

College Football

Mounties, Diggers both come in hot

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The Mountaineers face their third nationally ranked foe in four weeks on Saturday when Eastern Oregon (3-5) travels to Butte, Montana to take on the No. 10 Orediggers of Montana Tech (6-1).

The Diggers will have revenge on their minds considering the Mounties are responsible for the lone blemish on their record.

Eastern scored 20 points in the second half of a 33-21 win in La Grande on Sep. 19 that was led by the usual suspects of quarterback Zach Bartlow (231 yards, 2 TD), running back Jake Billingsley (34-182) and linebacker Gary Posten (12 tackles). Defensive back Byron Benson snagged a key interception late in the game.

Most recently, Bartlow completed a career-high 27 passes for 325 yards and rushed for 94 yards as EOU had its highest offensive output since 2008 in a 72-30 win over MSU-Northern. His five total touchdowns gave him a school-record 30 points in the game.

The Diggers moved up three spots in this week's NAIA coaches poll following a 42-7 win over then-No. 18 Carroll, which came with another big game for junior running back Nolan Saraceni. Saraceni set program records for points (24) and touchdowns (4) in a game, and longest touchdown run (99 yards) while rushing for 273 yards on 24 carries. Against the Mountaineers he rushed for 198 yards and three touchdowns on 23 carries, and he leads the country in rushing yards (1,401), rushing yards per game (173.5), and scoring per game (15).

Montana Tech ranks sixth in the country in rushing offense (274.6 yards/game), and the Orediggers hold opponents to only 287.9 yards of total offense per contest, good enough for eighth in the nation.

The all-time series is tied 13-13. Kickoff is at noon on Saturday.



• Saturday
• Noon
• at Butte, Montana

Prep Football

Praying coach's suspension sparks dialogue

By GENE JOHNSON & LISA BAUMANN
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A football field in Washington state has become more than a battleground for athletes as the suspension of an assistant coach for praying at midfield after games divided people around the country over the religious rights of school employees.

District officials put Joe Kennedy, Bremerton High School's assistant football coach, on paid administrative leave because he ignored orders to stop overt religious displays on the field. Citing past Supreme Court and appeals court cases, officials said they did not want to be seen as endorsing religion.

"While attending games may be voluntary for most students, students required to be present by virtue of their participation in football or cheerleading will necessarily suffer a degree of coercion to participate in religious activity when their coaches lead or endorse it," Bremerton School District said.

The senior class president was among some students and teachers who pressed for the district to clarify its policy on religion. Abe Bartlett said he was one of those who invited a group of self-described Satanists to attend the Thursday night game in a push for answers.

"The main reason I did it is to portray to the school district that I think we should either have a policy



Lindsey Wasson/The Seattle Times via AP

In this Friday, Oct. 16, 2015, file photo, Bremerton High assistant football coach Joe Kennedy, center in blue, kneels and prays after his team lost to Centralia in Bremerton, Wash.

that we're not going to have any religious affiliation or public religious practices, or they should say people are going to be allowed to practice their religion publicly whatever their beliefs," the 17-year-old said Wednesday.

"They need to either go black or white," Bartlett said, noting that the issue has become a topic of discussion in his government class. "I don't think this controversial middle ground is what our school needs."

Meanwhile, supporters filled Kennedy's Facebook page, verified by his attorney Hiram Sasser, with messages. His profile picture showed

a group of people in "Praying Coach" shirts, and he posted a message urging people to "forget me and come support these incredible young men" playing Thursday.

Kennedy has prayed before and after games, sometimes joined by students, since 2008, but the district asked him to stop when the practice recently came to its attention.

He initially agreed, but then, with support from the Texas-based Liberty Institute, a religious-freedom organization, he resumed the post-game prayers, silently taking a knee for 15 to 20 seconds at midfield after shaking hands with the opposing

coaches. His lawyers insist he is not leading students in prayer, just praying himself. Dozens of lawmakers in the Congressional Prayer Caucus sent a letter this week to the superintendent expressing support for the coach.

Kennedy was still employed and will be paid through the remainder of his contract term unless his status changes, the district said Wednesday night. He won't be allowed to participate in any activities related to the football program, although the district said he can attend games as a member of the public. The district also said it appreciated his long service to the football program.

Kennedy's lawyers said they expected him to attend Thursday's game.

Sasser said the decision to put his client on leave was shocking. He said they plan to file a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a step that could lead to a lawsuit.

About 10 members of the Satanic Temple of Seattle clad in robes still plan to go to the game to support the teachers and students who invited them. The organization said the district created a forum for religious expression open to all groups by allowing the coach to continue praying and cheered the decision to put Kennedy on leave.

"Clearly, they're taking a strong position to keep church and state separate," chapter head Lilith Starr said Thursday.

MLS

Timbers advance on penalties

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Portland Timbers advanced in the MLS Cup playoffs in dramatic style by besting Sporting Kansas City 7-6 on a penalty shootout after a tense 2-2 draw on Thursday night.

Rodney Wallace scored in the 57th minute to put the Timbers in front, but Kevin Ellis scored the equalizer for Kansas City in the 87th minute and the match went to extra time.

After Krisztian Nemeth's top-corner goal in the 97th minute, Maximiliano Urruti answered in the 118th, and the match went to penalty kicks.

The shootout came down to the goalkeepers for both sides. Portland's Adam Kwarasey buried his before stopping Kansas City backup keeper Jon Kempin's shot for the victory.

It is the fourth straight win for the Timbers, who will host Vancouver in the first of a two-legged playoff on Sunday.

It was also Portland's first victory in five overall matches against Kansas City, which was making its fifth straight appearance in Major League Soccer's postseason.

Portland finished the regular season 15-11-8 for third in the Western Conference. The Timbers won their final three games, outscoring oppo-

nents 10-3, including a 4-1 victory over Colorado on Sunday.

Sporting defeated Los Angeles 2-1 in the regular season finale to finish 14-11-9 and secure the last playoff spot in the West. The MLS playoffs expanded this season to include 12 teams.

It is Portland's second appearance in the playoffs since joining the league in 2011. The Timbers finished with the West's best record in 2013, but fell in the two-legged playoff to Real Salt Lake in the conference finals.

Kansas City won its last MLS Cup that season, defeating Salt Lake on penalties after a 1-all draw. The team also won the league championship in 2000.

Portland and Kansas City had never met in the playoffs.

The Timbers were without dynamic midfielder Diego Chara, who was injured last weekend in the second half of the victory over the Rapids. The exact nature of the injury was not known. Jack Jewsbury got the starting nod in Chara's place.

Portland's best chance in the first half was Nat Borchers' header off a corner kick that sailed just wide of the far post in the 30th minute. Dom Dwyer missed just wide of the net for Kansas City in the 49th, then again was off the mark with another strike some six minutes later.

Playoffs

Portland 2(7)

Kansas City 2(6)

BOARDMAN

Pirates snag playoff berth

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — The Riverside Pirates went into the final day of league play needing a win and a little help to reach the 3A/2A/1A girls soccer state playoffs.

They got both. The Pirates took care of their own business by scoring four goals in the second half of a 5-2 win over Umatilla, and got the help they needed in the form of a 1-0 Portland Adventist win over Portland Christian.

That vaulted the Pirates (5-6-3, 5-2-3 SD2) past the Royals (6-5-2, 5-3-2) by a half point in the Special District 2 standings and into second place for the league's final playoff berth.

It will be the first playoff game for every player on the roster.

"I was so proud of the kids because they fought all the way to the end," said Riverside coach Carlos Velasco. "We were able to put it away this time and that's something we've struggled to do at times."

The game was tied 1-1 at half-time, and Umatilla (4-6-4, 3-3-4) took a 2-1 lead within the first

10 minutes of the second half, Velasco said.

The Pirates' Xenia Velasco then missed a penalty kick with a chance to tie, but instead of hanging their heads the Pirates kept attacking.

Velasco vindicated herself with a second-half hat trick and scored the equalizer as well two insurance goals off free kicks.

Her sister Edith Velasco scored Riverside's goal in the first half and added the eventual game-winner on a free kick in the second half.

"I told my girls to just keep the pressuring (Umatilla) and keep shooting," Velasco said. "(Umatilla) had the wind against them so it was hard for them to clear the ball out."

Umatilla heads into the offseason after the Vikings (4-6-4, 3-3-4) scored just once in each half on Thursday and finished fourth in league play.

Riverside enters the state bracket of 12 teams where they will be matched up based on OSAA ranking. The first round of the state tournament is Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Girls Soccer

Riverside 5

Umatilla 2

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL
Today
Mon./Dayville at Echo, 2 p.m.
Arlington/Condon at Perrydale, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, 6 p.m.
Hermiston at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Vale at Umatilla, 7 p.m.
Culver at Stanfield, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Irrigon, 7 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
South Wasco at Lone, 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER
Saturday
Banks at Mac-Hi, Noon

PREP BOYS SOCCER
Saturday
Mac-Hi at Phoenix (Medford), 1 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL
Saturday
Elkton at Lone, TBD
Helix at Crane, TBD

PREP CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Weston-McEwen at State Championships (Lane Community College, Eugene), 10:35 a.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Montana Tech, Noon

COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER
Today
Eastern Oregon at Trinity Lutheran, 1 p.m.
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER
Today
Eastern Oregon at Trinity Lutheran, 1 p.m.
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 9 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Today
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 5 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Today
Victoria at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Langara College at Eastern Oregon (exhibition), 5 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at NW Nazarene (exhibition), Noon

Friday, Oct. 30: Kansas City (Ventura 13-8) at N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 9-7), 5:07 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31: Kansas City (Young 11-6) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 4-10), 5:07 p.m.
x-Sunday, Nov. 1: Kansas City at N.Y. Mets, 5:15 p.m.
x-Tuesday, Nov. 3: N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 5:07 p.m.
x-Wednesday, Nov. 4: N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 5:07 p.m.

Football

NFL										
AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
EAST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
New England	7	0	0	1.000	249	133				
N.Y. Jets	4	2	0	.667	152	105				
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	176	173				
Miami	3	4	0	.429	154	173				
SOUTH										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	147	174				
Houston	2	5	0	.286	154	199				
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	147	207				
Tennessee	1	5	0	.167	119	139				
NORTH										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Cincinnati	6	0	0	1.000	182	122				
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	158	131				
Cleveland	2	5	0	.286	147	182				
Baltimore	1	6	0	.143	161	188				
WEST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Denver	6	0	0	1.000	139	102				
Oakland	3	3	0	.500	144	153				
Kansas City	2	5	0	.286	150	172				
San Diego	2	5	0	.286	165	198				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
EAST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
N.Y. Giants	4	3	0	.571	166	156				
Washington	3	4	0	.429	148	168				
Philadelphia	3	4	0	.429	160	137				
Dallas	2	4	0	.333	121	158				
SOUTH										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Carolina	6	0	0	1.000	162	110				
Atlanta	6	1	0	.857	193	150				
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	161	185				
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	140	179				
NORTH										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Green Bay	6	0	0	1.000	164	101				
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	124	102				
Chicago	2	4	0	.333	120	179				
Detroit	1	6	0	.143	139	200				
WEST										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Arizona	5	2	0	.714	229	133				
St. Louis	3	3	0	.500	108	119				
Seattle	3	4	0	.429	154	128				
San Francisco	2	5	0	.286	103	180				
Thursday's Game										
New England 36, Miami 7										
Sunday's Games										
Detroit (+4) vs. Kansas City at London, 6:30 a.m.										
San Francisco (+8) at St. Louis, 10 a.m.										
N.Y. Giants (+3) at New Orleans, 10 a.m.										
Minnesota (+1) at Chicago, 10 a.m.										
Tennessee (+3.5) at Houston, 10 a.m.										
Tampa Bay (+7) at Atlanta, 10 a.m.										
Arizona (-6) at Cleveland, 10 a.m.										
San Diego (+3) at Baltimore, 10 a.m.										
Cincinnati (+1.5) at Pittsburgh, 10 a.m.										
N.Y. Jets (-3) at Dallas, 1:05 p.m.										
Seattle (-6) at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.										
Green Bay (-2.5) at Denver, 5:30 p.m.										

Open: Buffalo, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Washington

Monday's Game
Indianapolis (+7) at Carolina, 5:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	1	.500	½
Brooklyn	0	1	.000	1
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	1	0	1.000	—
Washington	1	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	1	1	.500	½
Charlotte	0	1	.000	1
Orlando	0	1	.000	1
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	2	0	1.000	—
Detroit	2	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	1	1	.500	1
Milwaukee	0	1	.000	1½
Indiana	0	2	.000	2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	1	1	.500	—
Memphis	1	1	.500	—
Houston	0	1	.000	½
San Antonio	0	1	.000	½
New Orleans	0	2	.000	1
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	1	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	—
Oklahoma City	1	0	1.000	—
Portland	1	0	1.000	—
Utah	0	1	.000	1
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	2	0	1.000	—
Golden State	1	0	1.000	½
L.A. Lakers	0	1	.000	1½
Phoenix	0	1	.000	1½
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1½
Thursday's Games				

Memphis 112, Indiana 103
Atlanta 112, New York 101
L.A. Clippers 104, Dallas 88

Today's Games
Utah at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 4 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 6 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Portland at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL				
Thursday's Games				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Carolina 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT				
New Jersey 4, Philadelphia 1				
Pittsburgh 4, Buffalo 3				
Colorado 2, Tampa Bay 1				
St. Louis 2, Anaheim 1				
Winnipeg 3, Chicago 1				
Dallas 4, Vancouver 3, OT				
Edmonton 4, Montreal 3				
Today's Games				
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 4 p.m.				
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.				
Columbus at Washington, 4 p.m.				
Colorado at Carolina, 4 p.m.				
Ottawa at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.				
Boston at Florida, 4:30 p.m.				