

Herald Sports



HERMISTON VS. PENDLETON



PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Maddy Juul shoots the ball between Pendleton defenders Hunter Kiele (30) and Josie Wilson in the Bulldogs' game against the Bucks on Tuesday in Hermiston. Scores for the girls' and boys' games were not available by press time. Check HermistonHerald.com for stories about both games.

Irrigon snaps drought Umatilla

By **ERIC SINGER**
STAFF WRITER

IRRIGON — With the Irrigon Knights grasping on to a two-point lead with only three seconds left, Knights forward Johnny Phillips nervously watched Umatilla's Kaden Webb launch a half-court heave as the buzzer sounded, clinching a 50-48 Irrigon victory in front of a boisterous crowd on Thursday night at Irrigon High School.

"I was nervous for sure," an elated Phillips said afterward. "It took me a couple of seconds to register, but I'm glad it missed."

It was a long-awaited celebration for the Knights, who had lost four straight to the rival Vikings dating back to last season. The Vikings handed the Knights their first loss of the season just 13 days ago on Jan. 12, and Thursday night was a game they were looking forward to.

"It feels really good," Phillips said. "We had to work hard and play good defense tonight. We knew it was going to be a tough one, but we did what we needed to and came out with the win and we're excited about that."

The 6-foot-5 Phillips has been the Knights' (17-2 overall, 6-1 EOL) go-to guy on offense but was held scoreless in the first half as Irrigon trailed 18-16 at the break.

However, in the second half Phillips pounded in 16 points, eight of Irrigon's last 11, to lead the charge to victory. He also added 11 rebounds and three blocks to his line.

"I just couldn't get a handle in that first half," Phillips said of his night, "but I came out better in the second. I finally got my feet under me and got going."

Both teams' defenses controlled the game in the first half, as the Knights and Vikings (15-5, 3-2) combined to shoot just 12 for 45 (26 percent) from the floor with 18 turnovers for 34 points. The second half, though, played out completely different as the offenses took over with 64 combined points and just 10 turnovers.

There were seven lead changes and seven ties in the second half, with the Knights holding the lead for the final 2:42.

Hermiston earns narrow victory on the road

HERMISTON HERALD

At Hood River, Hermiston overcame a sloppy first half in Hood River and defeated the Eagles 77-74 on Friday night.

"We'll take the win on the road," head coach Casey Arstein said. "It was a good team effort."

Junior Ryne Andreason led the Bulldogs (7-9 overall, 2-0 CRC) with 17 points. Sophomore Andrew Earl followed with 15. Junior Cesar Ortiz ended the night with 14, and Ramirez pitched in 12.

The Eagles (5-12, 0-2) opened the game with a 17-10 lead behind one of their top scorers of the night, senior Jonah Tactay — who had six points in the first quarter, and finished with 12 behind junior Carson Flores (18).

Hermiston began to turn things around in the second quarter, scoring 22 points to cut its deficit to 33-32 at the break.

Hood River came out and knocked down 25 third-quarter points, but the Bulldogs responded with 29 of their own in the fourth quarter to take and hold their lead.

The Bulldogs returned home Tuesday to host the Pendleton Buckaroos. Results of the game were not available at press time.

Hermiston wins lone dual meet

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**
AND **ERIC SINGER**
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — The Hermiston wrestling team hosted its lone dual meet of the year as Hood River Valley came to town Wednesday night. With a few marquee bouts in the lineup, the Bulldogs and Eagles were poised to put on a show, and they did not disappoint.

Hermiston, the historically dominant wrestling team on this side of the state, was up early. A couple pins from the heavyweight class, two forfeits and a win by fall in the 113-pound division gave the Bulldogs an early 27-3 lead.

But Hood River claimed three of the four next bouts to cut the deficit to 27-21. The Bulldogs needed a final push, and got that when senior Adrian Tuia (145) took the mat. He was pitted against Cade Parker and Parker kept things close for the first two rounds.

Tuia got out to an early 4-1 lead after earning four takedown points with Parker getting only one for an escape. The scored stayed in Tuia's favor at 4-1 through the second round. Then, after notching two points on a reversal, Tuia ran away with the bout to win by a 8-2 decision.

Three more Hermiston victories



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's A.J. Tuia attempts to pin Hood River's Tristen Keely in the Bulldogs' dual-meet win against the Eagles on Wednesday in Hermiston.

followed to give the Bulldogs the 45-21 win.

Two freshmen, Tyler Wagner (152) and Daniel Faeteete (160), drew some of the loudest cheers from the crowd.

First up was Wagner, who faced Hood River's Tristan Keely. After a dislocated finger on Keely's hand and a bloody nose that ended up saving Wagner from getting pinned, the Bulldog ground it out for nearly the entire six minutes before winning by fall in 5:03.

"He could have easily, as a freshman, put his head down and got pinned ... right there but he fought and fought and fought and

fought until the blood got him off his back," head coach Kyle Larson said.

Faeteete was close to pinning his competition just 41 seconds into the bout, but opponent Tanner Fletcher got the reversal to cut the score to 3-2 after round one. A reversal for Faeteete, another for Fletcher, a near fall here, some more reversals there. But the score continued to give Faeteete the advantage, as he was up 12-8 entering the final round. Fletcher got within one point, with 23 seconds left and was threatening a comeback win but a final point for a late escape gave Faeteete a 14-12 win by decision.

SCHEDULE

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday
Stanfield at Culver, 6 p.m.
Hermiston at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
Irrigon at Burns, 7:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 7:30 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Culver at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 4:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Echo, 5 p.m.
Irrigon at Nyssa, 6:30 p.m.
Riverside at Burns, 6:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday
Stanfield at Culver, 4:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Burns, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 6 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 6 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Umatilla at Vale, 3 p.m.
Culver at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Nyssa, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Burns, 5 p.m.
Powder Valley at Echo, 5:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Wednesday
Hermiston at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Riverside, Irrigon, Echo at District Tournament (Boardman), 10 a.m.
Heppner at District Tournament (Joseph), 10 a.m.