Vs. The Dalles

Hermiston hosted The Dalles for the first of a nine-game league schedule, and drew away for a 78-61 victory.

It was the most points the

Bulldogs (6-9 overall, 1-0 CRC) have scored all season, and their aggressiveness on offense showed in the opening quarter.

They came out with a 25-19 lead over the Riverhawks behind eight early points from junior Adrian Mendez. Mendez finished with 18 points on the night.

Hermiston's press forced The Dalles to commit six turnovers in the opening quarter. The Bulldogs moved well in transition, passing along the perimeter before finding Mendez under the basket for an easy lay-in.

"When you play with energy and emotion, good things happen," Arstein said. "I thought the boys shared the ball pretty well. We weren't shooting it like we did against La Grande (on Tuesday) but we hit some outside shots, opened up and Adrian did a good job spacing inside and guys were looking for him."

Hermiston extended its lead to as many as 18 points before the half. After going on a 13-4 run to push the score to 41-23 and force a Dalles' timeout, the Riverhawks looked to their bench

and their top scorer, junior Josh Nisbet, to cut their deficit to only 11.

Nisbet continued to find good looks on offense and hit three of his four 3-pointers in the third quarter to keep The Dalles' chances alive.

After hitting the back-to-back threes with a little over three minutes left in the third, he brought the Riverhawks within five — their narrowest margin of the night.

But just as quickly as The Dalles caught up to Hermiston, the Riverhawks fell back into a hole they wouldn't be able to get themselves out of.

"I knew (The Dalles) would make a run but we made it a little bit too easy for them there," Arstein said. "But I thought they kids responded well — not every quarter you're going to win, so we've got to find ways to capitalize when we can."

Hermiston was able to do that in the fourth. The Bulldogs were beating the Riverhawks to the ball on their missed free throw attempts and went on a 13-7 run to keep the scoreboard in Hermiston's favor.

# ROUNDUP

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led Helix's efforts with 15 points, while senior Marti Huff was Echo's top scorer with 13.

Echo (6-13 overall, 1-7 Old Oregon League) is now riding a four-game skid and will remain in town for a Friday evening game against Pine Eagle.

Helix (11-7, 5-3) will have another back-to-back weekend, first hosting Wallowa on Friday.

**HHS 15 13 13 10 - 51**  
**EHS 9 4 8 12 - 33**  
HELIX — E. Fehrenbacher 15, S. Wilson 13, K. Mize 9, A. Krol 8, C. Bennett 6.  
ECHO — M. Huff 13, T. Skillman 10, R. McCarty 5, E. Brown 3, A. Putnam 2.  
3-pointers — HHS 1, EHS 3. Free throws — HHS 2-12, EHS 2-4. Fouls — HHS 11, EHS 16.

## Boy basketball

**IRRIGON 51, NYSSA 33** — The first half set the tone for Irrigon, as the Knights ran away with a 51-33 victory at home over Nyssa.

They held the Bulldogs (10-6 overall, 2-1 Eastern Oregon League) to only two points in the second half, while scoring eight of their own. After a 19-point performance in the first quarter, the 8-2 advantage in the second set the Knights (14-

2, 3-1) for a strong finish.

Leading the charge was senior Johnny Phillips with 16 points. Fellow senior Abe Gomez chipped in 11 of his own.

For Nyssa, senior Boston Thompson finished with a game-high 17 points.

Irrigon will hit the road before returning home, traveling to Boardman on Tuesday to face Riverside at 7:30 p.m.

**NHS 11 2 14 6 - 33**  
**IHS 19 8 11 13 - 51**  
NYSSA — B. Thompson 17, A. Trujillo 16, P. Chavez 4, W. Jensen 4, J. Ortiz 2.  
IRRIGON — J. Phillips 16, A. Gomez 11, O. Vera 6, E. Carillo 6, L. Covarrubia 4, K. Fleming 4, P. Holcomb 2, J. Sandoval 2.  
3-pointers — NHS 1, IHS 4. Free throws — NHS 10-19, IHS 5-6. Fouls — NHS 8, IHS 18.

## WESTON-MCEWEN 71, STANFIELD 60

After losing to Pilot Rock at home Friday, Weston-McEwen went on the road to face Stanfield on Saturday and the TigerScots rebounded with a 71-60 over the host school.

The Tigers (8-11 overall, 1-2 Columbia Basin Conference) had a good game plan coming into the game, head coach Devin Bailey said, but dropped passes and missed lay-ins were what hurt the team in the end.

Stanfield came out strong with a 19-14 lead after the first quarter. The TigerScots (6-12, 1-2) then answered

with 19 points of their own in the second. They finished netting 24 points in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

It was Weston-McEwen's first league win. Senior Brett Speed was its top scorer with a stunning 35 points. Fellow seniors Kevin Rodriguez pitched in 13 and Parker Munk notched nine points of his own.

Leading Stanfield was senior Brody Woods with 28 points, he also grabbed 13 rebounds for a double-double. Senior Blake Bailey followed with 10 points, and nine assists, and junior Hugo Hernandez scored seven.

The Tigers will travel to Pilot Rock on Friday to face the Rockets, while Weston-McEwen will return home to host Culver.

**W-E 14 19 14 24 - 71**  
**SHS 19 12 21 8 - 60**  
3-pointers — W-E 8, SHS 4. Free throws — W-E 13-22, SHS 6-9. Fouls — W-E 16, SHS 20.

## UMATILLA 50, VALE 42

At home for the second straight game, Umatilla escaped with a 50-42 victory over Vale.

The Vikings (15-4 overall, 3-1 Eastern Oregon League) were just coming off a similar win Friday — defeating Vale 51-42

— and will travel to Irrigon on Thursday to continue league play.

The Vale Vikings (5-13, 1-4) will end its three-game road stretch at Nyssa on Tuesday.

## HELIX 39, ECHO 38

Helix's early lead helped the Grizzlies when the game came down to the wire. They were up only 24-20 at halftime, and came out of the break scoring in single figures for the remaining two quarters. But Helix was able to hang on to its lead and defeat Echo 39-38.

The Grizzlies (3-15 overall, 2-6 Old Oregon League) were led by freshman Eli Sprenger with 13 points. For the Cougars (7-12, 4-4), junior Devan Craig had a team-best eight points with seniors Zack Gehrke and Ty Mulder each finishing with seven.

Echo won't take the court again until Friday when its hosts Pine Eagle at 7 p.m. Helix will return home to host back-to-back games. First up, Wallowa at 7 p.m. Friday.

**HHS 12 12 7 8 - 39**  
**EHS 10 10 10 8 - 38**  
HELIX — E. Sprenger 13, D. Carlson 12, L. Davis 8, G. Newton 4, M. McBee 2.  
ECHO — D. Craig 8, Z. Gehrke 7, Muddler 7, M. Marcum 6, J. Medrano 4, C. Scott 3, C. White 3.  
3-pointers — HHS 2, EHS 3. Free throws — HHS 3-7, EHS 1-6. Fouls — HHS 8, EHS 10.

# WRESTLING

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Chass Amundson won by injury default in Gutierrez's final bout of the day.

## Bank of EO invite

HEPPNER — A number of local schools traveled to Heppner for the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational.

In the eight-team field, Riverside was one of few schools to eclipse 100 points, and claimed third place (115). Irrigon, Hermiston and host school Heppner rounded out the rest of the standings.

The Knights finished with 64 points, good for sixth place. The Bulldogs brought a small team to the invitational and placed seventh with 53 points. The Mustangs barely made it over the 50-point mark, and finished in eighth place (52).

For Riverside, Fernando Ortega (106) had the best performance earning a second place finish after Joseph's Steven Beckman won by a major decision (13-2).

The Pirates also had a sixth place finisher in the 106-pound weight class. Yeidi Ramos survived the consultation rounds to face Baker's Alex Gross in the fifth place match. Ramos was pinned in 1:54 to finish just outside the top five.

Five of Riverside's wrestlers finished in third place: Andrew Barker (120), Christian Reyes (126), Ethan Snyder (132), Jacob Harris (145) and Allan Gutierrez (220).

Jose Puerta (152) was the only Pirate to finish in fourth place after Heppner's Carson Brosnan won by fall in 3:01.

Rounding out the team's top finishers was Juan Salgado (182), Adolfo Martinez (195) and Michael Carroll (285), all of whom claiming fifth place in their respective weight class.

Hermiston's wrestling team was split between two meets on Saturday. In Heppner, a handful of wrestlers made the trip with Alice Todryk (106) and Cole Abbott (113) having the best finish for the Bulldogs.

Both wrestlers finished in third place, Todryk defeated Riverside's Ramos in the consolation semifinal bout to face Ethan Moore of Grant Union in the third place match. She won by fall in 3:11. Abbott also made it out of the consolation semifinal and won by fall over

Mac-Hi's Layne Ensey. The bout almost latest the full three rounds before Abbott trapped Ensey at the 5:54 mark.

Hermiston's Daniel Shipley (145) and Sam Marsengill (120) finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

The hosting Mustangs didn't fare well at their home meet. Leo Waite (126) had the most success with a second place finish. Carson Brosnan (152) and Charles Cason (160) both followed with third place finishes, while Trevor Antonucci (120) ended the day in fourth.

Suzanneah Cason (126) and Ethan Holmgren (182) finished in fifth and sixth place, respectively.

## 1A matchups

CRANE — Over the weekend in Crane, Class 1A schools gathered to see which would take home the 1A Oregon State Championship.

The Echo Cougars sat atop the leaderboard, winning the championship by 4.5 points. Five Cougars finished first in their respective weight class, one in second place and the last wrestler to place claimed third.

Kyle Ranger (126) received a bye in the quarterfinal round to then face Crane's Glen Starbuck in the semifinals — where Ranger won by a technical fall in 4:44 — and Lowell's Logan Davis-Tucker, who he pinned in 2:45.

Hayden Hilliard (132), Mychael Pointer (145), Logan Butler (195) and Kenneth Bevan (220) each took home a title and added over 90 points to the team's total.

Hilliard won by fall over each opponent, and got out of Round 2 the quickest by trapping Lowell's Kent McIntosh in just 47 seconds.

Like Ranger, Pointer and Butler both received bye's. Point in the quarterfinal and Butler in both the quarter and semi finals. The Cougar duo didn't have to wrestle for more than a round against their respective opponents, getting off the mat in end two minutes during each bout.

Bevan was the final Echo wrestler to win in his weight class, 220 pounds. He dominated the competition, pinning all of his opponents in no more than 1:35.

Daylon Eng (120) won second place after Adrian's Kaden Rhead won by fall in 5:27, and Caden Fisher (182) earned third after finishing his opponents from Crane in a quick 32 seconds.

EASTERN OREGON

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