

# Dawgs defeat Eagles

Hermiston is now 2-0 in league after Friday night win

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — It had been a while since the Hermiston girls basketball team was riding a win streak. The Bulldogs hadn't put up three or more consecutive wins since February of 2017, but after back-to-back wins against La Grande and a league opening win in The Dalles, Hermiston was beginning to shake its pre-season woes.

Now, the wins are beginning to pile up as the Bulldogs take their fourth straight victory with a 56-34 win over Hood River Valley in the Dawg House. Despite the cleanup Hermiston has to do in order to vie for the top spot in the league, the Bulldogs (6-11 overall, 2-0 Columbia River Conference) remain undefeated in conference play and for the first time have some momentum as they get into the brunt of their league schedule.

"It's a confidence booster and we were able to win a game where we didn't necessarily play well," head coach Juan Rodriguez said. "We did what we needed to and those are the types games we're going to have. I just told the girls that it being our last year in this league, every team is going to give us their best shot because they want to beat us and not many teams have."

It was Hermiston's first league game at home, but despite the advantage it took a while for the Bulldogs to get settled.

The Eagles (8-8, 0-2) knocked down three of the last four made baskets in the first quarter to build a 15-12 lead over the Bulldogs.

Hermiston's good defensive pressure at the start of the half forced six Hood River turnovers, but the Eagles were able to hold on to the ball in the final three minutes to have one of its only leads of the night.

Senior Maddy Juul — who played her first game since the start of the season, and finished the game with five points — sank some free throws to put the Bulldogs within striking distance.

For a team that has struggled from the charity stripe, Hermiston was able to make six of its nine free throws late in the second quarter to enter the break up 24-23.

Having Juul back in the rotation and coming of the



Hermiston's Jayden Ray shoots the ball in front of Hood River's Ashlynn Dawson in the Bulldogs' 56-34 win against the Eagles on Friday in Hermiston.

STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

bench is a different role for the CRC's reigning Player of the Year.

"For me, having her come off the bench as a sixth player, that doesn't happen very often," Rodriguez said. "Obviously we'd like her to play a lot more, but with her knee we just want to have her play for the rest of the season. ... Being able to bring her in to back up Jordan (Thomas) is a little bit of a luxury, even though she is a little bit hobbled."

With Juul able to rest and Thomas, the 6-foot-3 junior whose presence inside has been a big reason for Hermiston's success, Rodriguez is now able to dig even deeper into his bench to help stall an athletic team like Hood River.

"They're an athletic team, surprisingly athletic, and they do a lot of things well but they use their athleticism and to get to the basket," Rodriguez said.

When the teams returned

to the floor there was no stopping the Bulldogs, who had given up nine points to Hood River's biggest threat, senior Lauren Orr. They held Hood River to only three points in the third quarter, while scoring 18 themselves.

"The biggest adjustment was to just keep them in front and forcing them to pass, which is where they struggled a little bit," Rodriguez added. "When we were able to do that, then they started turning the ball over, they couldn't score as well and that's where we had the advantage."

Junior Maddie Wilson was the most effective in the third, scoring half of her 10 points to boost Hermiston's lead to 42-26.

Much like free throws, earlier in the season Hermiston struggled with confidence and putting together a full four quarters of play. With the four consecutive wins, the Bulldogs' confi-

dence is up and as of late, they have been aggressive until the final buzzer.

Hermiston again increased its lead with the aid of Wilson. The Bulldogs held the Eagles scoreless with 5:20 left on the clock, and had their bench come in to play the final two minutes of the game.

Sophomore Jazlyn Romero, as well as the other starters, got a round of applause as they took the bench. Romero led the team with a game-high 15 points. Thomas pitched in 10 points along with Wilson.

For Hood River, Orr finished with a team-best of 10 points, while the rest of the Eagles were held to single digits.

HRV	15	8	3	8	-	34
HHS	13	11	18	14	-	56

HOOD RIVER VALLEY — L. Orr 10, H. McNerney 7, B. Frazier 6, H. Baker 4, G. Meyers 4, B. Inde 3.  
HERMISTON — J. Romero 15, M. Wilson 10, J. Thomas 10, H. Thompson 8, M. Juul 5, J. Ray 2, S. Stefani 2, P. Palzinski 2, R. Meyers 2.  
3-pointers — HRV 2, HHS 2. Free throws — HRV 4-9, HHS 12-22. Fouls — HRV 19, HHS 12.

## ROUNDUP

### Stanfield falls to Heppner 33-55

HERMISTON HERALD

#### Girls Basketball

HEPPNER 55, STANFIELD 33 — At Stanfield, the Heppner Mustangs picked up their 12th win of the season after thumping the Stanfield Tigers on Saturday night.

Freshman Sydney Wilson led the Mustangs (12-4 overall, 4-1 CBC) with 15 points and five rebounds on an efficient 7 for 12 shooting, and Jacee Currin added 14 points. For the Tigers, Kendra Hart had a game-high 25 points.

HHS	9	16	15	15	-	55d
SHS	10	8	11	4	-	33

HEPPNER — S. Wilson 15, J. Currin 14, M. Combe 7, M. Nichols 5, M. Correa 4, S. Grant 2, M. Ashbeck 2, J. Mahoney 2, J. McCullough 2, K. Gray 2, M. Mitchell, M. Silva.  
STANFIELD — K. Hart 25, K. McClure 4, S. Sharp 2, A. Carrillo 2, C. Blankenship, J. Wallace, C. McCann, L. Keltz, A. Griffin, K. Soto.

#### Boys Basketball

HEPPNER 48, STANFIELD 43 — At Stanfield, the Heppner Mustangs grabbed 20 offensive rebounds to help their big second half surge to steal a victory from the Stanfield Tigers on Saturday night.

The Tigers (8-13 overall, 1-4 CBC) led 23-15 at halftime and 41-33 after three quarters, but the Mustangs' work on the offensive glass led to a 15-2 advantage in the fourth quarter to earn the win. Trent Smith led the Mustangs (9-7, 4-1) with 17 points and Kevin Smith added 11.

Eduardo Nunez led the Tigers with 13 points and Brody Woods added 11.

HHS	6	9	18	15	-	48
SHS	10	13	18	2	-	43

JOSEPH 56, ECHO 39 — At Echo, the Cougars fell back to .500 in Old Oregon League play with a loss at home to Joseph on Saturday.

Echo (8-13 overall, 5-5 OOL) next plays at Nixy-aawii on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

#### Wrestling

FARM-CITY TOURNAMENT — At Hermiston, the host Hermiston Bulldogs had four individual champions and 16 placers as they captured the team title of the Farm-City tournament on Saturday at the Dawg House.

The Bulldogs finished in first place with 269 points, holding off the Dallas Dragons who finished in second place with 266 points. The Riverside Pirates (100) finished

in sixth and the Irrigon Knights (96) were seventh.

For Hermiston, Ruben Madrigal was the first winner of the day at 113 pounds, where he defeated Baker's Johnny Niehaus by a 19-15 decision. Then, Adrian Tuia won at 145 pounds with a 14-5 major decision over Eagle's (ID) Luke Chapman, Joey Gutierrez won at 195 pounds with a pin in 44 seconds over Irrigon's Brady Harrington, and Beau Blake won a 3-2 decision at 285 pounds over Dallas' Ashten Brecht.

The remaining Bulldogs to reach the medal stand were Adrian Delgado (2nd, 106 pounds), Isaac Lambert (4th, 113), Gage Shipley (5th, 120), Sam Marsengill (6th, 120), Shawn Pourier (6th, 126), Daymian Rivera (4th, 145), Daniel Faaeteete (4th, 160), Zach Kirkpatrick (2nd, 170), Jake Palmer (2nd, 182), Moises Avila (5th, 182), Sean Stewart (3rd, 220), and Garrett Hills (4th, 285).

Riverside finished the day with eight of its 11 wrestlers earning spots on the podium. The best finishes for the Pirates came with Fernando Ortega (106 pounds), Abraham Silva (113) and Christian Reyes (132) all earning third place in their weight class.

The rest of the Pirate placers were Andrew Barker (4th, 120 pounds), Ethan Snyder (5th, 138), Jose Puerta (5th, 145), Allan Gutierrez (5th, 220), and Michael Carroll (6th, 285).

Irrigon finished the day with seven of its nine wrestlers on the podium, with Harrington's runner-up at 195 leading the way. The remaining placers were Roberto Ayala (4th, 152), Josue Aguilera (5th, 160), Alex Walls (3rd, 170), Christian Michaels (5th, 170), Kevin Ortega (5th, 195), and Kaleb Kendrick (3rd, 285).

PINE EAGLE INVITATIONAL — At Halfway, the Heppner Mustangs put together a seventh place finish with 52 points at the Pine Eagle Invitational on Saturday.

Leo Waite had the best performance of the group as he pinned Grant Union's Braden Spencer at 5:47 to win first place at 126 pounds. Trevor Antonucci came close to the title at 120 pounds, but dropped a 3-0 decision to Joseph's Zeb Ramsden and settled for second place.

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