

Ducks, Tigers ready for battle

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — For all the expectations that the 11th-ranked Oregon Ducks have for this season, there will first be a flashback to their championship near-misses of the past when they open against No. 16 Auburn.

When the Ducks last played in the home stadium of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys five seasons ago with Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Marcus Mariota, they lost to Ohio State in the first championship game of the four-team College Football Playoff era.

Oregon also played a season opener at the North Texas stadium in 2011, the middle of three consecutive 12-win seasons under coach Chip Kelly. That loss to LSU came only about eight months after they were again on the verge of a national title, and lost in the BCS Championship Game to Auburn.

Gus Malzahn, going into his seventh

season as head coach of the Tigers, was their offensive coordinator for that 2010 championship.

“Sometimes in the offseason, you reflect back on certain things. But that was a while ago, and of course, those are great memories,” Malzahn said. “But they’re different now, and we’re a little different now.”

The Ducks are the highest-ranked Pac-12 team and the North Division favorite. They go into Saturday night’s game, the opener of coach Mario Cristobal’s second season, with a three-game winning streak after a 9-4 season.

Malzahn is feeling some heat at Auburn after going 8-5 last year; another disappointing record for the Tigers, who in his first season as head coach in 2013 played in the last BCS title game (a 34-31 loss to Florida State). Five SEC teams are currently ranked higher than Auburn.

ROUNDUP

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seven kills, Felicity Houston had 13 digs and Presley Justice tallied 15 digs, four kills and three aces.

La Grande (1-0 overall) hosts the Hanna Cashell Memorial Tournament on Saturday.

COUGARS OPEN WITH THREE VICTORIES

The Wallowa Cougars opened the season with three victories at the McLoughlin Tournament Thursday, sweeping the host Pioneers (25-16, 25-18), Umatilla (25-8, 25-13) and Enterprise (25-10, 25-14) in best-of-three matches.

“I feel very confident in their play today. The biggest thing I have to say is they played as a team,” head coach Janea Hulse said. “If they made a mistake they were lift each other up....At this point in years past we weren’t at the team level yet. It’s encouraging to see where they are at right now.”

Jamie Johnston tallied seven kills, nine digs and three blocks against Mac-Hi. ShannaRae Tillery had six kills, 11 digs and five aces in the win and Ashlyn Young added 14 assists and four aces.

In the win over Umatilla Johnston had six kills, 17 digs and four blocks. Tillery added 16 digs, six aces and five kills and Ella Moeller recorded 18 digs and three aces.

In the finale Johnston was solid in all facets of the game with 11 kills, 18 digs and six

blocks. Tillery had 12 kills and 13 digs and three aces, and Bailey Hafer added three aces.

The Cougars (3-0 overall) return to action Sept. 7 at The Cat Clash in Echo.

BADGERS WIN PAIR OF OPENING MATCHES

The Powder Valley Badgers opened the 2019 regular season with a pair of victories at the 1A season preview tournament at Country Christian High School in Molalla Thursday, defeating McKenzie 25-7, 25-6, 25-9 and Crane 25-13, 25-9, 24-26, 25-9.

“They were super excited, (though) nervous in the beginning of the first game,” head coach Marji Lind said. “They worked hard (in the) preseason. It was good to get out on the court in a game station. They did a great job. It was a great first day.”

Stats were not provided.

The Badgers (2-0 overall) continued play in Molalla today with three more matches on the slate.

ELGIN GOES 2-1 AT MAC-HI

Elgin opened the season with two victories at the McLoughlin Tournament, beating both Mac-Hi and Umatilla before losing to Enterprise in three sets.

“I was thrilled with today,” head coach Tiana Murphey said. “I was ecstatic with how the girls worked together (and) came together to overcome any obstacles that got in their way. They really focused and just have a wonder mindset and work ethic.”

The Huskies eked out a

close 25-22, 25-20 win over Mac-Hi, behind two kills from Jayden Palmer and a strong defensive effort. Both Tymra Anderson and Madison Harvey had nine digs. Palmer also had four assists and Anderson added four aces.

In their 25-8, 25-18 win over Umatilla, Shelby San-nar had two kills, two aces and two blocks.

Elgin wrapped up with a 25-17, 10-25, 25-10 loss to Enterprise. Kaelin Evans had three kills and nine digs, Palmer had five assists and two blocks, and Anderson had seven aces.

“They really stepped up and made significant improvement over last year just in the last two weeks,” Murphey said.

Elgin (2-1 overall) next plays at the Stanfield Tournament Sept. 7.

EAGLES OPEN WITH TWO LOSSES

The Joseph Eagles dropped a pair of season-opening matches to Perrydale and Echo at the 1A season preview tournament at Country Christian High School in Molalla Thursday. Joseph lost to Perrydale in four set, and dropped a five-set marathon to Echo, 25-20, 25-17, 21-25, 26-28, 17-15.

Set scores for the Perrydale match, as well as stats, were not available.

The Eagles (0-2 overall) continue play in Molalla today with three more matches on the schedule.

PANTHERS DROPTWO TO OPEN SEASON

The Imbler Panthers

Wright working to earn his spot

By Kevin Hampton
Albany Democrat-Herald

At least one name pops out when looking through the recently released Oregon State football depth chart.

Nahshon Wright is listed as the possible No. 1 cornerback, along with Jojo Forest, opposite Isaiah Dunn. Some fans might be a bit surprised by the news.

After all, Wright was a relatively late arrival at OSU. He announced his commitment on June 8, choosing the Beavers over Colorado and Boise State.

“I love the family atmosphere,” Wright told Oregonlive after his commitment. “I always wanted to get out of California. This is right outside. I like the school, and the coaches are really welcoming, especially coach Blue (Adams), that’s my guy.”

He played one season at Laney Junior College, giving him three years of eligibility to play three. He was available to play in 2019 and so immediately made his way to

Corvallis to get ready for the fall.

A few months later, Wright could start at corner against Oklahoma State on Friday night.

“Obviously anytime you bring any recruit in out of a junior college you’re bringing them in so that they can have an immediate impact, but you never know,” OSU defensive coordinator Tim Tibesar said. “He’s got to go in just like the other guys and compete every single day and he’s got to go out and earn it. It wasn’t something that was promised to him or anything like that, he’s got to go out and earn it every single day and that’s what he’s been able to do.”

Wright said he didn’t have much of a reaction to the depth chart news.

“I just knew I had to hold myself to a higher standard, just as far as locking in before the game and just understanding my role and my job on the field. I think just getting into the playbook and understanding what I have to do and all the concepts.”

opened with a pair of losses at the Weston-McEwen three-way match Thursday, losing to Dufur 25-19, 25-23, 25-23, and to Weston-McEwen 25-19, 25-11, 25-18.

Stats were not available.

Imbler (0-2 overall) next

plays at the Hanna Cashell Memorial Tournament in La Grande Saturday.

ENTERPRISE GOES 2-1 TO OPEN SEASON

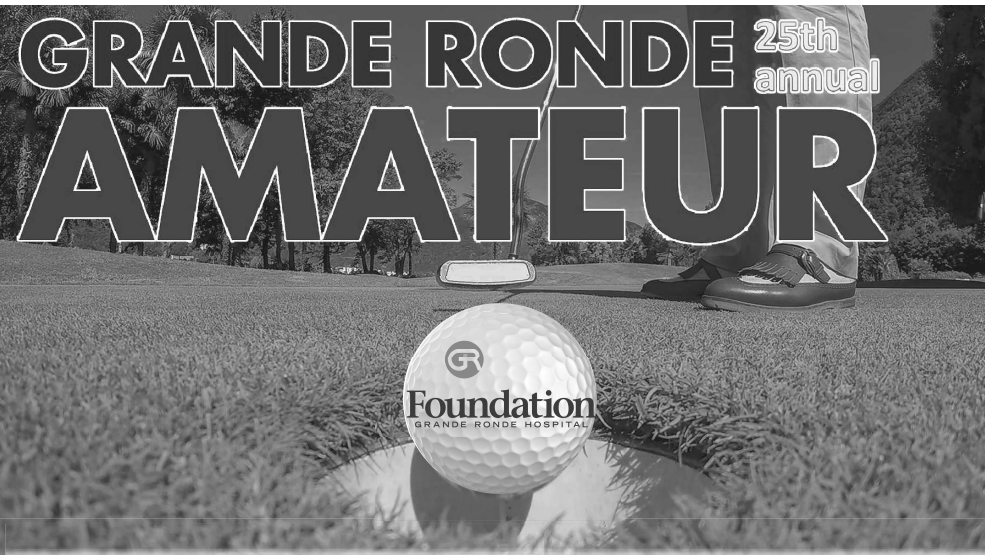
Enterprise went 2-1 at the McLoughlin tournament to open 2019, defeat-

ing Mac-Hi 25-12, 20-25, 15-8 and Elgin 25-17, 10-25, 15-10, but losing to Wallowa 25-10, 25-14.

Stats were not available.

The Outlaws (2-1 overall) play at the Grant Union Tournament Saturday.

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EASTERN

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champion Oklahoma City opened the season as the nation's No. 1 team.

The EOU women's team fell short of making the top 25, but did receive 29 points in the poll for 36th. The last time the Mountaineer

women were in the coaches' rankings was the final poll of the 2012 season, when they were 13th. The highest rating for EOU in the past 20 years came in 2000, when it opened the season fifth.

Four CCC opponents — Southern Oregon (No. 4), defending national champion

Oregon Tech (No. 7), College of Idaho (No. 9) and Northwest Christian (No. 18).

Madonna (Michigan) opened the season at No. 1 after being the runner up last fall.

Both the men and women's teams open the season when they host the EOU Invitational Sept. 13.

Ronald Bond/The Observer

Sid Rangel, a former Eastern Oregon player and La Grande assistant coach, has taken over the program.

TIGERS

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“He’s going to do great things. He’s very agile, very athlete, very strong,” Rangel said of Huntsman, who is also a standout pole vaulter for the Tigers’ track team. “I’m excited to have him in the goal.”

La Grande gets a pair of

home matches right off the bat, hosting aforementioned Wood River today and Jerome, Idaho, Saturday — the latter of the two at Community Stadium.

The Tigers’ open GOL play at home Sept. 21 against rival Baker, and host defending GOL champion Ontario in an early final regular-season home game Oct. 2.

Grande Ronde Hospital proudly welcomes: Jeanna Romer, MD

Joining the GRH Women’s Clinic team as a Doctor of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Dr. Romer is a native Oregonian and Eastern Oregon University graduate. She was drawn back to the Grande Ronde Valley by her love of the people, the outdoors, and the desire to raise her family in a small community, all the while providing access to quality, non-judgemental, and compassionate healthcare for women throughout the area. Dr. Romer completed her medical education at OHSU, followed by an internship at the University of Hawaii on Oahu, and then completed her OB/GYN residency at the University of Connecticut. Professionally, she is interested in minimally invasive surgeries, healthcare policy and women’s health advocacy. She is passionate about healthy lifestyles including diet, exercise, and preventative medicine. She enjoys working with women at various stages of their lives - whether they need a surgeon, are trying to prevent pregnancy, seeking help to conceive, or dealing with issues surrounding menopause. Personally, Dr. Romer enjoys running, biking, hiking, rock climbing, cooking, and spending time with her husband and three young children.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Romer and her family back to the area!

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Jeanna Romer, MD

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