OSAA is going digital with prep playoff tickets

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

WILSONVILLE — The Oregon School Activities Association is going digital with tickets to all postseason events.

Starting with fall playoffs — football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country — fans can go online and purchase their tickets in advance for events. They then will show their e-ticket at the gate when arriving for the event.

"Pre-sold digital tickets will take precedence over any potential walk up at the day of the event," OSAA Assistant Executive Director Kyle Stanfield wrote in a news release. "It's important that host facilities are prepared to take these tickets at the event."

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

La Grande players dump ice on La Grande head coach Rich McIlmoil following their win over Banks in the 2019 state title game. The OSAA is going to sell tickets to postseason events online starting this fall.

Though the digital tickets are preferred, fans can pay at the door if the game is hosted at a high school. Once playoffs reach neutral sites (semifinals and finals), e-tickets will be the way to go.

In small communities where internet is limited or fans prefer to pay at the gate, Stanfield said the OSAA will work with those communities to offer both.

"Each school and location may have different restrictions and we want to honor those restrictions," Stanfield said. "We will be communicating consistently throughout October and November."

Powder Valley Athletic Director Brad Dunten is unsure of the impact the digital ticketing will have until the school tests it firsthand.

"Not experiencing it yet, it's hard to give feedback," Dunten said. "Yearly we have to train parents and fans on the season's scheduling and protocols, so this will just be another element."

Dunten noted that seniors and their parents volunteer to work the gate at sporting events, which goes toward fundraisers for the senior class. Dunten was unsure if the lessened use of up-front ticketing will have an impact on that system.

According to Dunten, the online ticketing will expedite the payment process to OSAA during the playoffs. Local schools send the ticket funds to OSAA, and a smaller balance is sent back to the athletics department. With the online process in place, the necessary funds for officials and other expenses can be sent directly to OSAA.

According to the OSAA, the pandemic has forced changes, including a consumer shift to using apps and digital services now more than ever.

By not having large-ticketed events the last 18 months, the OSAA considers this the perfect time to reset and start a new way of thinking on how to enter contests.

The move to digital tickets also will reduce the number of people needed for an event. Venues no longer will need multiple ticket sellers, just a couple of ticket scanners. Finding people to work games has been difficult for some schools.

This move helps reduce the number of people in the ticket booths while providing frictionless access to patrons.

The ease of technology turns most any smartphone into a ticket scanner, provided the venue has a cell signal. An app is used to scan tickets. For a single high school event, the battery usage and amount of data used to run the app is minimal.

Schools will no longer be responsible for large sums of cash. Money for digital tickets goes directly to an OSAA account, with no cash or credit card slips left at the site.

PREVIEWS

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would give the Antelopes an undefeated regular season and propel them into first place in the upcoming playoffs.

Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Friday.

IMBLER AT DUFUR — Few teams are as hot at this point in the season as the Panthers. They have won three straight games to climb above .500 on the season at 4-3.

The Panthers downed Pilot Rock 62-34 last Friday to record their best offensive output on the season. They will look to keep the winning going when they travel to face Dufur, a traditional power, who is 4-3 on the season coming off a 46-6 loss to Ione/Arlington. Dufur has lost two of its past three games, beating only Pilot Rock 46-44 on Oct. 7.

Friday kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

IONE/ARLINGTON AT COVE — Cove lost a defensive battle against Crane 16-6 last week to fall to 2-5 on the season. The Leopards will conclude their season after seeing both their starting and backup quarterbacks going down to injury a week ago.

Junior David Creech continues to impress from his fullback position after scoring his team's lone touchdown against Crane.

Cove's defense was impressive in the loss, holding the Mustangs to under 20 points after they averaged 57 points per game across the last four contests.

Ione/Arlington is coming off a 46-6 drubbing of Dufur a week ago to improve to 4-3 on the season. It has won its past two games scoring at least 30 points each time.

Kickoff is 7 p.m. Friday.

ELGIN AT WALLOWA — Injuries have plagued Elgin in the final weeks of the regular season as it was forced to forfeit its game against Adrian last week. Elgin has just 11 players on its roster this year and would have had to play freshmen or injured players against the top-ranked Antelopes.

The Huskies (2-4) will lean, if healthy, on quarterback Ty McLaughlin and playmakers Bruce Morehead and Joe Lathrop. The trio creates a dominant rushing attack that has been effective throughout the season.

Wallowa is coming off a 62-24 loss to No. 2 Powder Valley to fall to 1-4 on the season. Its single win on the year came against Union 36-22 on Sept. 24.

Kickoff on Friday is set for 7 p.m.

ENTERPRISE AT LYLE/WISHRAM/KLICKITAT — Enterprise enters the game at 4-3, having won three straight games. The Outlaws received a forfeit from Sherman/Condon their last time out, but scored 51 and 55 points, respectively, in their previous two victories, over Ione/Arlington and Elgin.

Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat is looking to bounce back after falling to previously winless Union 34-26 on Oct. 15. It enters the game with a 4-3 record, but has lost its last two games.

Kickoff is 7 p.m. Friday in Lyle, Washington.

JOSEPH AT PRAIRIE CITY/BURNT RIVER — It will be a bounce-back effort this week for the Joseph football team, coming off a blowout loss to Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler last Friday. The Eagles lost 49-6 to drop their record to 4-2 on the year, with the team's only other loss coming in a forfeit to Pine Eagle on Oct. 1.

Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler came into last week's matchup with a perfect 6-0 record, but Joseph will not be able to take things easy on Oct. 21 as Prairie City/Burnt River comes into the matchup 5-1.

The Panthers are coming off a 44-22 win at Echo last Friday.

Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. Thursday.

STREAK

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limit mistakes, his production will be key to turning things around for the Mountaineers' offense.

Eastern has won its last seven head-to-head matchups with the Lights, holding a 7-5 record in road games between the two schools. Having won nine out of the last 10 matchups, the Mountaineers will be hoping for similar results to end the team's losing streak.