

College Football

EOU hoping to turn things around on Saturday

Mountaineers face tough test in No. 4 ranked Fighting Saints



• Saturday, 1 p.m.
• at Nelson Stadium

By RYAN COLLINGWOOD
Helena Independent Record

Eastern Oregon coach Tim Camp fancies him the best football player to have ever come through the program.

Statistically, he's been one of the most prolific offensive players in the country since setting his foot on the La Grande campus in 2012.

But senior running back Jace Billingsley, a four-year starter and All-American, had absolutely no

idea what kind of college football player he'd be when opted to take the NAIA football route instead of NCAA Division I wrestling.

"I just didn't really know what to expect," said Billingsley, whose Mountaineers travel to No. 4 Carroll on Saturday in a 1 p.m. tilt at Nelson Stadium. "No big schools recruited me, so I thought I'd try to see what happens."

His career 2,348 receiving yards -- an EOU record -- 1,420 rushing yards and 1,315 kickoff return yards and combined 36 touchdowns would suggest he made the right choice.

But the fleet-footed Billingsley, whose stout 5-foot-9, 190-pound frame helps him power through defenders when he isn't beating them in a foot race, will finish his decorated college career without ever experiencing postseason berth.

EOU was snubbed by the NAIA last season after finishing 8-3 in the brawny Frontier Conference in a season it beat eventual national champion Southern Oregon on the road. This season, the Mountaineers, ranked No. 13 in the NAIA preseason poll, started off 0-3 with

road losses to College of Idaho, Sacramento State and Southern Oregon.

The Mountaineers were able to beat No. 17 Montana Tech 33-21, but falling to Rocky in a 36-35 overtime decision ultimately dashed their playoff hopes.

Billingsley still believes his team is in position to have a decent season, though. Two years ago, EOU started out 0-4 before upsetting Carroll and went on to finish 6-5 with a national ranking of No. 25.

EOU (1-4) is hoping to mimic that run.

"We still have a lot of good teams to play," Billingsley said. "In the end we can still have a good season. There's a lot of great opportunities

ahead of us."

He's faced Carroll (3-1) enough to know what to expect.

"They're always going to be solid," Billingsley said. "Just a team that's sound all-around and waiting for us to make a mistake. We need to be on point for what they do. We can't be intimidated. We just have to step up your game even more."

Billingsley played receiver his first two seasons and most of his junior year before injuries prompted his move to the backfield in a 2014 game against Montana Western.

"He came in and rushed for about 100 yards and we've ever him back there ever since," Camp said. "I probably should have made that change earlier in the season and ran the ball more."

PREPS: Stanfield completes big comeback at Irrigon, Mac-Hi rolls over Bucks

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Pendleton Bucks continued their season slide falling in five sets to the La Grande Tigers 3-2.

The Tigers (9-7, 3-0) won the first set 25-18, the third set 25-20, and the fifth set 19-17. The Bucks (4-9, 1-5) won the second set 25-17 and the fourth set 25-18.

"We played a quick paced game and it was fun to watch, just came up a little short," said Bucks coach Amanda Lapp. "The 5th set as usual was really intense. Small errors were the deciding factor."

Haley Greb led Pendleton's offense with 10 kills, while Lauren Roberts led the defense with 22 digs.

"I was proud to watch the amount of effort the girls have on the court tonight," said Lapp. "They worked well as a team and gave a lot of heart."

It was a bit of revenge for the Tigers, who fell to the Bucks 3-2 on Sept. 8 in Pendleton.

Pendleton will look to rebound on Tuesday when they travel to Hood River at 6:30 p.m.

HEPPNER 3, PILOT ROCK 2 — At Pilot Rock, the Heppner Mustangs fought back from a 2-0

deficit to defeat Pilot Rock 3-2 on Thursday.

The Rockets (8-10, 2-4) dominated the first two sets, winning 25-11 and 25-16. But then the Mustangs (10-10, 3-3) stormed back to take the final three sets 26-24, 25-22, and 15-9.

"I love their resiliency right now," said Heppner coach Deiter Waite. "We just stayed focused on what we needed to do and fought for the win."

Jessica Kempken led the Mustangs offensive attack with 10 kills, while Sydney Maben, Riane Dompier, and Kaelyn Lindsay each added two kills.

Heppner next plays Saturday when they host Culver at noon and Irrigon at 4 p.m. Pilot Rock next plays Irrigon and Culver on Saturday at Heppner High School as well, with their first match starting at 2 p.m.

STANFIELD 3, IRRIGON 2 — At Irrigon, the Stanfield Tigers came from behind to take a 3-2 win over the Irrigon Knights on Thursday.

Stanfield (7-8, 2-4) won the final three sets 25-23, 25-17 and 16-14 to win the match. Irrigon (3-11, 0-4)

won the first two sets 25-18 and 25-20.

In the third set the Tigers were two points from a loss as Irrigon held a 23-17 lead. But Stanfield fought back and finished off a match — which is something that has plagued them this season.

"We usually struggle to finish games," said Stanfield coach Angie Connell. "We had a few girls looking like they were done when we trailed, but they dug down deep and finished it. I was proud of their effort."

Stanfield next plays at home against Heppner next Thursday at 5 p.m. Irrigon next plays Pilot Rock and Heppner on Saturday, with both matches taking place in Heppner at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Football

PERRYDALE 62, IONE 22 — At Ione, the Cardinals were simply outmatched in the game, falling to the Perrydale Pirates 62-22 on Thursday night.

The Cardinals (1-4, 0-3) got on the board twice in the first half, first on a two-yard touchdown run by Cord Flynn and then a 58-yard touchdown run from Henry Padberg.

In the second half, Flynn hooked up with Jason Suarez on a 44-yard touchdown pass for the Cardinals only score of that half.

According to Ione coach Stan Weiper, his Cardinals team was simply overmatched.

"Perrydale was just bigger, faster, and stronger than us," he said. "They have a good shot at winning the whole thing in the end."

But even with the sizeable loss, Weiper was still pleased with the effort he got from his team.

"I felt they played as hard as they could in this one," he said. "But we just got beat by the better team."

Ione will look to rebound next Friday when they travel to Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler for a 1 p.m. matchup.

Boys Soccer

MAC-HI 9, PENDLETON 1 — At Pendleton, the Mac-Hi Pioneers dominated the game with the Buckaroos from start to finish, leaving with the 9-1 victory.

Senior Braidon Wood scored the only goal for Pendleton (3-6-1, 0-2) and was assisted by senior Jose Rodriguez.

The Buckaroos were also without starting senior goalkeeper

Grant Banister, who was out after injuring his shoulder during the Bucks game against The Dalles on Tuesday.

"That definitely threw a wrench into things from the start," said Bucks coach Jeremy Talbot.

In Banister's absence, senior Alex Gear made the start in goal for Pendleton.

The game featured some sluggish play from the Bucks, but the team picked up the pace following Wood's goal.

"It was nice to seem them bounce back after our goal," said Talbot. "It's just about playing and competing. We're almost there."

Mac-Hi (3-3-1, 0-1) next plays at Ontario on Saturday at 3 p.m., while Pendleton next hosts Hermiston on Monday at 4 p.m.

Girls Soccer

UMATILLA 2, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 0 — At Tualatin, the Umatilla Vikings picked up their third win of the season and second-straight shutout win with the 2-0 victory over Horizon Christian.

No other details were reported. Next up for Umatilla (3-3-2, 2-0-2) is a home game with Riverside next Wednesday at 4:15 p.m.

HONKERS: Final drive and chance to tie fizzles out before midfield to seal loss

Continued from 1B

napping on third-and-eight and Evans found plenty of open space as he cut across the middle of the field for a 43-yard touchdown pass from sophomore Thomas Evans. Evans caught the ball at the 20 and trotted into the end zone from there. The two-point conversion failed, but the Honkers had life at 8-6 with 11:51 left in the game.

The Honkers could get nothing going on their subsequent three possessions, though, and finally put the defense in a spot it couldn't get out of when a fake punt failed

miserably and gave the Rangers the ball at Arlington's 15 with 2:24 left in the game.

Pence barreled his way into the end zone on Dufur's first play, and a failed two-point conversion made it 14-6.

Arlington's final drive never got past midfield and Dufur was able to finish the game in victory formation.

Hunting said although the offense didn't run a single red zone play on Thursday, and couldn't complete a pass at the end of the game when it needed to score, it's not time to hit the panic button.

"I think we always have room for improvement and tonight showed us some areas we need to work on," said Hunking. "We don't like to be pressured at the end of the game to have to (pass) so we'll try not to be in that situation again. I think we've got a pretty good offense so we'll see how it goes."

Davis led Arlington with 59 rushing yards and Thomas Evans completed five passes for 65 yards.

Pence led Dufur with 101 yards rushing and Derek Frakes completed six passes for 90 yards and a touchdown.

Dufur took the lead with 11:37

left in the second quarter when Frakes found Curtis Crawford running unchecked behind the Arlington secondary and connected for a 62-yard bomb.

The Rangers had another chance to score just before halftime when Arlington fumbled on its own 10, but Frakes was run out of bounds as he tried to scramble for the end zone as time expired.

Dufur came into Arlington with more than double the amount of players and a winning tradition to fall back on, but Evans said the Honker aren't making any excuses. "We've just got to get better

next week, there's nothing else to say about it. They've got speed, they've got size and we've just got to respond," he said, adding there's no moral victories to gain from Thursday's outcome. "It's just how we play on the field. There's no mentality that gets you ready for a game, you work hard all week and then you see it out there on the field."

Arlington next plays first-place Sherman (4-2, 4-0) next Friday.

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HAUSCHKA: Seattle kicker tied for NFL lead in made field goals

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50-yard kicks in the same game since Josh Brown in 2007.

Hauschka is tied for the NFL lead in made field goals and so far has been unaffected by the changes in extra points.

"I don't know. I just like to swing away at those," Hauschka said of his success at longer kicks. "There are a lot of guys that are good at that. You look at the guys in this league good at those, they're the ones that swing

confidently. You can tell on film."

Back in 2009, Hauschka was struggling to find a spot, lasting nine games with the Ravens before getting waived. After bouncing around practice squads, Hauschka kicked four games at the end of the 2010 season in Denver, then found a home in Seattle at the start of the 2011 season.

"Once you have that moment of just failure, of letdown, you've already experienced that. It can't get much worse than that, so you lose that fear aspect of it and you swing

confidently and you do what you need to do to make kicks in this league," Hauschka said.

Since arriving in Seattle, Hauschka has made nearly 89 percent of his attempts. His top season was 2013 when Seattle won the Super Bowl and Hauschka was 33 of 35 during the regular season; his only two misses were a blocked kick and a 24-yard attempt that hit an upright.

Where Hauschka has been solid is the longer kicks. Hauschka is 8 of 10 on field goals of 50 or more yards the

past three seasons.

Hauschka last missed an extra point in 2012 but said the change is significant because it's one more kick they have to think about.

"It just requires more focus. Instead of having 30 kicks a year you have to be focused for, now you have 60 or 70 if you include the extra points," Hauschka said. "You have to be ready for those."

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Today
Umatilla at King's Way Christian (WA), 6 p.m.
Joseph at Echo, 7 p.m.
Stanfield at Irrigon, 7 p.m.
Culver at Heppner, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
Mac-Hi at La Grande, 7 p.m.
Sandy at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Saturday
Irrigon at Culver, 1 p.m.
Umatilla at Riverside, 1 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Ontario, 3 p.m. (MT)

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Saturday
Mac-Hi at Ontario, 1 p.m. (MT)
Hermiston at La Grande, 2 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Today
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 1 p.m.
Joseph at Echo, 4 p.m.
Helix at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Hermiston vs. TBD (at Glencoe Tournament), 8 a.m.
Cordon/Wheeler vs. Sherman (at Maupin), 10 a.m.
Cordon/Wheeler at South, 10 a.m.
Joseph at Nixyaawii, 10 a.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, Noon (MT)
Umatilla at Vale, Noon
Culver at Heppner, Noon
Arlington vs. Dufur (at Hood River), Noon
Joseph at Helix, Noon
Echo at Powder Valley, 1 p.m.
Pilot Rock vs. Irrigon (at Heppner), 2 p.m.
Arlington at Horizon Christian, 2 p.m.
Ione vs. Dufur (at Hood River), 2 p.m.
Ontario at Mac-Hi, 2:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 4 p.m. (MT)
Pilot Rock vs. Culver (at Heppner), 3:30 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Ione at Horizon Christian, 4 p.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday
Mac-Hi, Nixyaawii, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen, Cordon/Wheeler at Dry Side Shootout, TBA
Hermiston, Pendleton at Richland Invitational, 1:55 p.m.
Umatilla, Weston-McEwen at George Fox Classic, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Carroll, 1:05 p.m. (MT)

COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER

Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday
Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Today
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.
Northwest Christian at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Corban at Eastern Oregon, 5 p.m.

Baseball

MLB Playoffs

DIVISION SERIES
(Best-of-5; x-if necessary)
American League
Kansas City vs. Houston
(Houston leads 1-0)
Thursday: Houston 5, Kansas City 2
Friday: Houston at Kansas City (FOX, FS1 or MLB.N), 12:30 p.m.
Sunday: Kansas City at Houston (FOX, FS1 or MLB.N), 1 p.m.
x-Monday, Oct. 12: Kansas City at Houston (FOX or FS1), TBD
x-Wednesday, Oct. 14: Houston at Kansas City (FOX or FS1), TBD
Texas vs. Texas
(Texas leads 1-0)
Thursday: Texas 5, Toronto 3
Friday: Texas at Toronto (FOX, FS1 or MLB.N), 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: Toronto at Texas (FOX, FS1 or MLB.N), 5 p.m.
x-Monday, Oct. 12: Toronto at Texas (FOX or FS1), TBD
x-Wednesday, Oct. 14: Texas at Toronto (FOX or FS1), TBD
National League
(All games televised by TBS)
St. Louis vs. Chicago
Friday: Chicago at St. Louis, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday: Chicago at St. Louis, 2:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 12: St. Louis at Chicago, TBD
x-Tuesday, Oct. 13: St. Louis at Chicago, TBD
x-Thursday, Oct. 15: Chicago at St. Louis, TBD
Los Angeles vs. New York
Friday: New York (deGrom 14-8) at Los Angeles, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: New York (Syndergaard 9-7) at

Los Angeles, 6 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 12: Los Angeles at New York (Harvey 13-8), TBD
x-Tuesday, Oct. 13: Los Angeles at New York, TBD
x-Thursday, Oct. 15: New York at Los Angeles, TBD

Football

NFL Regular Season

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		EAST		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	3	0	0	1,000	119	70			
N.Y. Jets	3	1	0	750	95	55			
Buffalo	2	2	0	500	110	92			
Miami	1	3	0	250	65	101			
SOUTH		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Indianapolis	3	2	0	600	99	113			
Tennessee	1	2	0	333	89	77			
Houston	1	4	0	200	97	135			
Jacksonville	1	3	0	250	82	107			
NORTH		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Cincinnati	4	0	0	1,000	121	77			
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	500	96	75			
Baltimore	1	3	0	250	93	104			
Cleveland	1	3	0	250	85	102			
WEST		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Denver	4	0	0	1,000	97	69			
Oakland	2	2	0	500	97	108			
San Diego	2	2	0	500	96	110			
Kansas City	1	3	0	250	100	125			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	2	2	0	500	95	101	
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0	500	102	82	
Washington	2	2	0	500	78	79	
Philadelphia	1	3	0	250	78	86	
SOUTH		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	4	0	0	1,000	103	77	
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	137	93	
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	250	72	117	
New Orleans	1	3	0	250	96	104	
NORTH		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	113	71	
Minnesota	2	2	0	500	80	73	
Chicago	1	3	0	250	68	125	
Detroit	0	4	0	0	0	66	96
WEST		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	3	1	0	750	148	73	
St. Louis	2	2	0	500	74	89	
Seattle	2	2	0	500	87	71	
San Francisco	1	3	0	250	48	110	

Thursday's Game

Indianapolis 27, Houston 20
Sunday's Games
Chicago at Kansas City, 10 a.m.
St. Louis at Green Bay, 10 a.m.
Buffalo at Tennessee, 10 a.m.
Seattle at Cincinnati, 10 a.m.

Washington at Atlanta, 10 a.m.
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay, 10 a.m.
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 10 a.m.
Arizona at Detroit, 1:05