

# TODRYK

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"I'm really looking forward to it," Todryk said.

But won't get far without a team. Just as she worked to bring girls to the sport over 2,000 miles away, the same efforts are being made in the growing town of Hermiston with over 17,290 people.

"I'm hoping that me doing so well this year will hopefully inspire other young ladies to do the sport," Todryk said, "Then, the fact that they'll have the opportunity to just wrestle girls next year, I hope that will help a lot of girls with their confidence of not having to wrestle guys at all."

Todryk was not the only varsity girl on the mats in the area, though. Alissa Hunert put together a 6-11 record at 126 pounds as a freshman this season for the Echo/Stamfield Cougars. And down in Hepner, sophomore Suzanne Cason wrestled at 120 pounds with a 4-21 record for the Mustangs.

Todryk admits, though, that the "mans-game" mentality that is deeply embedded in the sport can

be hard to overlook even with the growing number of girls competing nationwide.

"Some of it is just that everyone still thinks it's a guys sport even though it's not," Todryk adds. "A lot of people look at it that way and (think), 'Oh, we don't belong on the wrestling mat, or we're not strong enough, or we're not athletic enough.'"

"You really don't have to be that strong or that athletic to be a wrestler. Wrestling is for everyone. You can be tall and lanky or you can be short like me. Wrestling is just a sport that everyone can do."

That message is something Todryk wants to share with other young women in the community in hopes of building a team that can continue the championship legacy the Hermiston wrestling program has built for itself over the past decade.

"I just want to give back now," she said. "So much has been put into me that I'm pretty much set for the future that I want to help other young girls and get them inspired and hopefully continue growing the sport."

# Two Bulldogs sign with Carroll College

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

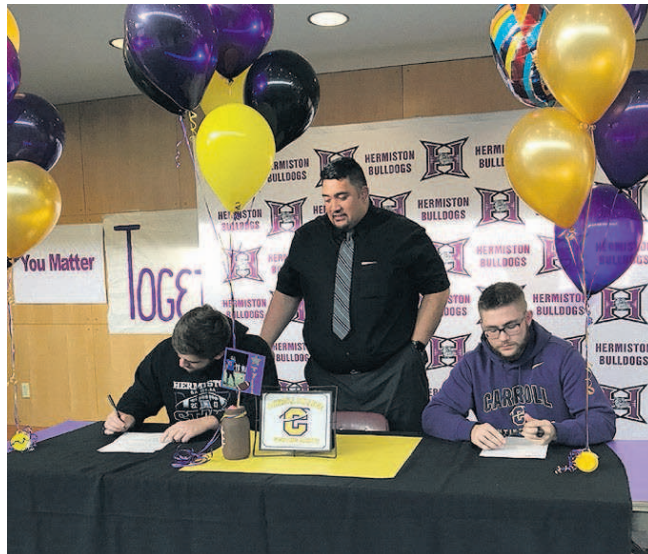
HERMISTON — Playing at the next level wasn't on Eric White's mind at the start of his senior season on the Hermiston football team.

White was more concerned with whether he would be able to play another quarter after sustaining an injury in the first quarter of the first game of the season.

During the 35-21 loss at Union (WA) on Sept. 1, White broke his collar bone and wouldn't take the field for nearly two months.

"There were a lot of times where I thought, 'Wow, is my last game really going to be the first quarter of my first game my senior year?'," White said. "But I just kept thinking that maybe if I just keep trying, I (can) get back for maybe just another quarter, and that's what the goal was to get back just to play one more time."

White made a big enough impression during Hermiston's playoff run, which eventually ended with a state championship, to garner the attention of Carroll College.



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
Tyler Hunter (left) and Eric White (right), in attendance with head coach David Faeteete, sign their Letters of Intent to continue playing football at Carroll College next year.

On Tuesday, alongside teammate Tyler Hunter, White signed a letter of intent to continue playing football in the fall as a Fighting Saint.

It's not just the athletic program and coaching staff of the six-time NAIA National Football Championships that attracted White.

The private Roman Catholic liberal arts college in Helena, Montana

has a nationally and regionally recognized pre-med and nursing program, a field of study White will pursue.

It also doesn't hurt that Hunter will be joining him, and decision that White admits he pushed hard for.

"It's nice having a friend (there)," White said. "Me and Tyler are super close and honestly, I was kind of the one trying to talk him into

going. I kept telling him, 'you know we could both go and play there.'"

White recalled Hunter's response: "I know, Eric, I know."

Similar to White, Hunter was unsure if he would be continuing football after his final year as a Bulldog.

After the 38-35 win over Churchill to claim the OSAA 5A state title, he thought that may be the final time he stepped on the gridiron.

"It crossed my mind that yeah, that was one of the last times I'll play football but I didn't want it to be the last time," Hunter said. "So, I filled out quite a few prospective student athlete forms."

That's when he caught the attention of the Carroll coaching staff, and after exchanging text messages planned a visit with White that would seal the deal.

"I just fell in love with the campus and the people there, it's a really great place," Hunter added.

Hunter plans on majoring in accounting, which he'll then turn into a career of being a CPA.

# Roa's buzzer-beater sends Irrigon to quarterfinals

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

IRRIGON — With 1:45 left on the game clock inside Irrigon High's gym, Catlin Gabel sophomore Jett Sheng hit a 3-pointer to knot the score at 47 points apiece — capping off a 11-4 run by the visiting team.

There had been only one other tie when the No. 9 Eagles took on the No. 8 Irrigon Knights in the first round of the playoffs, and that was in the first two minutes of play.

The Knights stayed in control for almost the entire game, but head coach Davie Salas was beginning to think about overtime as the clock ticked down with neither team scoring.

Each team had just one more chance to win in regulation.

With 14 seconds remaining, the Eagles are called for an over-and-back to give the Knights the ball.

Then with only 0.6 to

go and the score still tied at 47-47, Irrigon's Adrian Roa receives the inbound, and as he's falling back heaves the ball toward the net. It bounces off the front of the rim, hits the backboard, again touches the front of the rim and then falls in to give the Knights a three-point advantage and the 50-47 victory.

"I'm pretty amazed by coming out — there was sixth tenths of a second left, we just had to get a shot off real quick," Roa said. "If everybody wasn't doing their part it would have never happened."

It took a team effort to hold off the Eagles (22-6 overall, 14-2 Lewis & Clark League) on Saturday evening. Catlin Gabel came to town with a 6-foot-9 senior post, Ned Williamson, and dynamic young shooters that had won 13 of their last 15 games.

"We saw them on video and the young kids shot a lot," Salas said. "I told the guys that eventually those

are going to fall, regardless of whether they hit them in the game we saw."

In the first half, those shots weren't falling.

"(But) shooters keep shooting," Salas added, "and (their shots) fell in the second half and they were able to come back, close our lead."

At one point, before the tie late in the fourth quarter, Catlin Gabel came within two possessions of Irrigon, but threes from Lino Covarrubia extended the Knights' slight lead.

Even with Roa's buzzer-beater and senior Eric Carrillo's game-best 14 points, Covarrubia impressed Salas with his effort and hustle late in the game.

"He's been the starting point guard here for two years and late in the games, he's kind of had trouble with turnovers but today, and versus Umatilla, he was solid," Salas said. "He was starting to get that confidence that I saw within him as a sophomore. ... He stepped up

tonight, got to the paint, and had some really great defensive plays."

Covarrubia finished behind Carrillo with 13 points, and his big defensive stops with less than a minute left in the game were pivotal in Irrigon's victory.

"I tell the kids all the time that individually I'm not sure how great of players we are but together, and together I know we can be very special," Salas said.

Irrigon's postseason continues in Coos Bay on Thursday with a matchup against No. 1 De La Salle North Catholic in the quarterfinals. The Knights are 24-1 with their last loss, a 58-49 defeat, on Dec. 8 at a non-league tournament against Horizon Christian.

CGHS	11	8	17	11	—	47
IHS	17	10	13	10	—	50

CATLIN GABEL — S. Agapie 13, R. Hoffman 12, J. Sheng 7, F. Langlois 5, U. McGutha 4, N. Williamson 4, J. Girard 2.  
IRRIGON — E. Carrillo 14, L. Covarrubia 13, A. Roa 6, J. Phillips 6, K. Flemming 4, D. Vera 3, A. Gomez 2, P. Holcomb 2.  
3-pointers — CGHS 3, IHS 9. Free throws — CGHS 10-13, IHS 1-2. Fouls — CGHS 6, IHS 9.

# Heppner girls defeat Central Linn, advance to Class 2A state tourney

## First playoff win for Mustangs since 2013

At Heppner, the Mustangs defeated the Central Linn Cobras 50-41 on Saturday afternoon to advance to the Class 2A state tournament next week in Pendleton.

It's the first playoff victory since 2013 for the Mustangs (16-6), and next week will mark their first trip back to the state tournament since 2013 as well, when the team compiled a 1-2 record before being eliminated in the consolation bracket.

In Saturday's first round game with the Cobras, freshman Sydney Wilson had an outstanding performance with a game-high

26 points to go with seven rebounds all while shooting 50 percent from the floor (7 for 14). Eighteen of Wilson's points came in the second half, 10 which came at the free throw line.

Behind her, Morgan Correa tallied nine points, Jacee Currin had six and Sophie Grant had five for the home team.

Sarah Conner led the Cobras (18-9) with 16 points.

Heppner will now play the No. 1 seed Kennedy (26-1) in the state quarterfinals on Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at Pendleton High School.

CL	5	4	12	20	—	41
HHS	6	11	14	19	—	50

CENTRAL LINN — S. Conner 16, J. Neal 8, C. McLaughlin 6, M. Robb 4, A. Stutzman 4, G. Robb 3.  
HEPPNER — S. Wilson 26, M. Correa 9, J. Currin 6, S. Grant 5, M. Combe 3, K. Gray 1, J. McCullough, J. Mahoney.  
3-pointers — CL 4, HHS 3. Free throws — CL 7-14, HHS 21-31. Fouls — CL 20, HHS 14.

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