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## DAWGS PLACE 3 AT GUT CHECK

Sophomore Sam Cadenas leads the way with a fifth-place finish

By ANNIE FOWLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Hermiston had three wrestlers place in the top eight, and the Bulldogs finished in the top 10 of the team standings Saturday at the prestigious Gut Check tournament at ShoWare Center in Kent, Wash.

Sophomore Sam Cadenas, who



Cadenas Wagner Coughlin

advanced to the semifinals at 220 pounds, was the top Dawg on the weekend, finishing fifth.

Cadenas posted a 10-3 decision over Carter Thomas of Orting in the 5-6

placing match.

Trevor Wagner dropped from 170 pounds to 160 for the tournament, and placed seventh. He pinned Jaxsen Tuttle of Connell in his final match.

Dustyn Coughlin placed eighth at 285 pounds, losing the 7-8 placing match to Terrell Underwood of Toppenish, who pinned Coughlin in 2:05.

Hermiston, which had six men still alive for Day 2, including Aiden Favorite (106), Daniel Faaeteete (182) and Jon Lee (220), was eighth in the team standings with 76.5 points after

the first day.

Blair Academy (New Jersey), one of the top high school wrestling teams in the country, crowned seven champions and won the team title with 351 points.

Toppenish was second with 208, followed by Chiawana with 161.

Hermiston finished 10th with 89.5 points in the field of 69 teams.

Hermiston is back on the mat Jan. 15, hosting Hanford and Kamiakin in a pair of Mid-Columbia Conference duals.

## Dawgs cruise past Suns for first MCC win

By ANNIE FOWLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Katelyn Heideman scored 12 points, and Hermiston used a tough full-court press to shut down Southridge 57-31 in Mid-Columbia Conference action Friday night.

It was the first conference win for the Bulldogs (4-4, 1-3 MCC), who also got 11 points from Kaylee Young.

“We opened up with probably the top three teams in the league,” Hermiston coach Maloree Moss said of Kennewick, Chiawana and Pasco. “The whole conference is tough. That is a challenge. They muscled us around a bit. The Lewiston game helped us get a little momentum.”

The Suns (3-6, 0-5 MCC) were right in the game with the Bulldogs at the end of the first quarter, trailing 14-8, but once the Bulldogs slapped on their man-to-man full-court press, things went downhill pretty fast for the Suns.

Hermiston went on a 10-5 run in the second to take a 24-13 lead at the half, but it was a 21-8 scoring spree by the Bulldogs in the third that separated the two teams for good.

The Suns, who pulled within 16-13 at 5:49 of the second quarter, did not score again until the third quarter.

“Once we put on our man press, they had trouble,” Moss said. “We did a good job of reading passes. Jazlyn (Romero) was picking off passes.”

Romero finished the game with seven steals, eight points and five rebounds.

The Bulldogs also hit 10 3-pointers on the night — four by Heideman and three by Young — to keep the Suns’ defense spread out.

“A lot of it was dribble, drive, kick and 3,” Moss said. “You are squared up and ready to shoot.”

The Bulldogs missed some easy baskets early in the game, but were able to ride the storm until they got



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Katelyn Heideman (1), of Hermiston, goes up for a shot during Friday’s Mid-Columbia Conference game against Southridge in Kennewick. She scored 12 points in the 57-31 win.**

on track.

“We came out not perfect, but then we were fine,” said Young, who also had six rebounds. “We started shooting better and getting steals. Our defensive intensity changed dramatically throughout the game, and I think we kind of scared them with the the press. They were trying to get rid of the ball.”

Hermiston forced 29 Southridge turnovers, with 11 coming in the third quarter.

“It was a good way to start a new decade,” Heideman said. “We

did a lot of conditioning over the break, worked on our press and pushed it hard. It showed tonight.”

Jayden Ray added five points and a team-high 12 rebounds for the Bulldogs, while Alexis Kessell had eight rebounds and six points.

Nadine French led Southridge with nine points, while McKenna Crum added six.

**HERMISTON 73, HANFORD 63** — The Dawgs led by just four points at the half, but sharp shooting from Jazlyn Romero in the fourth quarter helped put the game away and earn the Hermiston



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Mia Hernandez (21), of Hermiston, goes up for a shot over Southridge defender Emmee Ball (2) during Friday’s Mid-Columbia Conference game in Kennewick.**

girls their second Mid-Columbia Conference win Saturday night.

Romero scored 12 of Hermiston’s 21 points in the fourth quarter Saturday to help bury visiting Hanford.

Romero finished the game with 16 points. Six of her 12 points in the fourth quarter were scored at the free-throw line.

Katelyn Heideman led the Bulldogs (5-4, 2-3 MCC) with 17

points, while Jayden Ray added 16. The Falcons were led by Iliana Moran with a game-high 23 points.

**BOX SCORE**

<b>HERMISTON</b>	14	10	21	12-57
<b>SOUTHRIDGE</b>	8	5	8	10-31
HERMISTON — Heideman 12, K.Young 11, Ray 5, Seavert 2, Kessell 6, Dowdy 5, Hernandez 6, Romero 8, B.Young 2.				
SOUTHRIDGE — Ball 2, Crum 6, Connors 4, Smith 2, James 1, French 9, Brooks 2, Molt 5.				

## Hermiston boys fall short against Southridge

By ANNIE FOWLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Hermiston coach Drew Preuninger knows his team does not have an inside presence to combat the likes of Southridge’s 6-foot-6 Tristan Smith, but he does expect the Bulldogs to implement their game plan.

Smith torched the Bulldogs for 28 points Friday night in leading the Suns to a 54-44 Mid-Columbia Conference win over the Bulldogs. It was Southridge’s first MCC win.

“I feel we could have been tougher,” Preuninger said. “We didn’t front players, we didn’t have any backside help. It comes down to executing our game plan.”

Hermiston (2-6, 1-3 MCC) opened the game with a 5-0 lead, courtesy of Jaiden Ruloph. The teams traded the lead throughout the quarter, with the Suns (2-7, 1-4 MCC) coming out on top 14-13 after 8 minutes of play.

Ruloph had 10 of his team-high 19 points in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs welcomed Chase Elliott to the floor with 1:39 remaining in the first quarter. Elliott broke his leg Sept. 6, 2019, against Pasco in the first football game of the season. He finished with two points.

In the second, Ruloph opened



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Hermiston’s A.J. Ramos-Barron dishes off to a teammate as he is pressured by Southridge’s Eddie Marines (behind) and Tristan Smith (13) during Friday’s Mid-Columbia Conference game in Kennewick, Wash.**

things up with a 3 from the left baseline for a 16-14 Hermiston lead, only to see Ryker Stevens step outside for a 3 of his own for a 17-16 Southridge lead.

Sergio Madrigal drove the lane for a basket to give the Bulldogs

an 18-17 advantage — their last of the game.

From there, Smith scored seven points to help the Suns to a 28-22 lead at the half.

Ruloph hit a 3, and Madrigal made one of two free throws



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
**Hermiston’s Jaiden Ruloph shoots during Friday’s MCC match against Southridge in Kennewick, Wash. He scored 19 points.**

to account for Hermiston’s four points in the third quarter as the Bulldogs fell behind 39-26 with one quarter to play.

The Bulldogs went on an 18-15 run in the fourth quarter, getting five points each from Madrigal and Trent Pitney, but it would not be enough.

“I appreciate them not giving up,” Preuninger said. “I’m proud of them — they battled and did not give up.”

Ruloph added four rebounds

to his 19 points, drawing praise from Preuninger.

“Jaiden has been shooting really well all year,” he said. “We just need someone else to step up. For us to win, we have to win as a team.”

A.J. Ramos-Barron added 10 points and four rebounds for the Bulldogs, while Madrigal had eight points.

Smith scored 18 of his 28 points in the first half. He was the only Southridge player in double figures.

“We put a lot of effort on stopping (Donavyn) Perry and Smith,” Preuninger said. “We did a good job on Perry (two points).”

**HANFORD 71, HERMISTON 56** — The Bulldogs trailed early, and faced a 40-24 deficit in the third quarter, as the visiting Falcons cruised to a Mid-Columbia Conference victory Saturday.

Trent Pitney led the Bulldogs (2-7, 1-4 MCC) with 15 points, with Chase Elliott adding 13 and Jaiden Ruloph 11.

Turner Clayton scored a game-high 22 points for the Falcons.

**BOX SCORE**

<b>HERMISTON</b>	13	9	4	18-44
<b>SOUTHRIDGE</b>	14	14	11	15-54
HERMISTON — Ruloph 19, Pitney 5, Elliott 2, Ramos-Barron 10, Madrigal 8.				
SOUTHRIDGE — Marines 4, Brown 2, Stevens 5, Smith 28, Perry 2, Stillwell 5, Lopia 8.				