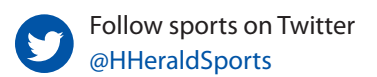


# HeraldSports



## SPRING SPORTS

### Play ball? Not quite yet

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Monday was the first day of practice for spring sports in the Columbia Basin, but instead of hearing the crack of the bat or feet pounding on the track, Mother Nature threw athletes a curve ball in the form of a few inches of snow.

Sunday and Monday's snowfall added to the already deep layer covering ballfields and tracks, more than teams can shovel to make their fields usable.

"Larry (Usher, athletic director) is amazing," Hermiston track coach Emilee Strot said Monday. "Last week he worked with the maintenance crew to clean off the track and field. Friday, they were out there, and then we got hit with more snow last night and today. If he hadn't had that done, we'd have over a foot of snow out there. As it is, we now have 5 or 6 inches."

Strot said she will have her team in the gym for practice until the snow is gone.

"We have worked out a schedule to get every team time in the gym," she said. "I'm thankful my sport doesn't have tryouts."

While the sprinters and distance runners can do their thing indoors, the field event athletes, like javelin thrower Jazlyn Romero, are limited to drill work inside.

"When we get the runway cleared, she can throw in the snow," Strot said.

In Irrigon, baseball coach Randy Henrichs said there is about four inches of snow on his field, but that is the least of his problems.

"With the wind, up against the backstop behind the plate, we have a 6-foot wall of snow built up," he said. "When the snow stops and starts to melt, we will have to have a work party and get a backhoe out here."

The Knights do have an indoor batting facility in a heated pole barn, and they have a portable pitching mound they can use in the gym.

"We're going to do what we can, just like everybody else," Henrichs said. "We have a game in three weeks."

Or at least he hopes to.



Photo courtesy of Kirsti Cason

Irrigon's Kaleb Kendrick, right, battles Jordan Mode of Willamina/Falls City in a 3A state semifinal match Saturday. Mode pinned Kendrick in 1:32. Kendrick finished fourth.

## Irrigon has best showing 10 years

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Irrigon had its best showing at the state wrestling tournament in more than 10 years, as eight of its nine participants placed in the top six at the 3A state tournament on Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"I am proud of my boys," Irrigon coach Jason Dunten said. "Four of them had never been to state before. We took them on a hard schedule this year, and they reaped the rewards. We had a couple of placers last year, but eight placers is the best finish in a long while."

Irrigon finished seventh in the team race with 103.5 points. La Pine won the team title with 150 points, with Nyssa right behind at 141.

Riverside, which had Ethan Snyder place fifth at 132 pounds, finished 20th with 10 points.

Alex Miranda-Walls (170 pounds) and Gabriel Romero (113) finished third for the Knights, while Kyler Olney (126) and Kaleb Kendrick (285) were fourth, Josue Aguilera (195) and Brady Harrington (182) were fifth, and Asher Hall (106) and Reece Sheller (220) were sixth.

Miranda-Walls (43-3), who lost his open-

ing match to eventual state champion Dax Bennett of Harrisburg, steamrolled his way through the consolation bracket. He finished with a 10-2 major decision over Owen Amerson of Yamhill-Carlton.

*"I am proud of my boys.  
Four of them had never been  
to state before."*

Jason Dunten, Irrigon coach

"Alex's three losses are to the kid (Hon Rush-ton) from Baker who was third at the 4A tournament, and two returning state champions," Dunten said. "He had a great year." Miranda-Walls also was third last year.

Romero, who reached the quarterfinals, won all four of his consolation matches. In the third-place match, he beat Efrain Caldera of Nyssa 4-2 in overtime.

"We kind of had to drag him through the season," Dunten said. "Then he finishes third."

Kendrick (28-13) reached the semifinals before suffering a loss and was relegated to the

consolation bracket. He was pinned by Aaron Schaefer of Santiam Christian in the first round of the third place match.

Olney also reached the semis, where he lost a 4-2 decision. He bounced back with a pin of Logan Matthews of La Pine before losing a 10-2 decision to Justin Winn of Burns in the third-place match.

Harrington (20-10), who was injured in the consolation semifinals, was cleared to return for his final match, where he beat Korbin Howell of Rainier 13-6.

Aguilara (32-11), who lost his first match at the tournament, worked his way back through the consolation bracket. He earned a 6-0 decision over Zachary Lepre of Southerlin in the fifth-place match.

Hall (22-17) reached the semifinals on the first day of action, but did not have the same success on Day 2. He lost all three matches, including the fifth-place match, where he was pinned by Russell Talmadge of Harrisburg in 5:09.

Sheller (32-17) finished 2-3 at state, including a loss in the fifth-place match, where he was pinned by David Bowlin of Dayton in 48 seconds.

## Four Hermiston players earn all-league honors

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston's Jordan Thomas was named to the girls Mid-Columbia Conference first team that was announced Friday.

Kamiakin's Oumou Toure, who led the league in scoring with 22.55 points per game, was named MCC MVP for the third year in a row. Toure has signed to play at Butler University.

Kamiakin, which won the MCC regular-season title for the third year in a row, played Peninsula in a regional game at 6 p.m. Saturday at Richland High School.

Kennewick's Daron Santo was named Coach of the Year, while Chiawana junior Alyssa Agundis was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

Thomas, a 6-foot-4 senior, had the second-highest scoring average in the conference at 15.53 points per

game.

Thomas, who also was chosen to the all-defensive team, was the only Hermiston girls player chosen to the team.

For the boys, seven-time conference champion Richland placed three on the first team, including league MVP Garrett Streufert.

Hermiston's Ryne Andreason was named to the second team, while Cesar Ortiz was selected to the honorable mention team, and Jordan Ramirez to the all-defensive team.

Richland's Earl Streufert was named Coach of the Year for the sixth time, while Bombers guard Cody Sanderson was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

The Bulldogs (15-8 overall) finished 10-6 during their first year in the MCC and earned the 3A's top seed for the District 8 tournament. Andreason led the Bulldogs in scoring with 17 points a game. Ortiz added 13.5.



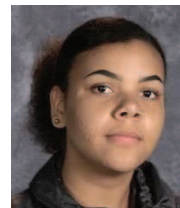
Andreason



Ortiz



Ramirez



Thomas

### MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

#### Girls

##### First Team

Oumou Toure, sr., Kamiakin; Alexa Hazel, sr., Kamiakin; Clare Eubanks, sr., Chiawana; Jordan Thomas, sr., Hermiston; Symone Brown, sr., Kamiakin.

##### Second Team

Jayda Clark, so., Kennewick; Aniyah Heavens, fr., Pasco; Meilani McBee, jr., Kennewick; Alyssa Agundis, jr., Chiawana; Aislin Fiander, jr., Kennewick.

##### Honorable Mention

Jayda Clark, so., Richland; Gracie Pierce, sr., Richland; Macey Morales, sr., Chiawana; Nicole Gall, sr., Richland; Regan Clark, so., Kamiakin; Mya Groce, fr., Pasco.

##### Defensive Team

Alyssa Agundis, jr., Chiawana; Nicole Gall, sr., Richland; Jordan Thomas, sr., Hermiston; Macey Morales, sr., Chiawana; Symone Brown, sr., Kamiakin.

#### Boys

##### First Team

Garrett Streufert, sr., Richland; Cole Northrop, sr., Richland; Connor Woodward, sr., Hanford; Kobe Young, so., Chiawana; Cody Sanderson, sr., Richland.

##### Second Team

Ryne Andreason, sr., Hermiston; Ayoni Benavidez, jr., Kennewick; Tristan Smith, jr., Southridge; Matthew Kroner, sr., Chiawana; Taylor Hamada, sr., Walla Walla.

##### Honorable Mention

Kyson Rose, jr., Kamiakin; Diego Gutierrez, sr., Pasco; Cesar Ortiz, sr., Hermiston; Steven Westermeyer, so., Kamiakin; Dhaunye Guice, sr., Richland.

##### Defensive Team

Cody Sanderson, sr., Richland; Kobe Young, so., Chiawana; Garrett Streufert, sr., Richland; Jordan Ramirez, sr., Hermiston; Blake Vander Top, sr., Hanford.

## Feel the rhythm: Local dance teams bring routines to Hearts in Motion

By BRETT KANE  
STAFF WRITER

Saturday afternoon was a pure celebration of the art and competition of dance.

Teams from nearly two dozen schools packed Pendleton's Warburg Court to compete in the 32nd annual Hearts in Motion dance competition. Hosted by Pendleton High School's Rhythmic Mode, the contest serves as a fundraiser for the team leading up to their state competition at the Moda Center in March.

Dancers ranging from kindergarten to high school filled the afternoon with routines set to music that spanned from Lady Gaga's "The Edge of Glory" to tunes from "The Greatest

Showman" and "Grease" film soundtracks.

First place trophies in the Mini Jazz and Junior Jazz divisions were awarded to Hermiston's Dance Unlimited. Pendleton's Junior Jam won first in the Mini Hip-Hop, Youth Jazz, Junior Hip-Hop, and Junior Contemporary categories. Wallowa's Ignite team took home the top prize in the Youth Hip-Hop division, and Prineville's Legacy was awarded the gold in both the Senior Hip-Hop and Senior Contemporary categories.

Hermiston High School's varsity dance team came out on top in the High School division.

Coached by Ashley Seibel, their routine, titled "Taken," is set to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" and filled the gym with a haun-

ting atmosphere. Dancers clothed in black and painted in ashy makeup with roots jetting from their eyes pounce on their soloist dressed in beige as she tries to flee a set resembling a Sleepy Hollow-esque forest.

"Have you ever been at the wrong place at the wrong time?" Seibel said of the show's premise. "We've all found ourselves there at one point or another."

Seibel said her team has competed at Hearts in Motion for all of the nine years that she's been their coach.

"We came here to support Pendleton," she said. "We love dancing here. Debbie and Rhythmic Mode have been so great to us for many, many years."

## BOYS HOOPS

### Loss keeps Umatilla from 3A state tourney

By HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla boys missed out on a trip to the 3A state tournament after dropping a play-in road game to Sutherlin 59-39 on Friday.

"It was a tough game," coach Scott Bow said. "We played pretty well for three quarters, but then we made 17 fouls and gave (Sutherlin) 26 free throws to lose the game in the fourth."

Andrew Earl scored 14 points, and Uriel Garcia had 12 to lead Umatilla (19-8, 6-4 EOL). The Vikings finished the season as the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Oregon League, and No. 8 in the 3A division.

"The kids played hard all the way through," Bow said of his team's season. "But it wasn't the greatest way to end on a situation like tonight."

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