

College Roundup Mountaineers show grit in loss

East Oregonian

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Despite outscoring FCS opponent Sacramento State in the second half, the No. 13 Eastern Oregon University football team couldn't recover from a 38-point deficit and fell to the Hornets, 41-20.

"I am very proud of this team," said head football coach Tim Camp. "They continued to play hard together. They showed grit! Also, I'm very happy with the assistant coaches and their leadership that they continue to show each day."

Junior quarterback Zach Bartlow threw for 163 yards, completing 21 of 33 passes, including a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter.

Senior wide receiver Jace Billingsley logged 186 all-purpose yards, including a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, while sophomore wide receiver Brenden Kelly had two catches for 24 yards and a touchdown for the Mountaineers.

Defensively, senior linebacker Gary Posten and senior defensive back Adam Besse paced EOU with 13 and 11 tackles, respectively.

Volleyball

BLUE MOUNTAIN 3, CLARK 1 — At Spokane, Wash., the Blue Mountain Timberwolves placed third at the Spokane Invitational over the weekend.

After losing their first two matches of bracket play, the T-Wolves (6-5) edged Clark in the third-place match by scores of 25-13, 23-25, 25-20 and 26-24. No other details were reported.

The T-Wolves started the tournament on Friday with two wins to earn the No. 1 seed from their pool. They beat Wenatchee 25-11, 14-25, 25-16, 25-8, and Bellevue 27-29, 25-22, 25-16, 18-25, 15-5.

That matched them with Chemeketa in the first round of bracket play, which the Storm won by scores of 31-29, 25-15, 25-18 to end the first day of play.

BMCC fell to Highline in its opener on Saturday 25-16, 25-16, 17-25, 26-24.

The T-Wolves begin league play on Wednesday at Treasure Valley at 6 p.m. They then hold their home opener Thursday in a non-league match against North Idaho College at 2 p.m.

EOUsports.com provided portions of this report.

Vikings hang tough, shock Cougars

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — The Portland State football players call their style of play "Barney Ball," in honor of new head coach Bruce Barnum.

"Barney" Ball made a shocking debut on Saturday, as Portland State of the FCS upset Washington State 24-17 in a driving rainstorm that hampered WSU's high-flying offense.

"It's blue collar, tough, fundamental football," Barnum said of his style.

It certainly was. Portland State scored all 24 of its points in the second half, and won despite being outgained 411 yards to 294 yards.

"Our defense was the definition of bend, don't break," said Barnum, who was making his debut as a college head coach and is working under a one-year contract. "They came together when they needed to."

Portland State's players celebrated in the locker room, chanting "we're undefeated!"

It was the first time Portland State beat a Pacific-12 team in 15 tries, and lifted their record to 3-32 against FBS teams. It was Washington State's first loss to an FCS team in 20 outings.

"We never got in a rhythm on offense," Washington State coach Mike Leach said.

"They were a real mature team," Leach said of Portland State. "They hung together, and we got impatient."

"We didn't come out with the same focus," said WSU linebacker



AP Photo/Young Kwak

Washington State running back Gerard Wicks (23) runs against Portland State safety Walter Santiago (12) during the first half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, in Pullman, Wash.

Jeremiah Allison.

He said the rain was a problem for both teams, and declined to blame that for the loss.

Steven Long scored on a 1-yard run with just over 2 minutes left in the game to lift Portland State to the upset.

The rain and unseasonably chilly temperatures stymied Washington State's passing game under quarterback Luke Falk, who this year replaced national passing leader Connor Halliday. But Portland State had the stronger ground attack, out-rushing Washington State 233 yards to 104 yards.

Portland State quarterback Alex Kuresa completed just 7 of 12 passes for 61 yards, but led all rushers with

92 yards on 16 carries in the opener for both teams.

"He has the ability to make plays with his feet," Barnum said.

Falk completed 27 of 41 passes for 289 yards with two touchdowns for WSU. He left the game in the closing minutes with an undisclosed injury.

Washington State's opening drive stalled on Portland State's 4-yard line, and the Cougars settled for Erik Powell's 21-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead.

The Cougars had a bizarre drive on their second possession, moving forward and back over 90 yards because of penalties, and converting three fourth-down plays, before Powell's 22-yard field goal attempt

was blocked by Aaron Sibley.

Washington State's first touchdown came on a screen pass from Falk to Keith Harrington, which the freshman running back turned into a 24-yard gain that gave the Cougars a 10-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

That lead stood at halftime, as the Cougars outgained Portland State 274 yards to 66 yards in the first half.

Portland State came out strong in the third quarter, driving 75 yards with Paris Penn scoring on a 4-yard rush to cut Washington State's lead to 10-7.

On Portland State's next possession, Jonathan Gonzales kicked a 42-yard field goal to tie the score at 10 with 4:37 left in the third.

Washington State turned the ball over on downs on its next possession, with Portland State taking over on its own 28. The Vikings were forced to punt, but WSU's Kyrin Priester fumbled the catch and Portland State recovered on WSU's 11. Nate Tago pounded over from the 8 to give Portland State a 17-10 lead with 13:06 left.

Tavares Martin returned the ensuing kickoff to Portland State's 46, aided by a face-mask penalty against the Vikings. Gabe Marks caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from Falk to tie the score at 17 with 9:11 left.

Kuresa led Portland State on a 14-play, 69-yard drive that consumed nearly 7 minutes, with Long rushing from the 1-yard line to lift Portland State to a 24-17 lead with 2:19 left.

DUCKS: Spartans had issues of their own in opening victory

Continued from 1B

safety Reggie Daniels is the only returning starter in the secondary.

"We didn't do a ton defensively, but what we did — obviously you want to do it cleanly and do it well," Helfrich said. "We had some first-time guys back there trying to peek on the backfield or peek on somebody that's not their assignment or a fit that's not their job. And they just need to tackle better."

The passing yards were the most Oregon had allowed since the 2013 season. Eastern Washington was 6-for-6 within the 20-yard line.

Last year Michigan State was ranked No. 7 when the team came to Autzen Stadium and the Marcus Mariota-led Ducks rallied for a third-quarter deficit for a 46-27 victory. Connor Cook threw for 343 yards and two touchdowns for the Spartans but the then-No. 3 Ducks scored four straight touchdowns to close out the victory.

Michigan State had issues of its own in its 37-24 victory over Western Michigan on Friday night.

Western Michigan's Zach Terrell threw for 365 yards, the most passing allowed by the Spartans since a game against

Notre Dame five years ago. Corey Davis caught 10 passes for 154 yards and a touchdown and Daniel Braverman caught 13 passes for 109 yards.

According to STATS, the Spartans hadn't allowed two opponents to have 100 yards receiving in a regular season game since 2009 against Northwestern.

Michigan State was paced by Cook's 256 yards passing and two touchdowns. Aaron Burbridge had four receptions for 117 yards and three Spartan running backs combined for 190 yards rushing on 35 carries.

Oregon was boosted in its

opener Saturday by new quarterback Vernon Adams, taking over for Mariota. Adams, who transferred to Eugene from Eastern Washington for his final season of eligibility, threw for 246 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore running back Royce Freeman ran for a career-high 180 yards and three scores.

"Solid," Helfrich said of Adams' performance. "He did some good things."

Saturday will mark the first time two top 10 teams have met in Spartan Stadium since 1966, when No. 1 Notre Dame played No. 2 Michigan State to a 10-10 tie.

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