



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

La Grande's Claire Hardy put down 26 kills in the Tigers' win over Pendleton Tuesday.

Tigers drop Pendleton in four sets

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers volleyball team overcame a rough first set to earn a four-set win over the Pendleton Buckaroos at home Tuesday night, 13-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-15.

"Games two through four were awesome tonight," La Grande Head Coach Melinda Becker-Bisenius said. "Jayce Seavert had an exceptional all-around game. Claire (Hardy) had a fantastic offensive game (and) Felicity Houston had a great defensive game."

Seavert posted a team-best 39 digs

PREP ROUNDUP

and also registered 14 kills in the win. Hardy led the offense with 26 kills. Houston and Riana Scott both added 20 digs, Kenzie Williams had 24 assists and Jacie Howton added 16 assists.

The Tigers (12-2 overall) travel to the North Marion Tournament Saturday.

Also Tuesday EAGLES SWEEP IMBLER

The Joseph Eagles volleyball team swept the Imbler Panthers in Old Oregon League action in Joseph Tuesday

night, 25-14, 25-17, 25-16.

Emma Hite led the Eagles with 12 kills, eight assists, seven digs and five aces. Sabrina Albee added 12 kills and nine digs, and Camille Crenshaw had 14 digs.

Caysie McGinness led the Panthers with six kills and 14 digs. Karrington Troyer had 12 assists and Anika McDonald had 11 digs.

Joseph (15-7 overall, 5-1 OOL) hosts Elgin Friday, while Imbler (9-9, 5-3) is at Cove Thursday.

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Beavs looking for momentum plays

By Steve Gress
Corvallis Gazette-Times

If there is one constant with the Oregon State football team through the first five games, it is the resiliency the team has displayed.

Outside of the opening loss to Ohio State, the Beavers have had opportunities to keep games competitive and in position to possibly win or keep games close in the second half.

But something has gone wrong.

Offensively, a drive to make it a one-score game stalls because of a penalty or other execution issues.

Defensively, a missed opportunity to get off the field to keep it a one-score game leads to a score that helps break the game open.

"You analyze those plays, really on both sides of the ball, we got opportunities to finish drives, we got opportunities to create a turnover that would have given us a chance to change the momentum and get it within a score and just weren't able to score," coach Jonathan Smith said.

That was the case in Saturday's game at Arizona State when the Beavers allowed a touchdown in the final minutes of the first half that put the Sun Devils up by 14 points after the Beavers had scored 14 straight to get within seven.

The Beavers also failed on a fourth-down play from the ASU 6-yard line late in the third quarter that would have again made it a one-score game.

Despite the failures, Smith says his team has shown plenty of resilience.



Timothy J. Gonzalez/The Associated Press

Oregon State wide receiver Timmy Hernandez looks for running room on a 24-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game in Corvallis. Arizona won 35-14.

"The guys continue to fight," he said. "We had an opportunity to get within a single score which I really think changes things. We keep pointing that out. We've had opportunities not just last week but other weeks. And to get over that hump is what we're battling to do."

"I told the team, you've got to be able to continue to work even though

you haven't gotten the results yet because our process is right, I think our effort is right, the way we're practicing is right. It will get us over the hump; it's just tough to swallow when it hasn't quite happened yet."

MORE TURNOVERS

Another way to help change the momentum of games is to force more turnovers. The Beavers have

had just four — two interceptions and two fumbles — in the first five games.

"The guys are working at it and we're practicing it and we're creating some turnovers in practice but that stuff's game-changing," Smith said. "I talk about this thing being momentum swings; we've got to create some."

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COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Eastern vaults to No. 13 in NAIA

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon volleyball team climbed four spots to No. 13 in Tuesday's installment of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics coaches poll.

The ranking is the highest this season for the Mountaineers, who moved up four spots from the previous poll, where they were 17th. Eastern has 359 points in the poll.

EOU is one of three ranked teams in the Cascade Collegiate Conference, and is the second-highest rated CCC team. Southern Oregon is ranked 10th, and College of Idaho is 16th.

Park, Missouri, continues to hold the top spot in the poll with 591 points. The Pirates are one of only two undefeated teams in the NAIA ranks, along with No. 2 Grand View, Iowa.

EOU is on the road this weekend with two matches, including a key CCC battle at SOU Saturday night.

Rockies edge Cubs in 13-inning marathon wild card game

By Jay Cohen
The Associated Press

Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

"Probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure," he said.

The 26-year-old Wolters, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up

the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves, that's for sure," Story said, "but we're going to enjoy this one tonight and we're definitely not done."

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley. Terrence Gore tried to sell that he was hit by a pitch, but was sent back to the plate after a replay review confirmed the initial call.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging for the

final out, Wolters ran out and grabbed Oberg. They were soon joined by the rest of the excited Rockies in a rollicking purple mob near the mound.

"You're always wondering, 'How's this going to end?' But our guys fought all night and to be able to get that last out there was great," Oberg said.

Wolters got his first hit since Sept. 10 in his playoff debut, and it was just the second postseason game for Oberg. Previously, the longest winner-take-all games in the postseason were 12-inning affairs in the 2014 AL wild-card round and Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

This one lasted 4 hours, 55 minutes, and had pretty much everything, too. Hendricks was the third starting pitcher used by the Cubs, after Jon Lester worked six solid innings and Cole Hamels was pressed into action after the teams were tied at 1 through nine. Rockies third baseman Nolan

Arenado exchanged a memorable hug with Javier Baez after he tagged the excitable Cubs star in the 11th.

Colorado moved on to the Division Series for the first time since 2009. The Rockies lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game a year ago.

"Such a crazy game," Story said.

The Cubs made it to the NLCS in each of the previous three seasons, winning the 2016 World Series to break a 108-year drought, but they were plagued by an inconsistent offense all season long. Chicago finished with six hits and left 10 runners on base after managing only three hits in Monday's 3-1 home loss to the Brewers in the NL Central tiebreaker.

"We played that game a lot," said manager Joe Maddon, who matched a postseason record by using 23 players. "Believe me, it was on my mind for a large part of it."

This time, it was Kyle Freeland cruising through Maddon's lineup.

Starting on three days' rest for the first time in the pros, Freeland struck out six in 6 2/3 scoreless innings. The Denver native looked quite comfortable in his first career playoff appearance, helping his hometown team bounce back from Monday's NL West tiebreaker loss to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

"Sometimes you just get beat and we got beat tonight," Lester said.

Lester helped Chicago stick around by matching a career playoff high with nine strikeouts in his 26th postseason appearance. But he took a little while to settle into the game, and the Rockies took advantage.

Charlie Blackmon led off with a five-pitch walk. D.J. LeMahieu followed with a ground-rule double on a 3-2 pitch — with the ball getting

stuck in the famed ivy in left-center — and Arenado's sacrifice fly drove in Blackmon.

Lester then limited the damage by striking out Story and Matt Holliday with LeMahieu on third.

That one run looked as if it might hold up as Freeland cruised into the seventh. After Story robbed Daniel Murphy of a hit with a diving grab at shortstop, manager Bud Black replaced Freeland with Adam Ottavino.

Chicago loaded the bases with two outs, getting some help when Drew Butera was called for catcher's interference, but Ottavino struck out pinch-hitter Jason Heyward to end the inning.

The Cubs got another chance when Anthony Rizzo singled with two outs in the eighth, and Maddon went for it. He ran for his star first baseman with the speedy Gore, who promptly swiped second.



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