

Ducks overcome slow start to blow out Bowling Green

The Associated Press

Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert completed just 10 passes, but five of them were for touchdowns against Bowling Green.

"I like that ratio," Ducks coach Mario Cristobal said. "Let's keep that going."

Herbert ran for another score to finish with six touchdowns to lead No. 24 Oregon to a 58-24 victory on Saturday night. He finished 10 of 21 for 281 yards and the five passing TDs were the most for a Duck in a season-opening game.

The victory extended Oregon's

winning streak in home openers to 14 straight.

Herbert said afterward there was room for improvement.

"I think at times we moved the ball really well. At times things were clicking and the defense was playing really good defense, and

we kind of feed off each other. For a short moment there, we were playing really good football," Herbert said. "If we could stretch that out for a complete game I think we could be a really good team."

Bowling Green, which went 2-10 last season, jumped in front 10-0

in the first quarter, but the Ducks scored 37 unanswered points until the Falcons scored again just before the halftime to make it 37-17.

Bowling Green quarterback Jarret Doege threw for 252 yards and three touchdowns. Scott Miller had

See **Ducks** / Page 8A

NO. 4 SOUTHERN OREGON 32, EASTERN OREGON 13



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon's Bryce Gabbard, left, pulls down Southern Oregon quarterback Wyatt Hutchingson as Eli Teuteu moves in on the play during the first half of Saturday's game at Community Stadium.

SOU runs away with win

Raiders use 29-0 run to build their lead, pull away from EOU for 32-13 victory

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

A lack of second-half execution by Eastern Oregon, coupled with Southern Oregon getting hot after halftime, turned a close battle between Frontier Conference rivals into a decisive win by the visiting Raiders.

Fourth-ranked SOU used a 29-0 run to take control in its season opener and went on to earn a 32-13 victory over the Mountaineers Saturday at Community Stadium.

"We didn't make enough plays," EOU Head Coach Tim Camp said. "We didn't convert offensively on some key plays, and we didn't get them off the field on big third downs. Those things have to be corrected. We were able to do that last week, (but) we just consistently didn't do it well enough today."

Eastern Oregon had built a 10-0 second-quarter lead and still was up 10-7 at the break despite a two-yard touchdown run by SOU quarterback Wyatt Hutchinson on the final play of the half.

But the game turned quickly in the third quarter.

After forcing an EOU punt, the Raiders drove 60 yards and converted three straight third downs — that after going just 3-for-10 in such situations in the first half — to set up a 44-yard Marcus Montano field goal to even the score.

SOU, in fact, was 6-for-9 on third down in the second half.

Tyler Dean snagged an interception to end the ensuing EOU drive — one of three second-half turnovers by EOU —



Ronald Bond/The Observer

EOU's Chase Van Wyck reacts after blocking a field goal in the fourth quarter to try and keep the Mountaineers in the game.

and on the next play, Rey Vega sprinted 53 yards for a score and a 16-10 Southern Oregon lead.

Later Hutchinson, who was making his first start for SOU, scrambled 18 yards for a touchdown to cap a 63-yard drive, and four plays later Devvon Gage recovered a Kai Quinn fumble and took it 55 yards for a score and a 29-10 Raiders' lead late in the third.

"They're good," said EOU linebacker Eli Teuteu, who led the team with 15 tackles. "I think they just stepped it up a notch. We started off slow in the second half."

Two big plays in the fourth quarter appeared to give EOU life as it attempted a comeback. On third and long early in the final period, Quinn tossed up a deep ball that was hauled in by Brenden Kelly for a 47-yard completion, which eventually led to a Nathan Harden field goal and trimmed the deficit to 29-13. Chase Van Wyck then blocked a Montano field goal attempt

on the ensuing possession and EOU drove to the SOU 32.

But a pass by Quinn off the hands of Victor Dias was intercepted by SOU's A.J. Cooper to set up an SOU field goal for the final margin.

Eastern had taken a 10-0 lead in the second quarter on a two-yard touchdown pass from Quinn to Kelly, who led EOU in receiving with 175 yards, and the 34-yard Harden field goal.

"(We were) sticking to what were good at, running it up the middle, throwing the quick game and taking what they gave us," Kelly said of what worked in the first half.

But Camp said EOU got away from those avenues of success and wasn't taking what the SOU defense was giving them after halftime.

"We didn't take the shots that were there initially. That's what I was concerned about," Camp said. "They lined up exactly how we thought they

See **Eastern** / Page 9A

Eastern volleyball earns home split

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon volleyball team rebounded from a closely contested loss to Southern Oregon Friday and earned a split in its first weekend of Cascade Collegiate Conference action.

Hailee Ackerman tallied 13 kills, Megan Bunn added 10 kills and a career-best 22 digs, and the No. 15 Mountaineers swept Oregon Tech Saturday, 25-16, 25-18, 27-25, one night after falling to undefeated Southern Oregon in a five-set battle.

"I'm proud of them for being resilient tonight," Head Coach Kaki McLean-Morehead said. "One of our goals coming into tonight was to set the tempo (and) set the tone early. I think we did that with our consistency. There are still some things we need to work on, but for the most part we set the tone early. That was important."

Eastern dominated in the opening set, using an extended 17-4 run to take a commanding 19-6 lead after a kill by Bunn and an attack error by OIT's Chase Bohman.

OIT went on a 7-0 run to make the first set interesting late, but Ackerman finished a set-ending 4-1 burst by EOU with a kill.

"Coming in today we knew we had to play together in

order to achieve what we wanted," Ackerman said.

The Mountaineers' comeback ability showed in the second set. Bohman put down back-to-back kills for a 14-11 OIT lead, but later an 8-0 run — highlighted by a pair of aces from Aspen Christiansen — gave EOU a 20-15 lead. Bunn's kill moments later ended the set.

EOU led almost the entirety of the final set, but couldn't shake the Owls, who rallied from match-point down to take a 25-24 lead on two straight kills by Bohman. But a service error evened the score before Ackerman finished the match with back-to-back kills.

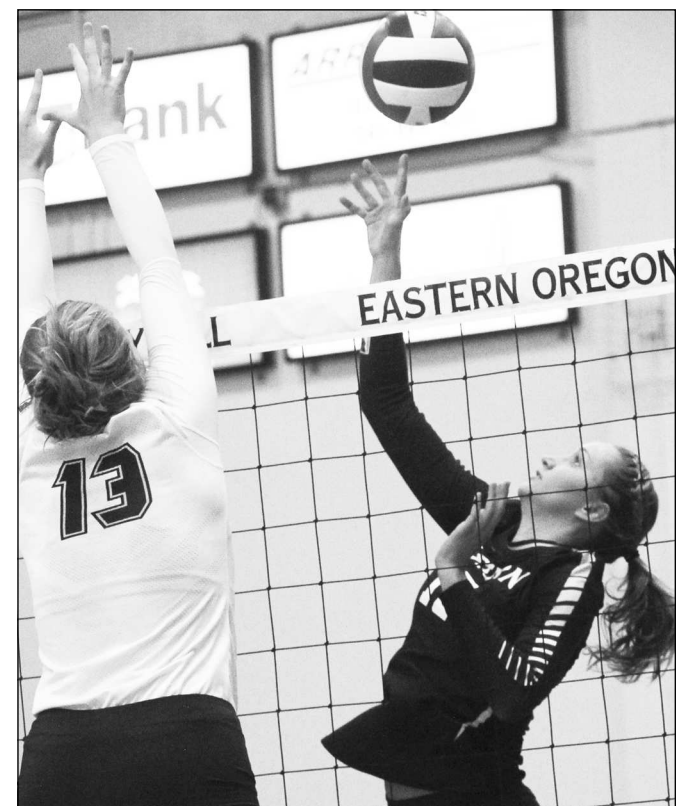
"It just shows that we can be resilient and we can get those last points to end the match," Bunn said of Eastern being able to limit the match to three sets.

The EOU coach said the team is improving in some of the areas — such as blocking — that were big concerns going into the season.

That was highlighted over the weekend with the Mountaineers recording 11 team blocks against SOU Friday. They followed with just four against OIT Saturday night, but several players got their hands on an attack at the net.

"It's something we're

See **Split** / Page 9A



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon's Cambree Scott, right, attempts a kill over Oregon Tech's Faith Houck-Wylie during Saturday's CCC match at Quinn Coliseum.

Eagles bury Huntington in six-man action; Union edges Oakridge

Observer staff

Joseph's first six-man game was a major success.

Tyler Homan rushed for 135 yards, scored six touchdowns and had a pick-six, Carson Littlepage and Trey Wandschneider both found the end zone twice, and the Eagles walloped Huntington, 80-0, Friday afternoon in the first six-man game in the Tri-County region in nearly 60 years.

Joseph put the contest out of reach early, scoring 41 first-quarter points and extending the lead to 68-0 by halftime.

"The kids are taking to it really well," Head Coach Duncan Christman said. "The parents are liking it (and) I'm loving it."

While the offense rolled and spread the ball around — seven of the 13 players available to Joseph scored either a touchdown or an extra point — the defense smothered the Locomotives. Guylen Snyder was a defensive highlight with two interceptions.

"The defense did an excellent job of getting in the backfield, containing, breaking down and making tackles,"

Christman said.

The Eagles (1-0 overall) host Burnt River Saturday.

Union edges Oakridge

Tate Lantis rushed for 181 yards and four touchdowns, leading Union to a 36-30 win over Oakridge at the Dufur Classic Saturday afternoon in its season opener.

The senior running back scored on runs of four and 85 yards in the first quarter, and added touchdown runs of

four and 15 yards in the third quarter. Anthony Goodwater contributed a 60-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the first quarter.

Levi Obindorf chipped in with 58 yards rushing. The Bobcats had 247 of their 264 yards on the ground.

"As far as the effort and everything it was nice to see," Head Coach Jon Reynolds said. "They wanted to get out there and get after it."

Union (1-0 overall) hosts

Imbler Friday in the Special District 3 opener for both teams.

Cove handles Cascade

Cove was dominant in its season opener, rolling to an easy 56-0 home win over Cascade, Idaho, Friday afternoon.

Both Cameron Dillman and Landon Moore rushed for more than 100 yards — Dillman 163 and Moore 117 — to boost the Leopards, who raced out to a 40-0 halftime lead. Dillman scored two

touchdowns and Moore found paydirt three times. Wacey Fite added 76 combined yards rushing and receiving and two touchdowns.

The Leopards (1-0 overall) host Elgin Thursday in a Special District 3 contest.

Cougars fall to St. Paul

St. Paul raced out to a 38-0 halftime lead and never looked back on its way to a 54-20 blowout win over Wallowa Friday night.

The Buckaroos rushed for

See **Roundup** / Page 8A