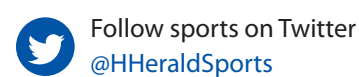


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Dawgs end season with loss to Shadle Park



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hermiston's Andrew James (11) eyes the basket during Monday's District 8 3A playoff game against Shadle Park in Kennewick.

Hermiston wins on Saturday to keep season alive, but falls short on the road Monday

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

It's not often a team will score 80 points and lose a game, but a lackluster second quarter hurt Hermiston as it tried to extend its season Monday.

The Bulldogs were outscored 16-11 in the second and dropped a District 8 loser-out game to Shadle Park 86-80 at Kennewick High School.

"As a coach, you never know when it's the last game," said Hermiston coach Casey Arstein, whose team finished the season 15-8. "That's why you play high school sports, to learn life lessons. With six seniors, it's tough. I got to be their coach for three years, it was awesome."

The Highlanders turned around and played Kennewick 90 minutes after their win. Shadle Park beat the Lions 87-81 to earn a berth to regionals.

"I couldn't do it, but the kids have more energy," SP coach Arnold Brown said with a laugh.

Brown said he had seen film of Hermiston before the game, but that you never know what you will get until you step on the court.

"They are a loaded team," Brown said of the Bulldogs. "Their five guards do a good job of penetrating, kicking it out and hitting the 3. They can score, and we had to score with them. They never gave up."

It would have been easy for the Bulldogs to throw in the towel when they

trailed 79-64 with 3:08 remaining in the fourth quarter, but that is not in their nature.

Instead, they went on a 16-7 run to cut the deficit to single digits. In the run, Andrew James drilled a pair of 3s and Cesar Ortiz added two buckets inside, but they simply ran out of time.

"We played our hearts out," said James, who finished with 18 points in his final high school game. "We left it all out there. I'm proud of everyone."

The first quarter ended tied 24-24, but the Bulldogs trailed 24-18 with just over a minute to play.

James drove the lane, made the basket, was fouled and made the ensuing free throw. Ortiz, who scored a game-high 25 points, drilled a 3 with 36 seconds left to knot the score.

The Highlanders rattled off the first eight points of the second quarter, while the Bulldogs struggled to score. Cole Smith hit a free throw at 4:37 to end the drought.

Six of Hermiston's points in the quarter came from the free throw line, as the Bulldogs trailed 40-35 at the half.

After the break, the Highlanders started to open things up, taking a 13-point lead — 59-46 — with 2:04 left in the third.

Ortiz hit another 3 — he finished with six — Jordan Ramirez sank a pair of free throws, and Ryne Andreason finished the quarter with a bucket inside to

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hermiston's Jordan Ramirez goes to the hoop during Monday's District 8 3A playoff game against Shadle Park in Kennewick.

Kennewick bounces Hermiston from tournament

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Kennewick Lions are on a mission, and the Hermiston Bulldogs were collateral damage Saturday afternoon.

Aislin Fiander scored a game-high 26 points as Kennewick stayed alive in the District 8 playoffs with a 71-52 victory over the Bulldogs (8-14) at the Lions Den.

"They played well and shot the ball really well," Hermiston coach Juan Rodriguez said of Kennewick.

"I thought it would be to our benefit that we hadn't played in 12 days and they played last night. We just didn't score in the first half. We were too tentative."

"We played really well," Kennewick coach Daron Santo said. "My biggest concern was we hadn't had a real practice in over a week. We were kind of winded against Mt. Spokane (Friday) and I was worried about that today."

The Lions had an 18-12 lead after the first quarter, and it didn't take long in the second for the Lions

to put their game into overdrive.

Fiander had 10 of her points in the second, including a pair of 3-pointers as the Lions pushed their lead to 38-18 at the half.

Alexis Stein came off the bench to score six of her 11 points in the second quarter.

"Lexi played well," Santo said of his 6-foot-2 freshman. "We told her to be aggressive, and I was hoping she would."

Stein's play inside cost the Bulldogs, who saw 6-4 post Jordan Thomas rack up three fouls.

The Bulldogs had a bit of a bite to their game in the second half as Jazlyn Romero scored 14 of her 23 points.

"Jaz is aggressive and they have to honor her shot," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez emptied his bench the final 2 minutes of the game, and got a combined seven points from Katelyn Heideman, Courtnee West and Mia Hernandez.

"We are young," Rodriguez said. "I knew for us to compete, Jaz and Jordan would have to do most of the scoring. The program as a

whole, we are in a good place."

Thomas, in her final game for the Bulldogs, had seven points.

"I was here when she was a freshman," Rodriguez said. "We have grown together. She is a great kid and it will be sad not to have her on the team, and not just because she is 6-4."

Hermiston 12 6 13 17 — 52
Kennewick 18 20 19 14 — 71
HERMISTON — Heideman 3, West 2, Young 5, Ray 5, Byrd 1, Stefani 3, Palzinski 1, Hernandez 2, Romero 23, Thomas 7.
KENNEWICK — Av.Fiander 3, Davis 10, Ai.Fiander 26, McBee 12, Gebers 9, Stein 11.