

# Irrigon's Miranda-Walls wins Winter Cup title



By Annie Fowler

Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls, center, won the 170-pound title Saturday at the Winter Cup at Hanford High School. Miranda-Walls beat Ozius Harden of Reardan (left) 3-2 in the championship match.

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Alex Miranda-Walls was an unknown going into the Winter Cup at Hanford High School.

There are a few guys who will remember the Irrigon senior after he won the 170-pound title Saturday afternoon.

Miranda-Walls beat Ozius Harden of Reardan 3-2 in the championship match to improve to 18-0 on the season.

"I love the bigger tournaments," Miranda-Walls said. "The smaller ones, the talent pool isn't as good. There is quality here — all are a bunch of tough competitors. There is something about going up against kids from school with 2,000 students. It's great."

Miranda-Walls opened the tournament with a 26-second pin of Elijah Rodriguez of Richland, then recorded a 10-6 decision over Easton Royslance of Othello to reach the title match.

"The reason we come here is to run up against some different competition," Knights coach Jason Dunten

said. "Some found out they have some work to do. This is where we are going to get experience."

Pasco won the team title with 190 points, while Irrigon was 15th with 58 points.

Also placing for the Knights were Asher Hall (8th, 113 pounds), Kyler Shelton (7th, 132), Brady Harrington (8th, 182), Josue Aguilera (6th, 195) and Reece Sheller (8th, 220).

## Girls Winter Cup

Hermiston finished 22nd on Friday in the girls portion of the tournament with 38 points.

Sunnyside won the team title with 255 points.

At 190 pounds, Jazmin Deike placed fourth for Hermiston. Deike was pinned by Kiona-Benton's Nya Calzadillas in 1:44 in the third/fourth placing match.

Amree Braithwaite finished seventh at 145 for the Bulldogs, pinning Jaime Wilson of Tonasket in 3:54 in her final match.

## Boys basketball

**TRINITY LUTHERAN 61, IRRIGON 39** — Freshman guard Scooty

Gilbert had a game-high 21 points Thursday night as Trinity Lutheran (7-3) beat the host Knights 61-39 in the Irrigon Invite.

"They were pretty good," Irrigon coach Davie Salas said of the Saints, a Class 1A team from Bend. "They ran their offense well and crashed the glass. We came out flat and had no energy."

Keith Fleming led the Knights (6-6) with 16 points, with Lino Covarrubia and Caleb Adams adding six points each.

**NIXYAAWII 90, ECHO 36** - The Golden Eagles jumped out to a 21-3 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back in beating the host Cougars at the Bouncin' Cancer Tournament in Echo.

Nixyaawii (10-1), which hit 13 3-pointers on the day, shot 50 percent from the floor.

Mick Schimmel led the Golden Eagles with 22 points, while Quanah Picard added 19 points, including five 3-pointers.

Devan Craig led Echo (1-10) with 15 points, while Charlie White added 10.

## GIRLS HOOPS

# Irrigon has no answer for von Oelhoffen, TCP

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Irrigon coach Mike Royer wasn't disappointed in his team Friday night.

The Knights dropped a 79-39 game to Tri-Cities Prep in the Irrigon Invitational, but the tough competition helps prepare his team for the upcoming Eastern Oregon League, which begins Jan. 4 at Vale.

"We played one of the best 2B teams in Washington," Royer said. "They are good and exposed some of our mistakes tonight. I feel good going into league. We are in a tough 3A league with Burns, Vale and Nyssa."

*"Playing against a girl like her [von Oelhoffen], there's not a whole lot you can do"*

Mike Royer, Irrigon coach

What it all came down to Friday night was that the Knights (9-3) had no answer for Prep's Talia von Oelhoffen. The 6-foot sophomore scored a game-high 34 points, including three 3-pointers, and doing a fair amount of damage inside.

"Playing against a girl like her, there's not a whole lot you can do," Royer said. "She shoots right over the top of you. The way she passes the ball and sees the floor makes them tough to beat."

The Knights (9-3) appeared to be able to hang with the Jaguars in the early going of the first quarter, as a basket by Ana Zacarias tied the score at 4-4 just 90 seconds into the game.

But just as Irrigon thought it had things under control, Prep took off. The

Jaguars went on a 12-0 run over the next 3 1/2 minutes to take a 16-4 lead.

Alyssa Luna hit a basket with 2:57 to play in the quarter to end the drought, but the Jaguars would score the final seven points of the quarter for a 23-6 lead.

Prep forced 16 Irrigon turnovers in the first half, taking a 39-15 lead. Von Oelhoffen had 19 points, with Alyssa Monteon adding eight.

Luna had six points for the Knights, who were unable to capitalize when von Oelhoffen left the court with three fouls with 2:15 remaining.

Zacarias scored six of her team-high 15 points in the third quarter, but the Jaguars went on a 23-10 scoring spree to take a 62-25 lead.

With von Oelhoffen on the bench the first half of the fourth quarter, the Knights went on a 7-0 run to pull within 64-32, but they would manage just seven points the rest of the game.

"We put a lot of pressure on them," Prep coach Joe Mackay said. "No. 31 (Ja'Jay Burns) kept breaking our press. She's quick. I was impressed by her."

Burns, a 5-2 freshman, added 11 points for the Knights.

Von Oelhoffen also had 34 points Thursday in a win over Nyssa. She eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in just 35 games.

## BOX SCORE

TCP Prep 23 16 23 17 — 79

Irrigon 6 9 10 14 — 39

TRI-CITIES PREP — Brandner 8, Valenica 2, Dickson 4, White 6, Boothe 5, Martinez 8, Monteon 12, von Oelhoffen 34.

IRRIGON — Davis 6, Zacarias 15, Luna 6, Romero 1, Burns 11.

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