

# Herald Sports

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## Hundreds come out for Runner Soul XC Fest

By **BRETT KANE**  
STAFF WRITER

More than 730 high school and middle school students competed at the Hermiston-hosted Runner Soul XC Fest on Saturday morning.

The race, which started and ended at Sandstone Middle School, welcomed athletes from all over Eastern Oregon and southern Washington, including Hermiston, Stanfield, Umatilla, Heppner, Pasco and Kennewick. Races were divided up between middle school, junior varsity, and varsity teams.

But it wasn't just the student athletes that got a chance to compete — in between tallying their results, an open race was held, inviting all community members — young and old — to take a stab at either the 1.5 mile or 5K courses.

"Everyone went out there and performed today," said Hermiston cross country coach Troy Blackburn. "We just want to promote running."

At the end of the day, eighth grader Taylor Fox of Union took first place in the boys' middle school division with a time of 8:45.2, and seventh grader Kiah Carlson of La Grande won in the girls' division, finishing in 10:10.4.

Yakima sophomore Dustin Young finished first in the boys' junior varsity division in 18:47.4, and Hanford sophomore Madison Hughes was first in the girls' JV category with 23:13.0 as her official time.

Union senior Tim Stevens was the boys' varsity champion, finishing in 15:44.0, and Chiawana



JV girls begin the 5k run on Saturday afternoon at Sandstone Middle School.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE



Hermiston runners enjoy watermelon before the varsity awards on Saturday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE



Hermiston sophomore Anna Guerrero nears the finish line at the Runner Soul XC Fest.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

senior Alexa Neff was the girls' varsity winner, finishing in 20:13.0.

Several Hermiston runners cracked the top 10 as well: Jacqueline Garcia

Sandoval, seventh grade, took second place and eighth grader Marina Iza-

guire Frasser took seventh place in the middle school girls' division. Freshman Alexia Serna took eighth place in the girls' junior varsity race, and freshman Edwin Sanchez was fourth overall in the boys' junior varsity race.

"It was encouraging to see the freshmen run because you know they're gonna get even better," Blackburn said. "I have kids that have put in over 500 miles this summer. Cydney Sanchez, a freshman, lead our varsity team. She ran a tough race and passed a lot of people during the second half. When you see them keep pushing, it shows they have so much more in

them." The Hermiston cross country team will travel to Oregon City next Saturday for the Oregon City XC Invitational.

- RESULTS**  
**VARSITY BOYS - 5K**  
1. Tim Stevens, 15:44.0, Union  
2. Brayden Packard, 15:56.1, West Valley (Yakima)  
3. Hunter Nichols, 16:51.4, Heppner  
4. Austin Bachman, 16:58.4, Chiawana  
5. Elias Torres, 16:58.7, Pasco  
6. Bennett Welch, 16:59.2, La Grande  
7. Jack Silveira, 17:01.3, Union  
8. Quentin Rickey, 17:11.1, West Valley (Yakima)  
9. Steven Dray, 17:14.9, West Valley (Yakima)  
10. Cristian Mendoza, 17:21.4, La Grande

- VARSITY GIRLS - 5K**  
1. Alexa Neff, 20:18.7, Chiawana  
2. Kyla Hook, 20:41.8, Enterprise  
3. Maia Vandervlugt, 20:54.3, La Grande  
4. Alisa Fox, 20:59.4, Union  
5. Abby Crews, 21:04.9, La Grande  
6. Elyse Tingelstad, 21:11.7, Enterprise  
7. Audrey Wells, 21:19.0, Union  
8. Melia Loe, 21:22.6, College Place  
9. Caitlin Neff, 21:35.8, Chiawana  
10. Jaimee Baxter, 21:44.4, Union

- JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS - 5K**  
1. Dustin Young, 18:47.4, West Valley (Yakima)  
2. Gavin Newston, 19:10.4, Helix  
3. Mason LaPierre, 19:21.8, Sunnyside  
4. Edwin Sanchez, 19:22.6, Hermiston  
5. Lucas Hultberg, 19:26.2, Prosser  
6. J. "Dane" Voldman, 19:28.9, West Valley (Yakima)  
7. Caleb Leavitt, 19:41.4, Chiawana  
8. Russell Ridd, 19:47.1, West Valley (Yakima)  
9. James Holliday, 19:48.5, Prosser  
10. Isaac Skay, 19:59.9, College Place

- JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS - 5K**  
1. Madison Hughes, 23:13.0, Hanford  
2. Kally Wilkins, 23:32.7, Condon/Wheeler  
3. Kaylee Cope, 23:38.7, Helix  
4. Ilana Moran, 24:21.3, Hanford  
5. Ryann Stahansky, 24:22.6, Helix  
6. Leticia Gallegos, 24:58.9, Pasco  
7. Hannah Christman, 25:14.8, Helix  
8. Alexia Serna, 25:29.1, Hermiston  
9. Charlotte McDonald, 25:35.1, Enterprise  
10. Morgan Woodward, 25:40.6, Chiawana

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS - 1.5 Miles**  
1. Taylor Fox, 8:45.2, Union  
2. Juan Diego, 8:53.6, The Dalles  
3. Trevor Nichols, 9:17.2, Heppner  
4. Keelan McBurney, 9:18.9, Enterprise  
5. Roan Flynn, 9:32.5, Enterprise  
6. Landon Perry, 9:35.8, La Grande  
7. Nathaneal O'Reilly, 9:46.1, Union  
8. Saul Lopez, 9:46.1, Heppner  
9. Weston Wolfe, 9:49.1, Enterprise  
10. David Cribbs, 9:52.4, Heppner

- MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS - 1.5 Miles**  
1. Kiah Carlson, 10:10.4, La Grande  
2. Jacqueline Garcia Sandoval, 10:20.5, Hermiston  
3. Kaitlin Brock, 10:33.0, La Grande  
4. Cecilia Villagomez, 10:36.6, La Grande  
5. Marielle Graffunder, 10:42.1, Union  
6. Bailey Moore, 10:42.9, Helix  
7. Marina Izaguirre Frasser, 10:52.4, Hermiston  
8. Maezie Wilcox, 11:01.9, La Grande  
9. Alexandra Cavan, 11:03.4, Heppner  
10. Zandra Materson, 11:04.2, Heppner

## Bulldogs ride the lightning to win

Hermiston heading into Friday's game against Kennewick at 2-0

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
STAFF WRITER



The Hermiston Bulldogs are for real.

The team is off to a strong start in its first year in the Mid-Columbia

Conference.

The Bulldogs are 2-0 heading into Friday's home game against Kennewick (0-2), with wins over Pasco and Richland.

The Lions have had a bit of bad luck to start the season. They dropped their opener to Hanford, then lost a heartbreaker last week when Chiawana recovered an onside kick with just over a minute to play. The Riverhawks kicked the game-winning field goal as time expired for a 27-26 victory.

Hermiston leads the MCC in total offense through the first two weeks with an average of 417 yards per game, while the defense ranks third behind Kamikain and Chiawana.

Senior running back Wyatt Noland leads the league in rushing with 399 yards on 52 carries.

Quarterback Andrew James ranks fourth in passing with 206 yards. He has thrown for three touchdowns and one interception.

### Bulldogs beat Bombers

On Friday, Hermiston scored three touchdowns in the second quarter and waited through two lightning delays in the fourth quarter before beating Richland 27-21 at Fran Rish Stadium.

Playing from behind in the second quarter, the Bulldogs scored three unanswered touchdowns in the second quarter for a 21-14 lead at the half.

Trailing 14-0, the Bulldogs put together a 65-yard drive that ended with Andrew James hitting Jordan Ramirez with a 7-yard touchdown pass with 6:42 to play in the second quarter.

After forcing the Bombers (0-2) to punt on their ensuing possession — which went out of bounds at the Richland 28, Hermiston went back to work. Six plays later, James connected with Cody Thacker for a 7-yard touchdown and a 14-14 ballgame with 3:33 remaining in the first half.

Richland was forced to punt once again, this time pinning Hermiston at its own 32.

No worries.

Wyatt Noland ran for 30 yards, James hit Garrett Walchli and Youbani Razon with passes of 15 and 13 yards and the Bulldogs were all the way down to the Bombers' 11-yard line.

Three plays later, James and Noland both had their hands on the ball as they powered their way across the goal line from 1 yard out. With no time on the clock, Juan Carlos Navarrete put the extra point through the uprights for a 21-14 lead.

Richland's Dhuanye Guice fumbled the ball late in the third quarter, which was picked up by Hermiston's

Colton Duquette, to stall a drive, and Ryan Kriskovich mishandled a punt return to start the fourth quarter, giving the Bulldogs possession at the Bombers' 34 after Thacker recovered the ball.

Hermiston had second-and-goal on the Richland 13 when a distant lightning strike delayed the game for 30 minutes with just 8:59 remaining in the game.

The rest did the Bulldogs good. They came back out, and in two plays found the end zone as James hit a wide open Ramirez for a 9-yard score and a 27-14 lead.

The Bombers answered right back. Cody Sanderson returned the kickoff to the Hermiston 30, then ran the ball in for a 22-yard touchdown three plays later to pull Richland within 27-21.

Richland blocked a Navarrete field goal with 2:44 to play, but could not sustain a drive.

Richland opened the scoring on a 38-yard touchdown pass from Drew Daves to Sanderson just 2 1/2 minutes into the game.

The Bombers extended their lead to 14-0 early in the second quarter as Daves connected with Kriskovich for a 26-yard score.

Hermiston	0	21	0	6	27
Richland	7	7	0	7	21
Scoring					
1Q					
R - Cody Sanderson 38 pass from Drew Daves (Joey Weissenfels kick)					
2Q					
R - Ryan Kriskovich 26 pass from Daves (Weissenfels kick)					
H - Jordan Ramirez 7 pass from Andrew James (Juan Carlos Navarrete kick)					
H - Cody Thacker 7 pass from James (Navarrete kick)					
H - James 1 run (Navarrete kick)					
4Q					
H - Ramirez 9 pass from James (kick failed)					
R - Sanderson 22 run (Weissenfels kick)					

## Chiawana, Pasco shut out Hermiston in girls soccer

Playing its third game in five days finally caught up with the Hermiston girls soccer team Wednesday night.

Chiawana got four goals from Savannah Taylor and two from Ruth Edrington as the Riverhawks cruised to an 8-0 Mid-Columbia Conference win in Pasco.

"Chiawana is a solid team from

defenders to strikers," Bulldogs coach Freddy Guizar said. "This is so different for us. The girls are trying to keep up with the conference. They have experience and play year around. You can tell they play as a family and have each other's backs. We had some of that in the second half."

Lanie Gomez finished with 14

saves in goal for the Bulldogs (0-3 MCC).

Hermiston's Lady Bulldogs suffered another loss on Saturday. In a match between Bulldogs, Pasco defeated Hermiston, 1-0. Hermiston's record is now 0-4 for the season, and they will host Kennewick on Thursday, who have a 1-2 record.

## Hermiston comes up short against Chiawana in MCC volleyball

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston showed marked improvement from its Mid-Columbia Conference opener Sept. 4, but it wasn't enough to counter the strong play of Chiawana.

Kylie Thorne had nine kills and five digs to lead the Riverhawks to a 25-13, 25-12, 25-17 victory over the Bulldogs last Wednesday in Pasco.

"Last night was a lot of nerves," Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said of the Sept. 4 match with Southridge. "There was a lot of hype coming into the league. They were more relaxed tonight. They let the mistakes go instead of letting them get to them."

Haylee Stubbs had four ace serves and eight digs for the Bulldogs (0-2 MCC), who had better ball control and attacked at the net with more authority than they did the previous night.

"It was one of the best matches she has had," Dyck said of Stubbs. "She was all over the place. We are developing our volleyball IQ everyday, along with building our system. They are trying not to get overwhelmed. We are getting to believe."

Hermiston was right in the thick of things in

the first game, and at one point held a 9-7 lead. After the Bulldogs fought to tie the score at 12, the Riverhawks started to pull away.

Thorne served the last seven points of the game, a string that included three aces, and ended with a kill by Sianna Iverson.

The Bulldogs struggled with control in the second, committing 10 unforced errors. A run of six points by Thorne gave Chiawana a 15-5 lead in the game.

The Bulldogs rallied in the third game, pulling within 14-11 and 19-15 before the Riverhawks took advantage of three unforced errors for a 22-15 lead. Alaina Scott put the match away with a kill.

Ireland McDonough led the Bulldogs with six kills and five digs, while Kendall Dowdy handed out 14 assists.

Scott, Iverson and Angela Sullivan each added five kills for Chiawana (1-0 MCC), while McKenna Kaelber had four kills and 29 assists.

"We were able to get everyone out there," Riverhawks coach Jim Steach said. "We have good depth. I am confident going 12 deep."

Hermiston was back in action Saturday, and this time the team beat Pasco 25-16, 25-22, 25-17.

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