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## PREP ROUNDUP

### Echo edges out Ione

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

**Boys basketball**  
ECHO 48, IONE 45 — The Echo Cougars inched past Ione for their first Big Sky League win on Jan. 4.

When the score was tied at 38-38, Braden MacPherson scored one at the line and Jon Medrano hit one from the field to pull Echo ahead once and for all.

Devan Craig led the Cougars with 17 points, and shot 4-4 at the line.

Echo (1-4, 2-11) travels to South Wasco County on Friday. Ione (0-5, 1-11) hosts Arlington on Tuesday.

KNAPPA 76, STANFIELD 34 — The Tigers dropped a non-league road game to Knappa on Jan. 4.

Rene Sanchez led Stanfield (1-2, 4-10) with nine points.

“Honestly, we didn’t play terrible; Knappa is just a super athletic team,” said coach Devin Bailey. “They’re going to compete at the state level. This game helped us gauge where we are as a team.”

Stanfield will resume the Blue Mountain Conference on Friday at Union.

**Girls basketball**  
IONE 52, ECHO 49 — Ione remains undefeated in the Big Sky League after escaping with a home win over Echo on Jan. 4.

Jessica Medina posted 19 points to lead the Cardinals, and Marie Chretien had 16. Rachel McCarty scored a game-high 20 points for the Cougars.

Ione (4-0, 9-2) host Arlington on Tuesday. Echo (3-1, 5-7) travel to South Wasco County on Friday.

STANFIELD 50, KNAPPA 48 — In a Jan. 4 nonleague road game, the Tigers barely made off with a win over Knappa.

Knappa led 28-25 at the half, but Stanfield outscored them 11-10 in the third quarter and 14-10 in the fourth to take the victory.

Kendra Hart scored a game-high 26 points for the Tigers (2-1, 8-6). They pick up the Blue Mountain Conference again on Friday at Union.

## WRESTLING

### Bulldogs place 2 at Gut Check Invite

Hermiston had two wrestlers place at 220 pounds Saturday at the Gut Check Invite at ShoWare Center in Kent.

Jon Lee finished sixth, dropping the fifth/sixth placing match 2-0 to Levi Kovacs of Tahoma.

Sean Stewart finished eighth, getting pinned in his final match by Edan Cisneros of Forks in a time of 4:27.

The Bulldogs will return to Mid-Columbia Conference action Thursday at Hanford, where they also will wrestle Kamiakin.

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# DAWGS LOSE TWO

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

For 11 minutes Friday night, Hermiston hung with the best team in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

But once Richland got into the swing of things, the Bulldogs found themselves in a whole heap of trouble as the Bombers rolled to an 86-59 victory at the Dawg House.

“They are good,” Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. “We didn’t help ourselves out with our shot selection, and I’m a little disappointed in our effort on the boards. We have to play better.”

Cole Northrop scored a game-high 25 points for the Bombers, who improved to 7-0 in league play and 9-2 overall.

“They played exactly how we thought they would,” Richland coach Earl Streufert said of the Bulldogs. “They had the intensity in the first quarter. We struggled defensively to start, but the end of the first and start of the second, we played tough.”

The Bulldogs came out and took control in the first quarter as Jordan Ramirez scored nine of his 13 points to give the Bulldogs a 19-15 lead.

Hermiston led 14-4 with 3:50 left in the first, but five points from Northrop helped close the gap.

With 41 seconds to play in the quarter, Northrop scored again to make it 16-13, but Cesar Ortiz drilled a 3-pointer from the left wing for a 19-13 lead.

Ryan Kriskovich scored with two seconds left for a four-point ball game.

The Bulldogs extended their lead to 21-15 with a bucket by Ryne Andreason to open the second quarter, but those would be the only points Hermiston would score until Ortiz hit a shot with 39 seconds left.

In the middle, the Bombers went on a scoring spree. Northrop had 10 points and Garrett Streufert four, as the Bombers took a 35-23 lead at the half.

“I thought we dug in in the second and things got better offensively,” coach Streufert said.

The Bulldogs (8-2, 4-2) fared no better in the third quarter, where the Bombers went on a 31-16 run, fueled by 13 points from Dhaunye Guice, including three 3-pointers.

“You have to be able to withstand Richland’s runs,” Arstein said. “When they went on those two runs, we couldn’t match them. The second quarter killed us, and giving up 31 in the third. You are not going to beat teams in this league giving up 86 points.”

The teams played an even fourth quarter, but it was too late for the Bulldogs.

Ortiz also had 13 points for Hermiston, while Andreason and Adrian Mendez each added 10.

## HERMISTON AT KAMIKIN

After a hot start to the



Kathy Aney/Staff photographer

Hermiston’s Andrew James drives past Richland’s Matthew Kump (30) on his way to the basketball Friday at the Dawg House.

season, the Hermiston Bulldogs have cooled off.

Winners of seven on a row to open their first season in the Mid-Columbia Conference, the Bulldogs have dropped three conference games in a row, the latest being a 67-51 road loss Saturday to Kamiakin.

“I don’t think we were ready to play,” Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said. “I thought they didn’t play with any energy. I was disappointed in our attitude. It was an ugly game to coach and an ugly game to watch.”

Steven Westermeyer had 19 points, and Messiah Jones added 17 to lead the Braves, who improved to 4-3 in MCC play.

“We had good flow, shared the ball and played to our strengths,” Kamiakin coach Brian Meneely said. “We were able to make some outside shots and have balance in our offense. Trey (Arland) and Steve made some jumps shots that opened things up for us.”

The Bulldogs (8-3 overall, 4-3 MCC) were a bit undersized compared



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Sergio Madrigal, of Hermiston, takes aim from the corner during Friday’s game against the Richland Bombers at the Dawg House.

to the Braves, who averaged 6-foot-4 among their starting five, but they were able to match Kamiakin

point for point in the first quarter.

Ryne Andreason scored seven of his team-high 19

points in the first as the teams were tied at 13.

Andreason poured in nine points in the second quarter, but the Bulldogs would trail 32-30 at the half as Jones and Westermeyer each had six points to pace the Braves.

“I thought (Andreason) was really good in the first half,” Meneely said. “We moved Messiah to him, and tweaked some things to make it harder on him. They are a really good team. Casey does a good job of getting them to play to their strengths. It will be a battle the next time we play.”

The Braves used two separate six-point runs in the third quarter, and got a big 3-pointer from Arland at the buzzer to take a 53-38 lead into the fourth quarter. Arland finished with 12 points.

Cesar Ortiz added 11 points, and Jordan Ramirez 10 for the Bulldogs, who will host Walla Walla on Tuesday.

“We have dug ourselves a hole,” Arstein said. “We can either dig ourselves out or get buried.”

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