

Hermiston hosts boys tennis district matches

Three girls will compete in state tournament

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
STAFF WRITER

HERMISTON — The 5A Special District 1 Boys Tennis Championships wrapped up Saturday at Armand Larive Middle School.

Seven teams, including Hermiston and Pendleton, competed over Friday and Saturday at Hermiston High, Sandstone Middle School and ALMS. The Bulldogs had three seeded entries: No. 8 Hayden Cissna in singles, and doubles pairs No. 4 Patrick Wicks and Thomas McCullough and No. 7 Matt Eckhardt and Trent Pitney.

Cissna made it the farthest out of any local player and was Hermiston's only placer. He finished sixth after a tough match against Summit on the final day of competition.

"It's been such an accomplishment just getting to sixth (place) and being able to play someone like that in the last round, it really made me emotional," Cissna said. "But once I started focusing in, it really brought my game together and the pressure just added to me doing



Hermiston's Patrick Wicks makes a forehand shot Saturday at the district championships in Hermiston.

my best."

Cissna's Day 2 started early with a 9 a.m. match against TJ Fournier of Mountain View where he took an 8-6 victory. The win pitted him against Summit's Cade Doan in the fifth-sixth place match. Doan topped Cissna, 6-1, 6-4, but the Bulldog's efforts didn't go unnoticed.

The long rallies and grit in the second set impressed Hermiston head coach Shann West.

"I thought Hayden played the best tennis I've seen him play," West said. "It's always nice to see people rise to the occasion for events like this and the kid he was playing

has obviously played a lot more tennis, but he (Cissna) had his mindset right.

"He was determined to get that win so that was awesome to see him show some excitement and some emotion when he was playing and do something special and place for us."

Before Cissna wrapped up the day for Hermiston, Wicks and McCullough had a match of their own to play. The duo fell into the consolation bracket after Day 1, and handily defeated their competition to face Bend's Magnus L'Argent and Kyle Taylor in the consolation finals.

"They got stuck in the tough bracket," West said of the duo's first day. "The atmosphere of that was championship style match play, unfortunately we came up a little short but glad they were able to go out of the winners bracket playing the best tennis."

The senior pair only gave up two games en route to the finals and then defeated Bend, 6-3, 6-2, for their last match as Bulldogs.

"It felt really good," Wicks said. "The four years being together, it was a really good time."

Hermiston's Eckhardt and Pitney made it through the first round of play after winning the tiebreaker,



Hermiston's Hayden Cissna makes a forehand shot Saturday at the district championships in Hermiston.

7-5, 4-6, 14-12, but were knocked out in Round 2 by a tough Hood River duo.

No other Bulldog made it past the first round and neither did any Pendleton Buckaroos.

Summit swept the doubles competition with four pairs advancing to state, and in singles play Hood River Valley took the top two spots followed by Bend and Summit.

With the boys hosting the district champions in town, the girls team traveled to Bend to play some

tough competition in hopes of making it to state.

Senior Mackenzie Hill will be pitted against Churchill sophomore Youha Tanaka in Round 1 of state. Hill advanced to the state tournament after earning the fourth and final qualifying spot. Doubles pair of Reed Middleton and Breana Wadkamper will be facing a tough draw in No. 2 seeded duo from Corvallis, Olivia McGough and Sarah Forester.

The state tournament will begin Thursday.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page A9

right back in the fifth when Kirah McGlothan scored following a groundout to shortstop from Alexi Brehaut for a 4-3 lead.

But for the most part, the bats were stymied by Hermiston pitching. Noland picked up the win in the circle as she threw three innings of shutout relief with only one hit allowed. She gave up a one-out double in the seventh to Kirah McGlothan, but stranded her with a strikeout and a groundout to end the inning.

Noland relieved senior Julissa Almaguer, who returned Friday after missing most of the season with a knee injury and tossed four innings with three strikeouts and allowed four runs. Greenough was thrilled to see Almaguer back in the circle, on senior day no less.

"This team trusts her so much and it's nice to see them relax when she can play for them," Greenough said. "Just having her back whether she's full-go, whether she's a little here and there, she's just so valuable to this program."

The loss for Pendleton also snaps its 22-game win



Pendleton third baseman Kalan McGlothan looks in disbelief at the umpire who signals that Hermiston's Kylie Green is safe during Friday's league finale.

streak this season, though coach Tim Cary did not appear to be too upset with the defeat.

"It might be the best thing for us," Cary said. "I think that our focus in practice has been kind of ho-hum; I think things have been relatively easy for us for quite some time and sometimes when you win, win, win you forget you have to work hard for it."

"This might be good to get us refocused, get back to hard work and understand that anybody can beat any team on any given day, and Hermiston proved that today."

It's a momentous win for the Bulldogs, who will hit the road next week for a road play-in game, the kind of win that can lift a team to do some special things in the postseason. But until then, the Bulldogs are going to enjoy the long-awaited victory over Pendleton.

"We beat the No. 1 team," Noland said in disbelief. "We finally did it."

	P	H	S	R	H	E
PHS	003010	0	—	4	6	2
HHS	000300	2	—	5	7	1

(P) L. Richards and K. Solomon. (H) Ju. Almaguer and B. Noland. B. Noland (5) and H. Pennington. W — Noland, L — Richards.
2B — Ki. McGlothan (PHS); S. Atilano, Ja. Almaguer (HHS). HR — Ka. McGlothan (PHS).

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL

Friday
Stanfield vs. TBD (district final at Stanfield), 3:30 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Friday
Hermiston at St. Helens (5A play-in), 5 p.m.
Saturday
Riverside vs. Irrigon (district semifinal at Echo), 1 p.m.
Echo vs. Riverside/Irrigon winner (district final), 3:30 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Thursday
Umatilla, Riverside, Irrigon, Weston-McEwen, Heppner, Stanfield, Helix, Lone, Echo at OSAA State Championships (Eugene), All day

Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Umatilla, Riverside, Irrigon, Weston-McEwen, Heppner, Stanfield, Helix, Lone, Echo at OSAA State Championships (Eugene), all day
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton at OSAA State Championships (Eugene), all day

PREPTENNIS

Thursday
Hermiston girls at OSAA 5A State Championships (at Portland Tennis Center)

Locals earn state berths at district track meets

HERMISTON HERALD

UMATILLA — Over the weekend, Umatilla hosted the Eastern Oregon League district championships where a number of Vikings, and other local athletes, qualified for state.

On the girls team, Patty Burres swept the sprints, winning the district title in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dash. Burres ran a new season best in the 100 (13.03) and edged out Irrigon's Ana Zacarias for first place in the 200 (27.09). The two runners also placed first and second in the 400. Burres ran sub-60 seconds for a new season best (59.49) and Zacarias followed closely, finishing in 1:01.14.

Nancy Ortiz won the 100-meter hurdles with a personal record (PR) of 16.35, and Riverside's Faith Rosen also qualified for state after placing second in the same event (16.40). Ortiz completed the sweep of the hurdle events after winning the 300-meter race in 48.71.

Riverside and Umatilla's 4x100-meter relay teams finished in first and second, respectively. The Pirates clocked 52.24 and the Vikings finished in 52.61.

Umatilla came back to win the 4x400-meter relay in 4:18.42.

In the field, Umatilla's Maria Moreno-Mendez finished second in discus (96-08.75), Irrigon's Brianna Rice threw a new PR in javelin (124-03.50) for a district title and Viking freshman Chantal Lemus made it to state in the triple jump after finishing second with a new PR (32-03.00).

Umatilla's Trent Durfey won the only district title in the 110-meter hurdles (16.40) while another Viking runner also made it to state. Zayne Troeger placed second in the 800 meters (2:05.67) and 3,000 meters (9:45.17). Umatilla's 4x100- and 4x400-meter relay teams will also be making the trip to state after qualifying with second place finishes.

The Vikings continued their success on the field. Julian Gutierrez won the district title in the high jump (6-02.00) and then placed second in the long jump (19-07.00). Joel Escamilla finished second in shot put after throwing a new PR of 42-10.50 and Anthony Ibarra placed first in pole vault (12-00.00), a new PR, and second in javelin (148-02).

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It's time again for the Athena annual City Wide Yard Sale day. Pick up your maps at the grocery stores or various places around town.

20+ sales.

Come join the fun in Athena, off Hwy 11 between Pendleton and Milton-Freewater.
Saturday, May 19 8am-3pm