

Herald Sports



Hermiston swim team defends district title

HERMISTON HERALD

HOOD RIVER — For the second straight year, the Hermiston boys swim team claimed the district title behind four top finishes and 83 total points.

Junior Ryan Barnard earned first in the 200-yard individual medley (2:05.08), beating out second place Hood River Valley (HRV) by nearly 15 seconds.

Senior Carson Wrathall won individual district titles in two events. First, the 100-yard freestyle where he clocked 49.92 — and was the only swimmer to go sub-50.

In his next individual event,

the 100-yard breaststroke, Wrathall swam 1:03.04 to edge out HRV and fellow Bulldog junior Seth Buck, who earned a third place finish (1:10.10).

Barnard, Wrathall and Buck were joined by junior Lane Stevenson in the 200-yard freestyle relay that won first place in 1:36.57. Pendleton's boys 200-yard free relay team was close behind and finished second in 1:40.96.

The same group of four Bulldogs also competed in the 200-yard medley relay, where they earned a second place finish (1:49.00).

Other second place Hermiston swimmers included sophomore Preston Strong, who finished the

200-yard free in 2:18.05 and once again, Barnard, who earned second (55.65) in one of his other individual events — the 100-yard fly.

The Bulldogs narrowly defeated second-place HRV, which finished with 79 points, and Pendleton followed with 76.

The Bucks had top finishes from senior Shane Miltenberger in both of his individual events.

In the 200-yard free, he out swam Hermiston's Preston by nearly 20 seconds to win first in 1:58.27. Next, in the 100-yard free, he claimed the top spot by clocking 5:19.8.

Seniors Rylan Headley and Matt Larsen and freshman Mat-

thew Miltenberger, along with the 200-yard free relay and 400-yard free relay all earned second place finishes.

The Buckaroos' girls team fared better at the district tournament, and claimed second place with 94 points.

Juniors Landry Huth and Elisabeth House and freshman Kyn-dra Nelson all finished first in their respective individual events.

Nelson, House, Huth and senior Abby Williams made up the 200-yard free relay team that finished first in 1:49.70.

For the Hermiston girls, freshman Georgia Stevenson had the best outing. She won first place in

the 100-yard backstroke by clocking 1:10.14, and second in the 200-yard freestyle (2:25.24).

Fellow freshman Abigail Sharon also earned second in the 500-yard freestyle, finishing in 6:29.10.

Team Results	
1. Hood River Valley	192
2. Pendleton	170
3. Hermiston	128
4. The Dalles	52

Girls Results	
1. Hood River Valley	113
2. Pendleton	94
3. Hermiston	45
4. The Dalles	29

Boys results	
1. Hermiston	83
2. Hood River Valley	79
3. Pendleton	76
4. The Dalles	23

RIVALRY SKID SNAPPED

Ortiz helps Hermiston stay in league title hunt

By ERIC SINGER
STAFF WRITER

PENDLETON — As a first-year varsity player last season, Hermiston's Cesar Ortiz carved out a role as a streaky, but lethal, 3-point shooter off the bench.

As a junior this year, Ortiz has worked to develop more aspects of his game and get away from being a one-dimensional player. He flashed the growth of his game during Friday's matchup with Pendleton, working for rebounds in the post, driving to the hoop to create offense, and showing quicker feet on defense to help slow down a talented Pendleton offense.

However, Ortiz's lethal shooting touch from behind the arc is still there, too, which he used to knock down four key 3-pointers and score a team-high 18 points to help his Bulldogs knock off the Buckaroos 66-55 in front of a packed house at Pendleton's Warberg Court. The victory snapped a five-game skid in the rivalry series for Hermiston dating back to 2016, and keeps the Bulldogs in the hunt for a conference title.

"This feels really good," Ortiz said of the victory. "We came in prepared and I thought we played very well."

The Bulldogs (9-11 overall, 4-2 Columbia River Conference) trailed 19-16 at the end of a fast-paced first quarter, and midway through the second, the momentum was starting to swing in the Buckaroos' favor with a 27-21 lead.

However, two quick buckets from Patrick Wicks had the Bulldogs right back in the game and then a 3-pointer and made free throw from Ortiz put the Dawgs on top 32-31 at the break.

See **BOYS, A11**



Hermiston's Patrick Wicks (20) looks to dish off to a teammate as Tyler Newsome, of Pendleton, defends during Friday's game at Warberg Court.

STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Two Bulldogs win individual titles at districts

HERMISTON HERALD

REDMOND — Hermiston finished in third place, won two individual titles and will send eight wrestlers to state after its showing Saturday at the Class 5A Special District 4 tournament.

The Bulldogs finished in third place with 207 points and Pendleton in fourth with 178 points. Mountain View won the team district title with 400 points and Redmond was second with 279.5 points.

For the Bulldogs, Joey Gutierrez (195 pounds) and Sean Stewart (220) each wrapped up the Bulldogs' only individual titles on the day. Gutierrez finished a superb tournament with his third win by fall in three matches, this time pinning Redmond's John Crivellone in 1:44. Stewart won his first career district title by pinning Redmond's John Lawrence in 2:53.

Also qualifying to state for Hermiston was Ruben Madrigal (2nd place, 106 pounds), Gage Shipley (3rd, 120), AJ Tuia (2nd, 145), Zach Kirkpatrick (2nd, 160), Jake Palmer (4th, 182) and Beau Blake (2nd, 285).

After the first day of the tournament, Hermiston sat in fourth place with 85.0 points, just behind Pendleton (93.5).

The two rival schools met up at 145 and 195 in the Saturday quarterfinals, as the Buckaroos' Blake Davis faced Bulldogs' AJ Tuia at 145 and Hermiston's Joey Gutierrez got Pendleton's Aiden Henderson at 220. Gutierrez's only match on Friday featured a win by fall in just 17 seconds.

The Bulldogs put six other wrestlers in the quarterfinals: Alice Todryk (113) faced Redmond's Diego Suganuma, Ruben Madrigal (106) got Mountain View's Nick Valenti, Gage Shipley (120) faced Mountain View's Carsen Johnson, Zach Kirkpatrick (160) faced Redmond's Austin Carter, Sean Stewart (220) faced Ridgeview's Logan Shenk, and Beau Blake (285) got Hood River's Adrian Ramirez.

SCHEDULE

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
Umatilla vs. TBD (EOL District Final at Umatilla), 6 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.
OOL Districts (at Baker HS), TBD
CBC District Semifinal (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD
Saturday
Pilot Rock vs. TBD (CBC Districts at Pendleton Convention Center), 1 p.m.
BSL District Championship (at Madras), TBD
OOL District Championship (at Baker HS), TBD

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday
Echo vs. Joseph (at Baker HS), 6:30 p.m.
Friday
Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
CBC District Semifinal (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD
Saturday
CBC District Championship (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD
OOL District Championship (at Baker HS), TBD
BSL District Championship (at Madras), TBD

PREP WRESTLING
Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner, Echo at OSAA State Tournament (at Portland), 8:30 a.m.
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner, Echo at OSAA State Tournament (at Portland), 8:30 a.m.

PREP SWIMMING
Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton at OSAA Class 5A State Championships (at Gresham), 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton at OSAA Class 5A State Championships (at Gresham), 6:45 p.m.

Bucks win girls series against Dawgs

Pendleton comes back from slow third quarter to defeat Hermiston

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

PENDLETON — In the final 90 seconds of play on Friday, Hermiston senior Hannah Thompson was making Pendleton nervous.

Pendleton head coach Kevin Porter was jumping up and down on the sidelines as his team held a narrow 53-47 lead, that was once an advantage of over 10 points. But the Bulldogs willed their way back into the game and cut their deficit to only three points with just over a minute on the clock.

Thompson, who had been heating up in the second half, converted the and-1 into a three point play to push the score to 53-50 in favor of the Bucks.

"Their outside shooters got hot,

Hannah Thompson, she got hot and I was getting a little nervous there," Porter said after the game. "But we just kept saying, 'Next play, next play.' If they get one there, so what, we've got another play coming."

Make that another five plays for the Bucks, as they pulled away with a 61-52 victory over the Bulldogs at Warberg Court, keeping Pendleton undefeated in conference play.

After the teams came out of a timeout with 1:04 left on the game clock, Hermiston junior Sydney Stefani tried for a 3-pointer to tie the game. The missed shot fell into the hands of Pendleton senior Kalan McGlothan — who was fouled and banked both free throw attempts to put the Bucks up by two possessions.

The Bulldogs, however, weren't giving up. Junior Jordan Thomas forced her way inside for a lay-up to cut the deficit to 55-52.

See **GIRLS, A11**



Hermiston's Jazlyn Romero passes the ball over the top of Pendleton's Hallie Porter during the Bucks' 61-52 win Friday in Pendleton.

STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS