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Dawgs show teeth heading to Chiawana



STAFF PHOTOS BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Wyatt Noland gets wrapped up by Southridge's Theron McCullough in the Bulldogs' 56-0 win against the Suns on Friday in Hermiston.

Hermiston offense overpowers Southridge

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

It's a matchup Mid-Columbia football fans have been waiting for — Hermiston vs. Chiawana.

The Bulldogs (4-1) will visit the Riverhawks at Edgar Brown Stadium on Friday.

Chiawana (3-2 overall, 3-1 MCC) has lost two games in a row, but that does not take away from the importance of this week's game.

Hermiston and Hanford are tied atop the MCC at 4-1, with Chiawana and Kamiakin right behind at 3-1. The Hanford Falcons are at Sunnyside for a non-league game Friday, while the Braves host Walla Walla.

The Bulldogs lead the MCC in defense, allowing just 225 yards of offense and 10 points per game, but the Riverhawks are No. 2 at 234. Though Chiawana is stingy with the yards, they are giving up 20 points per game. Hermiston scores an average of 33.8.

Hermiston coach David Faeteete knows the points won't come easy this week.

"We have got to be able to run the football, play good defense and control the clock," Faeteete said. "I think we have to contain them offensively and stop their vertical game. It's a chess match. We have to come ready to play



Hermiston's Youbani Razon rushes the ball as Southridge's Theron McCullough attempts to make the tackle in the Bulldogs' 56-0 win against the Suns in Hermiston.

physical football. They are as quick as any team we will play this year."

Hermiston running back Wyatt Noland will play a big part in the outcome of Friday's game. He leads the league in rushing with 842 yards and 12 touchdowns.

"You don't know what kind of play Wyatt will bring," Faeteete said. "He runs hard and is a physical player."

That was certainly true Friday, when Noland rushed for 138 yards and three touchdowns in the first half of a 56-0 win over Southridge of Kennewick at Kennison Field, at times dragging two or three defenders down the field.

"We thought we need to come out and

show what we do," Noland said. "Had to show we weren't messing around."

A running clock in the second half moved things along, with Hermiston finishing the night with a 56-0 Mid-Columbia Conference victory over the Suns at Kennison Field.

"We talked about playing to our level all the time," Faeteete said. "Southridge is young and hurt. We just had to play hard and finish the game."

Andrew James ran for a 1-yard touchdown, and threw for two more as he put up 168 yards in the air in the first half. His TD passes went to Trevor Wagner and Jordan Ramirez.

Noland finished with 153 yards, and

gave credit to the men in the trenches.

"The holes opened up with the line blocking and allowed me to get yards," he said.

In the second half, James ran the ball in from two yards out for a 48-0 lead with 3:49 left in the third quarter.

Late in the fourth quarter, Tyson Salinas scored on a 2-yard run to account for the final score.

"It was great to watch them play as hard as they do, and see guys get their first varsity minutes under the lights," Faeteete said.

Ryan Stayrook was a one-man wrecking crew for the Suns (0-5), picking up 50 yards on 11 carries. He also caught four passes for 34 yards.

Defensively, Alex Teal had a first-quarter interception for the Suns.

Southridge	0	0	0	0	0
Hermiston	27	14	7	7	56
Scoring					
10					
H - Wyatt Noland 10 run (Juan Carlos Navarrete kick)					
H - Andrew James 1 run (Trevor Wagner kick)					
H - Noland 3 run (kick failed)					
H - Noland 2 run (Navarrete kick)					
20					
H - Wagner 20 pass from James (Wagner kick)					
H - Jordan Ramirez 11 pass from James (Navarrete kick)					
30					
H - James 2 run (Wagner kick)					
40					
H - Tyson Salinas 2 run (Garrett Walchli run)					

Statistics
Rushing
 SHS: Trenton Slater 11-23 Theron McCullough 3-4 Ryan Stayrook 11-50; HHS: Andrew James 9-44, Wyatt Noland 15-153, Guionmar Garry 5-49, Tyson Salinas 3-16, Derek McBride 1-5, Chase Elliot 3-5.
Passing
 SHS: Trenton Slater 9-22-0-73; HHS: Andrew James 11-16-1-168, Chase Elliot 2-0-24.
Receiving
 SHS: Alex Teal 1-2, Caleb Cook-Parker 2-23, Ryan Stayrook 4-34, Theron McCullough 1-minus-3, Trent Mertens 1-9; HHS: Youbani Razon 2-14, Garrett Walchli 2-36, Jordan Ramirez 3-66, Trent Pitney 1-12, Trevor Wagner 3-26, Tyson Salinas 1-28.

Hanford holds off Hermiston in MCC play

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The second half of the Mid-Columbia Conference volleyball schedule started Thursday night, putting the Hermiston Bulldogs back on the court with the hard-hitting Southridge Suns.

Despite one of Sophia Streeter's best performances of the season, the Bulldogs (2-5) fell to the Suns 25-19, 25-13, 25-13 in Kennewick. "Players like Sophia, when she is on she is unstoppable," Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said. "Tonight was amazing for her, and she stayed aggressive."

Southridge (5-2) got nine kills and 14 digs from Sophia Sumner, and six kills, nine assists and 12 digs from Kennedy Conrad as the Suns continue to be one of the top teams in the league.

"I have been with them since they were freshmen, and I haven't seen them play like this for a long time," Suns coach Emily Otto said. "They are having fun and playing with heart. They feed off each other's energy."

Hermiston was in the thick of things in the first set. The set was tied at 7-7 before Sumner reeled off a string of points for a 13-7 lead. The Bulldogs would pull within 20-17 late, but a kill by Ashlyn Dupuis sealed the win for Southridge.

The Suns were relentless the rest of the match. They led 7-1 early in the second set as Dupuis served up three aces in a run of five points. Eleven unforced errors by Hermiston helped the Suns to leads of 12-3 and 19-7.

"We are still working on our mental toughness,"

Dyck said. "When things get tough, we have a tough time trusting our skills. We would dig ourselves a hole, and trying to pull teenage girls out of that is not easy."

In their previous game on Tuesday, Sept. 25, the Bulldogs showed some of that toughness.

Though Hermiston dropped its home conference match to Hanford 25-14, 22-25, 25-23, 25-17, the team was more confident on the court.

"Our middles are becoming more comfortable and we are battling as a team," Dyck said. "That tells me we are doing the right thing. We are young in volleyball IQ, but every day in practice they are working to get better. We push them and demand a lot of them."

Hanford led the first set from start to finish, tak-

ing leads of seven and nine points before Sage Sjogren reeled off an ace serve to secure the set.

The Bulldogs came right back in the second, battling through ties of 18-18 and 19-19 before pulling away.

Kendall Dowdy served two points for a 21-19 lead, and Sophia Streeter and Ireland McDonough had kills to seal the win.

Tied at one set each, the Bulldogs trailed 24-13 in the third set before riding a nine-point run by Courtney West at the service line. Isabel Dockendorff put down a kill to secure the set for the Falcons.

At the start of the season, that rally was not in the cards.

"Our expectation is that they come and learn every day," Dyck said. "They are doing it."



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Daisy Maddox spikes the ball guarded at the net by Hanford's Kaitlyn Thompson in the Bulldogs' 3-1 loss to the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.