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First fall season going swimmingly for Hermiston girls

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Moving its swim season from winter to fall hasn't been an issue for the Hermiston High School girls. The success in the pool speaks for itself.

The Bulldogs, under first-year coach Sara Sargent, have seven swimmers who have reached district qualifying times just three weeks into their first season in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

Sargent has 22 swimmers in her program, with sophomores Abby Sharon and Georgia Stevens leading the way.

Sharon eclipsed the district mark in the 100 backstroke by 17 seconds, and also earned a spots and in the 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley relay, and the 50 and 100 freestyle.

Stevens has qualifying times in the 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly, and the 50, 200 and 500 freestyle events. Her 500 time is 51 seconds faster than the district standard.

"Abby and Georgia are definitely rock stars," Sargent said. "I had no idea they were that good."

While the pair has qualified in several events, they each will have to pick their top four for district.

Senior Aiya Hart has qualified in the 100 butterfly, while freshman Laly

Morfin has qualified in the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle.

Rounding out the group are junior Savannah Marsengill (100 butterfly), and freshman twins Mattison Christensen (200 freestyle, 100 butterfly) and McKenna Christensen (200 IM).

"I think they enjoy being separate from the boys (who swim in the winter in the MCC)," Sargent said. "It's a confidence booster, and they are getting more individual time with coaching."

Sargent, who grew up in California and swam in high school, took over the swim program from Kevin Hamblin.

"I had been interested in being an assistant coach when I started at the school district," she said. "When the position opened up, I applied and crossed my fingers."

The move to the MCC has come with a few challenges, mainly the size of the teams they are competing against, and the fact the Bulldogs do not have any divers.

"I did not know what I was getting myself into," Sargent said. "I didn't know if we would have five girls or 40. We have a range of experience from really good to not a lot. They are willing to learn, which is all I ask. I would love to get a dive coach in the future. That is uncharted territory for me."



Sharon



Stevens

DAWGS DOWN DEVILS



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Wyatt Noland gets tackled by Walla Walla's Jerad McAlvey in the Bulldogs' 42-7 win against the Blue Devils on Friday in Walla Walla.

Noland powers Hermiston to road win

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Until someone finds a way to stop Wyatt Noland, the Hermiston Bulldogs will continue to ride their senior running back to victory.

Noland ran for 180 yards and four touchdowns, and caught another as the Bulldogs ran away with a 42-7 Mid-Columbia Conference win over Walla Walla on Friday night at Borleske Stadium.

"It was a good team win," Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said. "We just wanted to play better than we did last weekend, and we did that."

Noland, the MCC's leading rusher, credited his offensive line for opening holes and holding off the defense.

"I just wanted to come out with a bang," Noland said. "The key is to run hard every time. I couldn't have done it without my line."

The win soothed the Bulldogs after losing a 26-25 heartbreaker to Kennewick last week.

"We had the mindset we had to bounce back and show what we have," Noland said.

Hermiston led 22-7 at the half, but it was far from

done.

After a scoreless third quarter, the Bulldogs hung 20 points on the board in the fourth. Noland caught a 6-yard touchdown from Andrew James, then ran for a 2-yard score 3 minutes later for a 36-7 lead.

James finished the scoring with a 15-yard scamper with 2:56 left in the game.

The touchdown was set up by a Guiomar Garay interception that put the ball at the Walla Walla 20.

James ran for 61 yards and threw for 185.

It was not the game Walla Walla's Patrick Utschinski had hoped for.

"We couldn't wrap up on D," said Utschinski, who verbally committed to Washington State last week. "We couldn't run the ball. You have to be able to fall back on fundamentals, and we didn't do that tonight. (Noland) is a good player and they are disciplined up front. It's hard to have a complete game when you play in spurts."

The Bulldogs needed just two plays on their first series of the game to find the end zone, as Noland burst through the line and outran the defense for a 48-yard touchdown.

The snap on the PAT went over kicker Juan Carlos Navarrete's head, but he grabbed the ball and threw a conversion pass to Ryan Arnold for an 8-0 lead just 3:10 into the game.

"That surprised the crap



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Cody Wizner grabs Walla Walla quarterback Ryan Martuscelli as linemen attempt to assist in the Bulldogs' 42-7 win against the Blue Devils on Friday in Walla Walla.

out of me," Faaeteete said.

After a Wa-Hi punt on its ensuing possession, Hermiston went back to work.

Back-to-back penalties, including an intentional grounding by Andrew James, put the Bulldogs on the Walla Walla 46. On third down, James hit Jordan Ramirez with a 41-yard pass to put the ball on the 5-yard line.

From there, Noland bulled his way into the end zone and a 15-0 Hermiston lead that would stand at the end of the first.

Walla Walla got on the scoreboard 1:23 into the second quarter as Jared McAlvey hauled in a 13-yard touchdown pass from Ryan Martuscelli.

It look like a game for a brief second, but a 36-yard run by Noland, and a James-

to-Noland 16-yard pass play put the ball on the Blue Devils' 5-yardline. Two plays later, Noland took the ball in from the 3 for a 22-7 lead.

The lead held until the half.

Hermiston	15	7	0	20	42
Walla Walla	0	7	0	0	7
First quarter					
H - Wyatt Noland 48 run (Ryan Arnold pass from Juan Carlos Navarrete)					
H - Noland 5 run (Navarrete kick)					
Second quarter					
W - Jared McAlvey 13 pass from Ryan Martuscelli (Seamus Hall kick)					
H - Noland 3 run (Navarrete kick)					
Fourth quarter					
H - Noland 6 pass from James (Navarrete kick)					
H - Noland 2 run (Navarrete kick)					
H - James 15 run (kick failed)					

Statistics
Passing - HHS, Andrew James 10-21-185; WWHS, Ryan Martuscelli 14-26-219-1.
Rushing - HHS, Wyatt Noland 26-180, Andrew James 15-61, Guiomar Garay 1-5, Derrick McBride 2-5; WWHS, Josiah Wik 13-75, James Moore 1-1, Adan Escobar 2(-5), Ryan Martuscelli 6(-28), Anthony Parish 1(-1).
Receiving - HHS Jordan Ramirez 1-41, Youhani Pazon 3-49, Ryan Arnold 1-2, Trevor Waagner 2-2, Wyatt Noland 1-6, Trent Pitney 2-54, Chase Bartley 1-10; WWHS, Dylan Ashbeck 2-19, Jared AcAlvey 9-92, Anthony Parish 3-8.

Southridge comes to Hermiston looking for first conference win

The high-octane offense and stingy defense of the Hermiston Bulldogs is likely to pose problems for the Southridge Suns, who still are looking for their first Mid-Columbia Conference win.

The Suns (0-4), who have been shut out three times, average just 100 yards of offense per game, while allowing 384 yards. The have been outscored 165-6.

Southridge has minus-5 yards rushing this season, and has gone to two quarterbacks — Trent Slatner and Brendan Beckwith — but neither have

been able to put a spark in the offense.

Hermiston, on the other hand, loves to run the ball. Senior Wyatt Noland has a league best 689 yards rushing and nine touchdowns, while versatile quarterback Andrew James has run for 282 yards and four touchdowns, while throwing for 551 yards and six TDs. Defensively, the Bulldogs have allowed an average of 13.5 points a game.

Fans likely will see Southridge kicker Natalie James, who made her varsity debut last week, on Friday.

Tiebreaker breaks Bulldogs' chances

By BRETT KANE
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston and Clarkston proved to be evenly matched in their nonleague match on Saturday afternoon at Kennison Field in Hermiston.

Both girls soccer teams held each other off and kept their goals safe until the clock ran out, ending regulation in a 0-0 tie.

Clarkston (3-2, 1-2) won an equally intense shootout, 4-2, to take the win over the Bulldogs (0-8, 0-6 MCC)

Hermiston's Sydney Seavert and Elsa Torres took several shots on goal in the first half, missing wide. Clarkston midfielder Cortney Bogar fired a high-flying kick toward Hermiston goalie Lanie Gomez, but Gomez was quick to dive in the ball's path.

The second half was

brutal. Bulldog midfielder Jayden Ray went for a header after a kick from Clarkston center-back Taylor Bogle and was injured. She was then taken out of the game. And that wasn't the only head injury: Bogar and Hermiston midfielder Cyndey Lind collided in an attempt to possess the ball after a free throw, and both were taken out of the game.

The Lady Bulldogs were already down two key players going into the game — defenders Giselle Cisneros and Maralyne Pacheco were both absent from the field on Saturday. Cisneros hurt her ankle during Thursday's game against Walla Walla, and Pacheco bruised her foot during a recent practice.

"Ray is one of our key center-mids, and Syd is one of our captains," said Hermiston coach Freddy Guizar.

"That kind of blow really took a toll on our team."

When regulation ended, both teams returned to the field to face off in a "golden goal" overtime — the first team to score a goal in the allotted five minutes would win. It's a different format than OSAA, where games can end in a tie.

But those five minutes came and went, as did a second five-minute overtime. To declare a victor once and for all, it was time for a shootout — both teams lined up along the 50-yard line and watched as individual players each took a shot at a 10-yard goal.

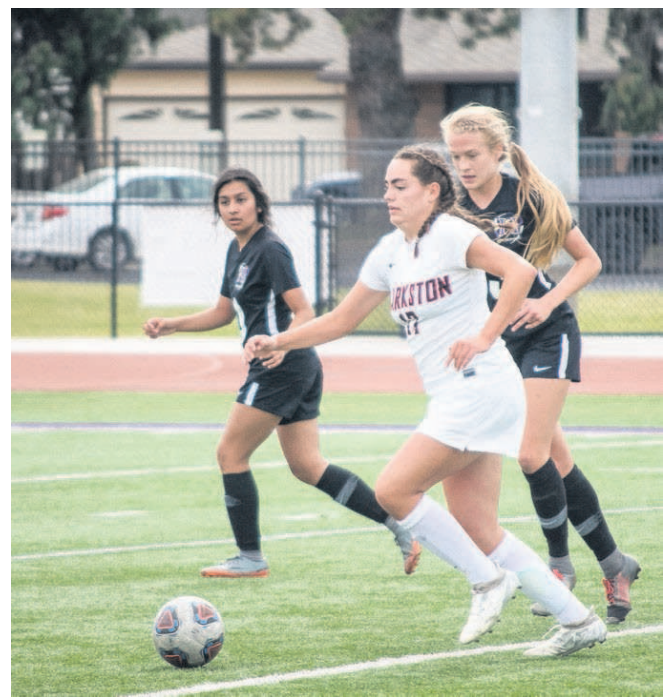
Hermiston midfielders Lana Torres and Jizelle Gonzalez both found the net for the Bulldogs, but thanks to Clarkston center-backs Lauren Johnson and Mackayla McCabe, and midfielders Luella Skinner and Jenna

Allen, the Bantams came out on top, handing Hermiston their eighth loss of the season.

"It was something different that we're not used to," Guizar said of the tiebreaker round. "The pressure's really on, and you can't recreate that in practice. It's nerve-racking, especially for Lanie. It was a great game for her — they didn't have many shots on us, and she blocked most of them."

Hermiston is now 0-8 overall and 0-7 for the district. They'll host Hanford on Tuesday — the team that beat them in their season opener.

"These girls are a family, no matter what," Guizar said. "I always tell them, 'Those are your sisters out there.' They'll get each other back up and ready to face Hanford again."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT KANE

Hermiston's Jayden Ray rushes to steal the ball from Clarkston's Lauren Johnson on Saturday afternoon at Kennison Field.