

CHAMPIONSHIP: Oregon unable to take advantage of four Ohio St. turnovers

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“It was our dream. It came true,” Elliott said. “With all the stuff we went through to get here, it’s just crazy. It doesn’t feel real.”

Jones, who took over three games ago for the injured J.T. Barrett (who had taken over at the start of the season for the injured Braxton Miller), passed for 242 yards and a touchdown and ran for score. The 250-pound third-year sophomore proved he could keep up with Mariota — at least on this night.

Mariota passed for 333 yards and two touchdowns, but the Ducks’ warp-speed

spread offense missed too many red-zone opportunities and couldn’t unleash its running game against linebacker Darron Lee and an Ohio State front seven stacked with future NFL draft picks.

Even with the benefit of four Ohio State turnovers, the Ducks were held to their lowest point total of the season, four touchdowns below their average coming in.

Oregon has done just about everything as it has blossomed into a national power over the last two decades, but it will likely continue the search for its first national championship without Mariota. Barring a

major surprise, the junior is likely to turn pro — though he wouldn’t talk about his upcoming draft decision Monday night.

Elliott scored the game’s last three touchdowns, finishing off the rout with a 1-yarder with 28 seconds left.

While Elliott slipped and darted through the Ducks, Jones pushed them around and shook them off.

When Jones surged and spun his way into the end zone with 4:49 left in the second quarter it was 21-7 Ohio State and the O! H! O! chant made the dome in North Texas sound like the horseshoe in Columbus. The

Ducks were facing their largest deficit of the season.

If there was any concern that fans wouldn’t travel to the championship game in the new postseason system, the packed house at the home of the Dallas Cowboys, awash in Buckeyes’ scarlet and Ducks’ yellow, put that to rest. The crowd of 85,689 was as charged as any BCS national championship game.

The Ducks’ fans awoke early in the third quarter.

Ohio State was driving on the first possession of the second half toward more points when Jones’ pass bounced off Jalin Marshall’s chest and into the arms of Danny Mat-

tingly for Ohio State’s third turnover. Unlike the first two Oregon takeaways, the Ducks turned this one into points in a hurry. Mariota hit Byron Marshall on a slant and he streaked 70 yards for a touchdown, barely breaking the goal line before nonchalantly dropping the ball.

Moments later, another Ohio State turnover. Jones looked a little bit like Florida State’s Jameis Winston in the Rose Bowl as the ball just slipped from his hands trying to throw under pressure. Oregon recovered in deep in Ohio State deep territory.

The Buckeyes held and this time the Ducks sent

Aidan Schneider out to kick a 23-yard field goal to make it 21-20.

In the first half Oregon, which goes on fourth down — especially near the goal line — more than most teams, passed on the field-goal attempt on fourth-and-goal from the 3 and Thomas Tyner was stopped a yard short of the goal line.

Suddenly, an extra three points looked as if it could come in handy for the Ducks.

But by the time Elliott went in from 2 yards out with 9:44 left in the fourth to make it 35-20, it was moot.

The rest of the night turned into a Buckeyes Bash.

PREPS: Umatilla wins Eastern Oregon League basketball openers; Riverside defends home mats

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he lit Joseph up for 33 points. “We knew Carlos was a solid player,” Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera said. “Our defense has been pretty solid with rotating the shooters. Our kids had a good night. We were quick to the ball and got a hand in the face in the shooters.”

Nixyaawii put the game out of reach in the second quarter. After earning an 18-11 first quarter edge, the Golden Eagles outscored Echo 22-to-4 in the second to grab a 25-point lead.

Fredy Campos had a team-best 15 points for the Golden Eagles, and Elijah Bevis followed that up with 14 points in the league victory.

NIXYAAWII 62, ECHO 33				
EHS	11	4	13	5
Nix	18	22	15	7

ECHO — C. Chavez 2, B. Moffitt 2, C. Jensen 3, M. Thompson 9, D. Tappo 9, A. Satterwhite 7.

NIXYAAWII — T. Farrow 9, I. Ashley 4, H. Melton 8, A. Corona 4, H. McKay 7, F. Campos 15, E. Bevis 14.

3-point field goals — EHS 6, Nix 5. Free throws — EHS 1-6, Nix 9-19. Fouls — EHS 12, Nix 11.

DUFUR 68, IONE 29 — At Ione, the Cardinals (2-7, 1-2 Big Sky League) folded under the Rangers (7-4, 3-1 BSL) fullcourt pressure, committing 36 turnovers in Saturday’s Big Sky League defeat.

Ione broke the pressure fine in the first period, staying within six points, but foul trouble and injuries limited the team’s primary ballhandlers and Dufur outscored them 50-17 for the game’s remainder.

TJ Paddon had eight points and 14 rebounds for Ione in the loss.

DUFUR 68, IONE 29				
DHS (7-3)	18	18	22	10
IHS (2-7)	12	4	11	2

DUFUR — L. Morris 10, E. Weatherby 6, C. Morris 14, J. Kortge 13, C. Crawford 2, B. Caldwell 12, D. Kibert 11, C. Bales 0, B. Anderson 0, S. Bailey 0.

IONE — D. McElligott 8, A. Carter 2, H. Padberg 3, J. Doherty 6, T. Paddon 8, J. Juarez 2, D. Doherty 0, D. Smidmajer 0, A. Morter 0.

3-point field goals — DHS 2, IHS 2. Free throws — DHS 8-22, IHS 3-4. Fouls — DHS 8, IHS 16.

MITCHELL/SPRAY 52, CONDON/WHEELER 40 — At Fossil, the Knights (3-8, 0-2 BSL) took their lumps for the second straight night, losing each of their Big Sky League opening contests by double figures in successive nights.

Cade MacInnes led the team with 18 points and eight

rebounds Saturday. He also poured in 3-of-10 three point looks.

Mitchell/Spray (5-6, 1-2) led by six after one quarter and just two at the half, but held the Knights to just 17 second-half points in the win.

MITCHELL/SPRAY 52, CONDON/WHEELER 40				
C/S	11	12	5	12
M/S	17	8	11	16

CONDON/WHEELER — J. Cortes 5, C. MacInnes 18, B. Edwards 5, J. Bold 0, B. Harrison 6, T. Homer 4, J. Wright 2.

3-point field goals — C/W 6. Free throws — C/W 6-14. Fouls — C/W 23. Fouled out — J. Cortes (C/W), C. MacInnes (C/W).

UMATILLA 74, NYSSA 65 — At Nyssa, the Umatilla Vikings (7-8, 1-0 Eastern Oregon League) upset the preseason favorites to win the Eastern Oregon League as they opened conference play with momentum on Saturday.

The Vikings shot 53 percent (27 for 51) from the field, and 73 percent (19 for 26) from inside the three-point arc. Add in the team’s great ball security with just five turnovers, and coach Derrek Lete said it was the best he’s seen out of the team so far.

“Offensively I thought we played amazing,” said the second-year coach. “It just seemed like the hoop was twice its normal size that night.”

Eric Garcia led Umatilla with 18 points and Andrew Jaime added 16 while Juan Coria had 11.

The game was tied midway through the fourth quarter but the Vikings pulled away thanks to a hot streak from the field and the free-throw shooting of Danny Ayala, who went 7-for-8 in the fourth quarter to finish with nine points.

Jacob Huffman led Nyssa (5-7, 0-1) with 24 points.

Umatilla hosts Riverside on Thursday to continue league play.

UMATILLA 74, NYSSA 65				
UHS (7-8, 1-0)	12	16	21	16
NHS (5-7, 0-1)	12	15	23	24

UMATILLA — Eric Garcia 18, A. Jaime 16, J. Coria 11, D. Ayala 9, T. Sanguino 8, D. Garcia 4, E. Morales 4, J. Ramirez 3, K. Webb 1, A. Simmons 0.

NYSSA — Jacob Huffman 24, A. Chavez 13, A. Gonzalez 8, F. Pascazio 8, J. Simpson 7, D. Olvera 5, J. Martinez, T. Coble, J. Fuentes.

3-point field goals — UHS 8, NHS 8. Free throws — UHS 12-21 NHS 3-6. Fouls — UHS 10, NHS 13. Fouled out — none.

In other action Saturday: Vale 42, Riverside 25; Horizon Christian 65, Arlington 22; Powder Valley 65, Helix

34.

Girls Basketball

PENDELTON 65, LEBANON 48 — At Pendleton, senior guard Darian Lindsey paced the Buckaroos with 23 points and nine steals to earn the Bucks (9-5) a non-league victory on Saturday at Warberg Court.

Lindsey’s play not only showed on the stat sheet, according to coach Michelle Gomez, but also in how the floor general controlled the action. Lebanon (1-9) threatened to cut into the Buckaroo lead on several occasions, but Lindsey was the calming force.

After an up-and-down first half, the Bucks led by five. Pendleton found its rhythm in the second, outscoring the Warriors by 12.

“I think we brought it more in the second half especially in the fourth quarter,” Gomez said of the 22-point final period. “We were kind of stagnant and going through the motions in the first half. We were still pretty successful, but it wasn’t as I would like it to be.”

The free throw line was kind to the Buckaroos Saturday. The team shot a season-best 13-for-16 from the charity stripe. Lindsay Taylor was a perfect 4-for-4.

Kristin Williams netted 12 points and Kianna Sperl snagged 14 rebounds despite foul trouble.

PENDLETON 65, LEBANON 48				
LHS (1-9)	8	18	9	13
PHS (9-5)	15	16	12	22

LEBANON — Williamson 2, Cox 5, Garcia 2, Rivers 18, Newberg 8, Arenda 13, Bingham 0, Gerson 0, Giddings 0, Johnson 0, Whitrig 0.

PENDELTON — S. Greb 6, D. Lindsey 23, H. Thompson 3, K. Sperl 7, K. Williams 12, L. Taylor 4, M. Bodmer 10, D. Clem 0, H. Greb 0, C. Hoffman, K. McGlothlin 0.

3-point field goals — LHS 4, PHS 4. Free throws — LHS 9-17, PHS 13-16. Fouls — LHS 18, PHS 17. Fouled out — Rivers (LHS).

UMATILLA 33, NYSSA 21 — At Nyssa, a week after taking a beating at the hands of the Vikings at a tournament in Salem, the Bulldogs took the air out of the ball Saturday in hopes of opening Eastern Oregon League play with a win.

The result was the lowest scoring game of the season for both sides, but alas still a win for Umatilla (12-3, 1-0 EOL).

The Vikings attempted just 30 shots for the game and missed all 11 three point attempts, but still managed an

12-point win behind the play of Sidney Webb and Aleesha Watson. The pair poured in 22 of the team’s 33 points.

Both sides scored six points in the first quarter, but Umatilla made the first basket of the second quarter and never trailed again. The lead swelled to as much as 14 points.

Umatilla made 9-of-14 free throw attempts. The Bulldogs (5-8, 0-1 EOL) were just 3-for-12.

UMATILLA 33, NYSSA 21				
UHS (12-3)	6	10	7	33
NHS (5-9)	6	5	4	21

UMATILLA — M. Paz 0, K. Barajas 2, I. Campos 4, B. Campos 0, B. Chavez 0, S. Webb 10, K. Galbraith 3, C. Dohman 2, A. Watson 12.

NYSSA — J. Martinez 0, S. Hartley 0, M. Mitchell 2, B. Arrendondo 0, R. Hartley 2, B. Ramirez 1, S. Jespersen 6, M. Jensen 2, C. Lancaster 0, H. Hernandez 2, K. Hernandez 6, K. Hashagen 0.

3-point field goals — UHS 0, NHS 0. Free throws — UHS 9-14, NHS 3-12. Fouls — UHS 12 NHS 11.

ECHO 58, NIXYAAWII 54 — At Mission, the Cougars (12-2) clawed their way to a victory over the Golden Eagles (9-4) in the clash of Old Oregon League titans Saturday.

The Golden Eagles struck first, bursting out to 13-point edge in the second quarter, but Echo wore them down in the second, taking the lead for good with four minutes remaining on a Kelsey Ranger three-pointer.

The sides combined to be whistled for 51 total fouls and five players fouled out. Echo attempted 45 free throws, Nixyaawii shot just 27.

“They were being really aggressive going to the hoop,” Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said. “It was just way too much for a pretty quality game.”

“Our bench really stepped up in a game that had a lot fouls,” Echo coach JD Brazil said.

Ranger led Echo with 17 points, Elizabeth McCarty had 15.

Charlotte Barkley had a game-best 22 for Nixyaawii, including four three-point makes. Desiree Maddern added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Neither side had lost a league match entering Saturday.

ECHO 58, NIXYAAWII 54				
EHS (11-1)	8	16	14	20
Nix (9-4)	9	19	12	54

ECHO — E. Parks 7, K. Ranger 17, D. Tarvin 2, T. Swaggart 8, H. McCarty 6, B. Srofe 0, E. McCarty 15, B. Middlebrat 3, H. Reese 0.

NIXYAAWII — C. Barkley 22, T. Oatman 3, S. Fitzpatrick 4, E. Looney 0, K. Melton 4,

WESTON-MCEWEN 37, MAC-HI 33				
MHS (2-9)	9	8	6	10
WMHS (8-4)	9	6	8	14

MAC-HI — S. Richwine 16, A. Biggs 6, J. Field 4, A. Wells 3, S. Tveit 2, B. Erb 2, A. Rhoads 0, C. Figueroa 0, O. Cook, S. Romero 0.

WESTON-MCEWEN 37, MAC-HI 33 — At Athena, the TigerScots pulled out a squeaker over the Pioneers, breaking up a third quarter tie to win the non-league tilt Saturday.

Both sides shot low percentages and were turnover prone, but Weston-McEwen (8-4) capitalized off the other team’s mistakes better and sank 8 of 12 fourth quarter free throws in the win.

“We had too many turnovers early, played lethargic the end of the first and all of the second, plain uninspired basketball,” WMHS coach Amber Doremus said. “The girls dug down and got refocused for the second half to find a victory.”

Sydney Redwine of Mac-Hi (2-9) led all scorers with 16 points. The sophomore added eight rebounds and six steals to her stellar night.

WMHS relied on all 10 players who suited up. Madison Carlin scored a team-best nine points, but nine of 10 players scored.

WESTON-MCEWEN 37, MAC-HI 33				
MHS (2-9)	9	8	6	10
WMHS (8-4)	9	6	8	14

MAC-HI — S. Richwine 16, A. Biggs 6, J. Field 4, A. Wells 3, S. Tveit 2, B. Erb 2, A. Rhoads 0, C. Figueroa 0, O. Cook, S. Romero 0.

WESTON-MCEWEN — M. Carlin 9, C. Quenemets 7, K. Shepard 5, A. Bonchrau 5, S. Quampts 5, S. Finifroch 2, A. Schroeder 2, M. Aby 2, T. Entz 0, K. Peterson 0.

3-point field goals — MHS 0, WMHS 2. Free throws — MHS 7-14, WMHS 11-21. Fouls — MHS 19, WMHS 15.				
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In other action Saturday: Vale 51, Riverside 25; Condon/Wheeler 52, Mitchell/Spray 27; Arlington 31, Horizon Christian 29; Dufur 39, Ione 23; Powder Valley 60, Helix 33.

Wrestling

BOARDMAN — Seven Riverside wrestlers took medalist honors as the Pirates won the competition at their eight-team home tournament Saturday.

Kevin Altamirano (106), Aristotle Rockwell (120), Jonathan Mendoza (126), Elijah Conlon (132), Hans Rockwell (139), Marvin Calvillo (145), Jessie Hegar (195) each won their weight brackets.

Hans Rockwell and Hegar each did so with three first

round pins.

“We try to make a big deal for our kids because they don’t get to compete at home very much,” Riverside assistant coach Richard Rockwell said. “Overall we wrestled really well today.”

Mac-Hi challenged for the title, coming within 18 team points of ruining the Pirate homecoming. The Pioneers received wins from Alyx Shaw (152), Jeffrey Jones (160), Vince Roff (170) and Greg Moreno (285).

The Hermiston Bulldogs C team was third and Hepner finished fourth behind Ryan Smith’s win at 113 pounds.

Stanfield/Echo took seventh, Irrigon eighth.

Swimming

THE DALLES — The Pendleton boys won The Dalles Invitational while the girls placed second on Saturday.

The boys won their title on the strength of two relay wins.

The 200-yard medley team of Jon Jennings, Dylan Clemons, Layton Kirsch and Nate Rickman won its race in 1:50.66.

The 400 freestyle team of Rickman, Grant Banister, Lukas Johnson and Jennings won in a time of 3:39.13.

Jennings and Johnson also finished 1-2 in the 100 freestyle. Jennings touched first in 52.75 with Johnson close behind at 53.35.

Rickman and Johnson were 2-3 in the 200 freestyle with times of 1:59.65 and 2:00.09, respectively.

Rickman was second in the 50 freestyle, and Jennings was second in the 100 backstroke (59.87).

Clemons (100 breaststroke) and Kirsch (100 butterfly) added bronze.

The boys’ 200 freestyle relay also reached the podium in second (1:38.18), a placing matched by the Buckaroo girls’ 400 freestyle relay (4:21.69).

Fourth was the top individual placing for the girls. It was achieved by Olivia Broker (100 breaststroke, 1:24.84), Bethany Van Cleave (100 butterfly, 1:18.96) and Sam Schmitz (50 freestyle, 27.41).

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL	
Today	Sunnyside (WA) at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m. Arlington at Hood River Valley (JV), 6:30 p.m.
	Pendleton at La Grande, 7 p.m.
	Horizon Christian at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
	Mac-Hi at Watsburg-Prescott (WA), 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Riverside at Umatilla, 7 p.m.
Friday	Culver at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. Baker at Pendleton, 7 p.m. Hermiston at La Salle Prep, 7:15 p.m. Nixyaawii at Helix, 7:30 p.m. Irrigon at Hepner, 7:30 p.m. Arlington at Condon/Wheeler, 7:30 p.m. Ione at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Echo, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Pilot Rock at Culver, 4 p.m. South Wallowa County at Ione, 5:30 p.m. Echo at Walloua, 5:30 p.m. Hepner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m. Helix at Joseph, 5:30 p.m. Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m. Arlington at Sherman, 5:30 p.m. Vale at Umatilla, 5:30 p.m. Dufur at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m. Nyssa at Riverside, 6 p.m.

Nyssa at Riverside, 4 p.m.	Portland 30	8	789	—	
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 4 p.m.	Oklahoma City 18	19	486	11½	
	Denver 17	20	459	12½	
	Utah 13	25	342	17	
	Minnesota 5	31	139	24	
Friday	Pacific Div.	W	L	Pct	GB
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Hepner at Oregon Wrestling Classic (Redmond), 8 a.m.	Chicago 29	5	853	—	
	L.A. Clippers 25	13	658	6	
Saturday	Phoenix 22	18	550	10	
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Hepner at Oregon Wrestling Classic (Redmond), 8 a.m.	Sacramento 16	21	432	14½	
	L.A. Lakers 12	26	316	19	

Sunday’s Games	Atlanta 120, Washington 89
	Miami 104, L.A. Clippers 90
	Memphis 122, Phoenix 110, 2OT
	Sacramento 103, Cleveland 84
	Portland 106, L.A. Lakers 94
Monday’s Games	Detroit 114, Toronto 111
	Houston 113, Brooklyn 99
	Boston 108, New Orleans 100
	Orlando 121, Chicago 114
Today’s Games	Atlanta at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
	San Antonio at Washington, 4 p.m.
	Minnesota at Indiana, 4 p.m.
	Cleveland at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
	Golden State at Utah, 6 p.m.
	Dallas at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
	Miami at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA				
Eastern Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Div.	25	12	676	—
Toronto	16	22	421	9½
Brooklyn	13	23	361	11½
Eastern	7	29	194	17½
Philadelphia	5	35	125	21½
New York	5	35	125	21½
Southwest Div.	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	29	8	784	—
Washington	25	12	676	4
Miami	16			