

# Pirates crush Vikings

By **BRETT KANE**  
STAFF WRITER

It was a good day to be a Pirate — Riverside beat their rival Umatilla at home on Thursday evening, scoring their first league win.

The Pirates came out with guns blazing, opening the game with a pass from center-mid Ulyses Lopez to Angel Montez, who headed it in for a goal.

“Ulyses is one of our most talented players,” said Riverside coach Francisco Velazquez. “This was a great game for him.”

Lopez played a major role in his team’s win. Throughout the remainder of the first half, he helped put two more points on the scoreboard — one on his own, and another from a penalty kick that he sent straight to midfielder Gerardo Lopez, who kicked it in for the Pirates’ third goal.

The first half ended with Riverside up, 3-0.

The second half saw Lopez attempting several more shots-on-goal, beginning with a pass from Gerardo to Lopez, who overshot the net and sent it flying out of bounds. But the Pirates quickly made up for the miss. Forward Alexis Cambero fired a long-distance kick that made it into the net, just out of Umatilla goalie Saul Salas’ reach.

It would be the last goal of the game, leaving Riverside in the lead at 4-0.



Above, Riverside midfielder Jose Napoles stumbles while defending the ball from Umatilla’s Luis Castro. Left, Riverside’s Johan Pena fires a kick out of Umatilla’s reach on Thursday’s home game.

STAFF PHOTOS BY  
BRETT KANE

Umatilla coach Pedro Ortiz left frustrated at some of the refs calls and the penalties called on his team, especially the penalty kick that scored Riverside their third goal.

“Outside of that, some of our players still need work,” he said. “Our wings need to learn how to play back and forth, and make passes. They’re freshmen — high

school soccer is a lot different than the AYSO.”

Riverside faced similar issues. The majority of their varsity team graduated last year, leaving them with newcomers and freshmen. But that didn’t seem to hinder them much. The Pirates displayed talent both on offense and defense, preventing Umatilla from scoring.

“Today, we talked better, communicated and put goals in when we needed to,” Lopez said after his team’s win. “Our defense really stepped it up.”

The Pirates are now 4-2-1 overall. They’ll host Nyssa this coming Saturday, while Umatilla traveled to Four Rivers over the weekend (see prep roundup).

## Hermiston XC runs first league meet

Hermiston’s first Mid-Columbia Conference league meet for cross country, held at Walla Walla, was a learning experience.

The varsity boys and girls teams placed eighth overall in their respective races.

Freddy Mendoza led the boys’ varsity, finishing at No. 20 with a 17:46.82 time.

Cydney Sanchez led the girls’ varsity, taking the No. 23 spot with a time of 22:00.06.

The boys’ junior varsity division fared better, placing fourth overall, with Martin Heredia finishing as Hermiston’s fastest J.V. runner for the meet at No. 20 with a 19:32.51 time. The girls’

junior varsity team placed ninth and was led by Jennifer Fuentes, clocking in at 25:21.51.

“It was a tougher course, and we have a lot of younger kids,” said Hermiston cross country coach Troy Blackburn. “We ran against Tri-Cities and Walla Walla schools. It was good to see

how we compare to them. We’re excited to see where we can improve. We’ve been pushing hard — we’ll bounce back.”

Hermiston’s junior varsity teams will have their next meet Thursday at Hermiston’s Riverfront Park.

— *Brett Kane*

### PREP ROUNDUP

#### VOLLEYBALL

**Irrigon 3, Umatilla 0** — Hailey White had 10 kills and 10 service points, and Myka Davis added eight kills as the Knights swept the visiting Vikings (0-2) in an Eastern Oregon League match.

Irrigon won by identical scores in each set, 25-13, 25-13, 25-13, to improve to 2-0 in league play.

Makenna Collins added 10 ace serves, while Emma Muelle had 12 assists and Bailey Botefuhr 11 points.

**Stanfield 3, Enterprise 1** — Kendra Hart had 13 kills, 10 digs and eight assists to lead the Tigers to their first Blue Mountain Conference win.

Stanfield topped the Outlaws (0-1) 25-12, 25-16, 18-25, 25-19.

“We’ve been starting out slow, so we changed up our practices and it paid off tonight, Stanfield coach Blaine Ganvoa said. “The thing I’m most proud of is that we came out and played as team and worked hard all night to keep our rhythm.”

Allison Griffin added 10 kills and 15 digs, Savannah Sharp 12 digs and 18 assists, and Amber Weems five blocks.

**Heppner 3, Pilot Rock 1** — Sydney Wilson had 12 kills and 23 digs to lead the Mustangs to a 25-15, 25-27, 27-25, 25-18 Blue Mountain Conference win over the visiting Rockets.

“Really proud how the girls came together tonight,” Heppner coach Mindy Wilson said. “It was a full team effort. Pilot Rock pushed us and we battled back.”

Jenna McCullough added 18 digs, seven kills and six blocks, while Genevieve Smith handed out 20 assists. As a team, Heppner served at 91 percent with 10 aces.

**Echo 3, Mitchell-Spray 0** — The Cougars improved to 5-1 in Big Sky League play with a 25-12, 25-10, 25-10 home win.

Tylene Skillman led Echo with nine kills and two blocks, while Lexie Cox added eight kills and Katlynn Jackson was 35 of 37 from

the service line with five aces. Setters Faith McCarty and Annie Barnes each had 10 assists.

**HEPPNER GETS 2 WINS IN ENTERPRISE** — The Lady Mustangs’ Saturday doubleheader was also a double victory, putting in wins against both Enterprise and Union.

Enterprise fell fast in three sets, 25-12, 25-11, and 25-13, but Union didn’t go down as easily.

Heppner lost the first two sets 25-16 and 25-18, but made a return to form to take the last three and win the match, 25-17, 25-14, and 20-18.

Sydney Wilson had a total of 42 digs, 10 kills and four aces for the day. Jenna McCullough had 12 kills, three blocks, and three aces. Jacee Curin had 26 digs and 14 kills. Claire Grieb had 22 digs, Genevieve Smith had 18 assists, and Nicole Propher put in six blocks.

“We really had to work together as a team,” said Heppner coach Mindy Wilson. “We started to off slow with Union, and everyone had to dig deep and battle back. They never quit on each other, and the support on and off the floor was amazing.”

#### BOYS SOCCER

**UMATILLA 9, FOUR RIVERS 0** — The Vikings traveled to Four Rivers on Saturday and came home with their second win of the season.

Jeffri Coria and Luis Castro both put in three goals each. Fernando Ramirez and Jose and Christian Alanis also scored one each.

“It took a while for the boys to settle,” said Umatilla coach Pedro Ortiz. “But after those first two goals, they were able to relax. In the second half, we made plenty of subs and let our younger players get more time and get used to high school-level soccer.”

Umatilla is now 2-4-1 overall and 1-1 in league play. They’ll host Irrigon (0-6, 0-1) on Friday.

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