

BOYS SOCCER

# Pirates sail past Umatilla

Riverside remains undefeated in EOL

By **BRETT KANE**  
STAFF WRITER

Even 20 mph gusts could not knock the wind out of Riverside, which extended its win streak to seven Saturday afternoon.

The Pirates (8-3, 7-0 EOL) scored three goals in the first half, and doubled that in the second to roll through visiting Umatilla (5-4-1, 4-2 EOL) 9-2 and stay undefeated in Eastern Oregon League play.

“We started off slow,” said Pirates senior forward Johan Pena, who chipped in two goals. “The wind was against us. We really couldn’t control the ball. We were a bit nervous.”

Riverside senior keeper Jose Torres knocked down five saves before the Pirates took control in the 16th minute when Pena assisted junior Adair Rodriguez in the match’s first goal.

“The weather sucked,” Riverside head coach Jose Duenas said, “but the team worked really hard for every goal they got today.”

Vikings junior midfielder Carlos Mejia responded 5 minutes later, sinking a goal into the lower right corner of Riverside’s net to knot the score.

“I felt like we had a good chance in the first half,” Mejia said, “but after conceding some goals, it fell apart.”

The Pirates scored two more goals before the final 10 minutes, including Ulyses Lopez’s goal that ended scoring at 11:19.

“Umatilla is a talented team. They’re tough,” Pena said. “We needed to get on the same page with each other. We needed to be confident with the ball.”

Riverside’s Gerardo Lopez had a shot on goal to open the second half, but Umatilla keeper Roberto Lugo got the save to keep the game close for just a few seconds more.

Pena got his match’s first goal in the 42nd minute to push the score to 4-1, and Rodriguez and senior Ezequiel Ramos got a goal each within the next 10 minutes. At 23:31, senior Christian Rea sunk a penalty kick for a 7-1 match.

“We’re steering away from that idea that only forwards get to score,” Duenas said. “I kept rotating positions, and they all adapted well. It’s all about the team effort.”



Jose Alaniz (15), of Umatilla, and Riverside’s Ulyses Lopez (10) battle for the ball during Saturday’s conference game in Boardman.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Carlos Mejia of Umatilla and Riverside’s Gerardo Lopez battle for the ball during Saturday’s conference game in Boardman.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Mejia got the Vikings going again with his second goal with 15:28 left to play. Pena responded in the 76th minute with another score, and Lopez wrapped up the match con-

necting with the net for one final goal with 55 seconds remaining.

“Everything we did in practice, we put on the field,” Pena said. “Everything started clicking.”

The EOL’s top-ranked Pirates will play at Four Rivers on Thursday.

The Vikings, whose loss Saturday halted a four-match win streak, will host Irrigon at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

HERMISTON CROSS COUNTRY

# Nygaard, Sanchez finish in the top 5

Anderson leads Hermiston boys, coming in 13th overall

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
STAFF WRITER

On an ideal day for a run, the Hermiston boys and girls cross-country teams posted some of their best times of the season Wednesday at the second Mid-Columbia Conference meet at Lawrence Scott Park.

Amanda Nygaard finished fourth for the Bulldogs in a time of 18 minutes, 24.61 seconds, with teammate Cydney Sanchez a couple of steps behind at 18:27.60.

Ella Nelson of Walla Walla took top honors at 17:50.89, followed by Richland’s Natalie Ruzauskas (17:51.90) and Kennewick’s Geraldine Correa (17:59.90). The trio led the race from start to finish.

“I look forward to running against them,” Nygaard said of the top three runners. “I like the competition.”

Richland won the girls team title with 44 points, with Hermiston sixth with 125.

Nygaard gets pushed every day by Sanchez in practice, which has helped them stay in the top pack of runners.

Sanchez said she liked the 3-mile course, which is relatively flat.

“I like the faster courses,” she said. “It’s easier to push yourself.”

Hermiston’s No. 3 runner, Alexia Serna, clocked in at 19:33.33 (26th), while Ellie Ernst was 42nd. Julianna Joyce was 48th.

“Our four and five runners were a little further back than we would have liked,” Hermiston coach Troy Blackburn said. “Amanda and Cydney are two of the top runners in the state. They are looking good. Alexia ran under 20 minutes for the first time. I’m really proud of all

three of them.” Kamiakin dominated the boys race, placing its top five runners among the first seven across the finish line, led by sophomore Isaac Teeples (14:34.17) and senior Stanford Smith (14:36.64).

The Braves won the team title with 20 points, with Walla Walla a distant second with 66. Hermiston was fifth (130).

Hermiston’s Greg Anderson ran a steady race, staying in the 13th spot over the course of the four laps.

“I was trying to be in the top 14,” said Anderson, who ran a 15:54.73. “This was a PR for me. This course is great. It’s fast and it helps us prepare for the championship season.”

Anderson said competing against the Kamiakin runners has helped him improve his times.

“This competition is not like anything I’d seen before in Oregon,” he said. “We didn’t run against teams like Kamiakin on a consistent basis.”

Logan Springstead (16:18.61) was the second Bulldog across the finish line, followed by Jackson Shaver (16:21.39), Adrian Delgado (16:54.60) and Pedro Pacheco (16:57.46).

“He had not broke 18 (minutes) until a couple of weeks ago,” Blackburn said of Pacheco. “He is making great strides. Our top five were under 17 minutes — we didn’t have that last year.”

The Bulldogs will get another look at Kamiakin, Kennewick and Southridge on Thursday at the MCC 3A Championships at Leslie Grove Park in Richland.

“That’s what we train for, to keep up with Kamiakin,” Blackburn said. “We had the Summits and Craters with the same tradition, but we only saw them once or twice a year, not on a weekly basis.”

HERMISTON GIRLS SOCCER

# Early goal leads Hermiston past Pasco

BY HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston outshot Pasco 13-5 and played strong defensively to secure a 1-0 victory Thursday.

“If we play with a solid defense, we play with a different composure throughout the game,” Bulldogs

coach Freddy Guizar said.

Hermiston’s goal came in the 12th minute off a set play when Jayden Ray crossed a ball in front of the goal and Jizzelle Gonzalez chipped it over the keeper.

Hermiston (2-11, 2-10) hosts Chiawana on Thursday to end the season.

HERMISTON FOOTBALL

# Dawgs go up against high-powered Falcons on Friday

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
STAFF WRITER

With the Mid-Columbia Conference football season winding down, the Hermiston Bulldogs still have a little work to do, starting Friday night with the visiting Hanford Falcons.

Hanford (4-3 overall, 3-3 MCC), which has won two games in a row, is coming off a 54-18 victory over Pasco.

“I think they are super athletic and they’re explo-

sive on the offensive side of the ball,” Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said of the Falcons. “They are better than their record shows, and they are well coached.”

The Falcons average 402 yards of offense per game, but their defense ranks last in the conference at 418 yards an outing.

Easton Wise-Hyde has thrown for 1,860 yards and 18 touchdowns against five interceptions this season.

He has a trio of receivers with more than 400 yards

each — Caleb Harvey (492, 7 TDs), Gabe Martinez (472, 3 TDs) and Jaxon Farrah (439, 6 TDs).

Hanford is equally as good on the ground, with Kamari Dumas rushing for 528 yards and eight touchdowns.

“We have our work cut out this week,” Faaeteete said. “He (Dumas) runs hard. We have to be able to stop their run game.”

The Bulldogs (1-6, 1-5), who have had flashes of brilliance this season, strug-

*“WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT THIS WEEK. HE (DUMAS) RUNS HARD. WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEIR RUN GAME.”*

Hermiston coach David Faaeteete

gled with their passing game early on, but Sam Schwirse has come alive as of late, throwing for 136 yards last week against Eisenhower, and 317 the week before against a very good Chi-

awana team.

Hermiston also has benefited from having running back Guiomar Garay back in the lineup. Garay, who was injured in the season opener at Pasco, has 156

yards rushing on 41 carries. He had 109 yards on 21 carries against Eisenhower.

“He had a good game last week,” Faaeteete said. “We ran the ball better than we have in the past. Our offense has to step up. We have to bounce back and go after it.”

Hermiston’s defense has been its saving grace at times. Led by Garrett Walchli, Trevor Wagner, Ryan Arnold, and a stout defensive line, they give the Bulldogs a chance to win every night.

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