

Soccer: Braves shut out Bulldogs at home

By BRETT KANE
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston hadn't faced Kamiakin since the pre-season, when the Braves handed the Bulldogs a 6-0 loss.

Now, well into Mid-Columbia Conference action, the Dawgs showed signs of improvement against the Braves, even if it wasn't enough to withstand the league's third-ranked team.

Kamiakin got half of its points from junior forward Regan Clark on Saturday as the Braves shut out Hermiston 4-0 in a conference matchup at Kennison Field.

"It's always the little things that get us," Hermiston coach Freddy Guizar said. "We went from trusting each other to playing selfishly, instead of playing with all 11 players."

The Braves got on the board just before the 10th minute. Clark got her game started with a shot on goal



Cydney Lind (2), of Hermiston, prepares to kick the ball during Saturday's game against the Kamiakin Braves at Kennison Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

two minutes later that Hermiston senior keeper Lanie Gomez dived for and missed, but the ball hit

the right goal post and kept Hermiston down 1-0.

With 9:34 left in the first half, Braves freshman

forward Kate Hollenberg evaded Gomez's attempted save, but Dawgs sophomore midfielder Sydney Seavert

protected the net.

Clark sent another shot on goal in the 32nd minute, and finally connected with the net 2½ minutes later to put the Braves up 2-0.

"Their keeper did a great job today," Kamiakin coach Chris Erkison said of Gomez.

The Braves took their 2-point lead into the locker room, and got two more goals before the day was up.

"They came out and worked really hard today," Bulldogs junior midfielder Jayden Ray said of Kamiakin. "Our intensity level was low. We need to look back at this game, analyze it, fix our mistakes, and move forward."

Nearly 12 minutes would pass in the second half before freshman forward Margot Massey gave Kamiakin its third goal. Gomez recorded another save after defending the net from Clark, but the Kamiakin forward wasn't finished.

With 4:55 left to play, Clark sent a 25-yard kick sailing into Hermiston's net for their fourth and final goal of the day. Clark would try to score once more in the final seconds, but Gomez got the save just before the clock ran out.

"They were more organized today," Erikson said of the Bulldogs.

Although Hermiston allowed two less goals than its last meeting with the Braves, they were unable to record a shot on goal.

"That tells you where we're at offensively," Guizar said. "It was the lack of communication that hurt us. We did play a better game, but we are still growing."

Hermiston (1-9, 1-8 MCC), the eighth-ranked team in MCC play, is on the road Tuesday. They'll challenge the No. 4-ranked Hanford Falcons in the first meeting of the season between the teams. Game time is at 7 p.m.



Umatilla wide receiver Izayah Rodarte (22) attempts to outrun Nyssa's Adam Simpson (50). The Nyssa Bulldogs defeated the Umatilla Vikings 22-7 at Umatilla High School on Friday night.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Football: Umatilla loses heartbreaker to Nyssa

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

For the better part of three quarters Friday afternoon, Umatilla went toe-to-toe with the Nyssa Bulldogs.

The Vikings had their chances late in the fourth quarter to rally past the Bulldogs, but an inability to move the ball proved costly in a 22-7 Eastern Oregon League loss.

"They are tickled to death to get out of here with a win," Umatilla coach Dan Durfey told his team.

Nyssa coach Lee Long did not dispute that.

"You shouldn't win when you turn it over six times," Long said. "The defense played pretty darn good. Umatilla is much improved. They did an awesome job. Dan's heart is in the right place. I have the utmost respect for him. He is a great coach."

The fact the game was 8-7 in favor of Nyssa until the Bulldogs scored on a 16-yard pass play from Landon McDowell to Pedro Chavez with 2:29 left in the game, goes to show the improvement the Vikings have made since last season.

Nyssa (5-0, 1-0 EOL) had won the past three games against Umatilla (4-1, 0-1)

by identical scores of 55-6.

"We battled up front against their big line," Durfey said. "They are just freshmen. It's hard when you have to rely on freshmen to play varsity ball against juniors and seniors. They don't have the experience, but they aren't scared. They came out and they tried."

The Vikings' defense was stellar on the day. They forced, and recovered, four fumbles — including one in the end zone that thwarted a Nyssa touchdown with 4:12 to play in the game. Oscar Campos (two), Rojelio Fuentes and Ryan Lorence were credited with fumble recoveries.

"Our defense played lights out," Durfey said. "It was just the last quarter. These kids haven't been in a situation like this."

Nyssa had great success running the ball in the first half, with Andrew Enders, Ryan Talbot, Caleb Benson and Aleonzo Calderon all getting quality touches.

Talbot scored the lone touchdown in the first half for the Bulldogs, powering his way in from the 1-yard line with 3:38 remaining in the first quarter. Talbot also ran the ball in for the 2-point conversion for an 8-0 lead that would stand at the half.

The Bulldogs limited the Vikings to 15 offensive plays and 3 yards of offense in the first half.

Defensively, the Vikings forced a fumble and stopped the Bulldogs on fourth down twice in the second quarter.

The Vikings pulled within 8-7 at 8:45 of the third quarter.

Nyssa fumbled the ball for the second time in the game, and the Vikings recovered at the Bulldogs' 22-yard line.

Two plays later, Cody Thacker hauled in a 22-yard pass from Andrew Earl for a touchdown. Jose Medina kicked the extra point to make it a 1-point game.

Thacker had two catches for 34 yards. Izayah Roarte had seven catches for 42 yards.

Umatilla will play at Burns on Friday night.

"That is a big trip for us," Durfey said. "I don't care what anyone says, our league is the toughest in the state."

BOX SCORE

Nyssa	8	0	0	14-22
Umatilla	0	0	7	0-7

SCORING

- N — Ryan Talbot 1 run (Talbot run)
- U — Cody Thacker 22 pass from Andrew Earl (Jose Medina kick)
- N — Pedro Chavez 16 pass from Landon McDowell (Calderon kick)
- N — McDowell 7 run (Calderon kick)

Volleyball: Hermiston drops MCC match to Kamiakin

By BRETT KANE
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston played in bursts of greatness, but it was not enough to top the consistency of Kamiakin.

On Thursday night, the visiting Braves (4-3, 4-3 MCC) handed the Dawgs a four-set loss in Mid-Columbia Conference volleyball action, taking them down 25-17, 25-22, 22-25, and 25-14.

"They're a smooth team," Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said of Kamiakin. "They run a very straightforward, disciplined system that gives them the opportunity to be consistent."

The Braves posted three straight points to open the first set before Hermiston got on the board. The score would knot twice, Kamiakin would stay at least two points ahead for the bulk of the set. They took a five-point lead on junior middle blocker Maysen Chelin's kill for an 11-6 set, but Hermiston senior defensive specialist Emma Combes slammed a deep kill that got the Dawgs scoring again.

The Braves later took a 10-point advantage from junior right side hitter Malia Shymanski's ace, but Combes responded with one of her own. The Bulldogs would pull within seven points, but the Braves rattled off three more points to take the set. Senior outside hitter Delaney Frame got the match point.

"We wanted to come out, run our system, and play volleyball like we do," Dyck said, "but we never got that rhythm."

Hermiston would come within four points of taking over twice in the second set, including an ace and an additional point from Combes to bring the score to 21-19 to force a Kamiakin timeout.

After the break, senior libero Halee Stubbs gave Hermiston two more points for a 23-22 set, but sophomore outside hitter Grace Vertrees hit a return that fell out of bounds, handing the Braves another win.

"Their offense is crazy,"



Hermiston's Grace Vertrees scores for the Bulldogs during the first set. Kamiakin defeated Hermiston in four sets at Hermiston High School on Thursday night.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan



Hermiston's Kendall Dowdy (6) knocks the ball over the net for the Bulldogs.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Combes said. "They know how to place a ball."

The Dawgs kicked into high gear in set three, battling back from an early 3-0 deficit, and would not let the Braves out of sight.

Combes helped the Dawgs to their first lead of the night, breaking a 3-3 tie, and although the Braves tied the score 10 times throughout the set, there was no overtaking Hermiston.

Vertrees notched two back-to-back points for a 16-14 lead and another Kamiakin timeout. Later on, junior setter Kendall Dowdy scored two unanswered points to bring the score to 23-19 in Hermiston's favor, and senior outside hitter Daisy Maddox put the set away.

It would be the last time Hermiston stayed in

control.

"We came in waves," said Combes, who finished the night with a trio of aces and 14 digs. "We would play hard, and then let (Kamiakin) go on a roll."

The Braves took a 4-0 lead to start the final set, and quickly extended it to a 10-point, 15-5 lead after Vertrees had an unforced error. Frame scored an ace, and Vertrees sent a return out of bounds to finish the match.

"It takes a team to play volleyball," Combes said. "We didn't play the game we usually do. We just weren't prepared tonight."

Vertrees led the Bulldogs' offense with 11 kills. Stubbs had a team-high 15 digs. Vertrees added 13.

Hermiston (3-5, 2-5 MCC) hosts Hanford on Tuesday.

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