

Prep Sports

Adidas to help eliminate Native American mascots

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Adidas is offering to help high schools nationwide drop Native American mascots.

The athletic shoe and apparel maker said Thursday it will provide free design resources to schools looking to shelve Native American mascots, nicknames, imagery or symbolism.

Adidas announced the initiative in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, which includes leaders from the 567 federally recognized tribes.

The company, which has its North American headquarters in Portland, Oregon, also said it will be a founding member of a coalition that addresses Native American mascots in sports.

According to the group Change the Mascot, there are about 2,000 schools nationwide that have Native American mascots.

The advocacy group says

about a dozen schools have dropped Native mascots over the past two years and another 20 are considering a change.

Eric Liedtke, Adidas head of global brands who was at the Washington conference, said sports must be inclusive.

“Today’s announcement is a great way for us to offer up our resources to schools that want to do what’s right — to administrators, teachers, students and athletes who want to make a difference in their lives and in their world,” Liedtke said in a statement. “Our intention is to help break down any barriers to change — change that can lead to a more respectful and inclusive environment for all American athletes.”

Speaking to young Native Americans attending the conference, President Barack Obama applauded Adidas.

“I tell you, for Adidas to make that commitment, it’s a very smart thing to do,” Obama said. “Because those schools now really don’t have an excuse. What they’re saying is one of the top sports companies in the world, one of the top brands in the world, is prepared to come and use all their expertise to come up with something that’s



This undated, file photo shows the gym at Roseburg High School with the school's feather logo with mascot name in Roseburg, Ore.

Michael Sullivan/The News Review via AP, File

really going to work; and that the entire community can feel proud of and can bring people together and give a fresh start.”

The voluntary program would give schools access to the company’s design team for logo redesign and uniform design across all sports. It seeks to be a collaborative effort with schools. Adidas emphasized the

initiative only involves high schools, and that the company is not mandating that schools change mascots and nicknames. The program does not involve its other agreements or sponsorships with professional or college teams, or with individual athletes.

The company said it embarked on the initiative because it became clear that schools “wanting to make

a change had very little avenues to do so.”

“Ultimately, it’s the teams, athletes, coaches and fans who decide what changes they want to make. And if they want to make a change and we can help, then we want to help,” the company said.

The use of such mascots has drawn increased attention and controversy in recent years. The NFL’s Washington Redskins have resisted appeals by Native American and civil rights groups to change their name and mascot.

Maury Lane, an outside team spokesman for the Redskins, issued a statement criticizing Adidas’ move.

“The hypocrisy of changing names at the high school level of play and continuing to profit off of professional like-named teams is absurd. Adidas make hundreds of millions of dollars selling uniforms to teams like the Chicago Blackhawks and the Golden State Warriors, while profiting off sales of fan apparel for the Cleveland Indians, Florida State Seminoles, Atlanta Braves and many other like-named teams,” the statement said. “It seems

safe to say that Adidas’ next targets will be the biggest sports teams in the country, which won’t be very popular with their shareholders, team fans, or partner schools and organizations.”

Adidas has had a sponsorship agreement with Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III since before he was drafted into the NFL. Adidas also currently provides team uniforms for the NBA, and will outfit the NHL starting in the 2017-18 season.

On the college level, the NCAA warned schools in 2005 that they would face sanctions if they didn’t change Native American logos or nicknames. Some colleges kept their nicknames by obtaining permission from tribes, including the Florida State Seminoles and the University of Utah Utes.

Some states have taken action at the high school level. Last month, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law that prohibits schools from using the term “Redskins.”

In Oregon, the state Board of Education in 2012 ordered high schools to ban such mascots or risk losing public funding. The schools have until 2017 to comply.

MUSTANGS: Dragons back in postseason after missing cut last year

Continued from 1B

afternoon, when the No. 2 seed Mustangs (9-0) host the No. 15 seed Monroe Dragons (4-5).

If you just look at the record, it would appear to be an easy match up for the Mustangs. However, the Dragons are a team that is better than its sub-par record.

Monroe comes into the postseason battle-tested on the back of four straight wins after losing its first five games of the season to some pretty tough competition.

In Week 1, Monroe lost to the now-No. 1 seed Central Linn team by a score of 16-6. Then in Week 4, Monroe dropped a game to the No. 6 seed Lost River 29-26. And finally in Week 5, Monroe fell to the No. 8 seed Vernonia 60-44 — the most points Vernonia allowed all season.

It’s the kind of team that Grant says cannot be overlooked.

“I see a young team that’s getting better and better,” said Grant. “They have great tradition, great coaching, a



Heppner's C.J. Kindle (24) escapes a TigerScot tackler during a Columbia Basin Conference game in Athena on Friday, Oct. 30, 2015.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

great playoff pedigree and these kids expect to win.”

Monroe is also no stranger to postseason play, having made the playoffs now 25 times in school history — not far behind Heppner’s total of 33. The Dragons made it into postseason play every year from 2009-2013 before just missing the cut in 2014.

On the other side of the field, Heppner steamrolled through its schedule this season, averaging more than 49 points per game on offense and only allowing an average of 10.2 points against on defense.

Their closest game of the season was the 20-0 win over a tough Weston-McEwen

squad to last week to wrap up the regular season — a game that coach Greg Grant says was a blessing for them.

“Any time you have a team challenge you in different ways, it makes you better,” said Grant. “It showed the kids we can’t just show up and expect things to happen for us.”

Monroe will have its hands full with Heppner’s offense on Saturday, as the Mustangs depth at the skill positions will be tough to keep up with.

The man in charge of Heppner’s high-powered offense is senior quarterback Kaden Clark — who threw for 784 yards and 13 touchdowns, while also running for 346 yards and eight more touchdowns in eight games played.

But the weapons do not stop there.

Running back C.J. Kindle ran for more than 700 yards and 10 touchdowns; running back Tommy Bredfield ran for 483 yards and seven touchdowns; and receiver Logan Grieb caught 10 passes for 400 yards and nine touchdowns.

And those are just the headlining players.

The Mustangs have developed many backup players this season, getting time in during many of Heppner’s blowouts this season. But having that many weapons is something that Grant loves to see in his team.

“It’s really nice to be

diversified,” he said. “I would not want the team to key in on just one thing. The more things we have the harder we are to beat.”

The Mustangs defense is diverse in talent, as well, headed by studs Patrick Collins and Kevin Murray.

Murray — a junior linebacker — leads the team with 58 total tackles and has racked up three sacks on the season, while Collins — a senior defensive lineman — tallied 44 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions.

But the unit will be put to the test on Saturday against a Monroe team that averages 30 points per game and likes to control the clock.

“They’re a great fundamental team, with good line play and a physical running game,” he said. “We’re going to need to play smart football.”

Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

Contact Eric Singer at esinger@eastoregonian.com, (541) 966-0839, or follow on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Today (5A first round) No. 9 Wilsonville at No. 8 Hermiston, 7 p.m. (2A first round) No. 9 Starfield at No. 8 Vernonia, 7 p.m. Saturday (2A first round) No. 13 Irrigon at No. 4 Kennedy, 1 p.m. (2A first round) No. 10 Weston-McEwen at No. 7 Reedsport, 2 p.m. (2A first round) No. 15 Monroe at No. 2 Heppner, 3 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Saturday (5A quarterfinal) No. 4 Hermiston vs. Woodburn, TBD (3A quarterfinal) No. 6 Riverside at No. 3 St. Mary's, 4 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Today (2A quarterfinal) No. 10 Weston-McEwen vs. No. 2 Culver (at Ridgeview HS, Redmond), 10 a.m. (1A quarterfinal) No. 7 Ione vs. No. 2 North Douglas (at Ridgeview HS, Redmond), 3:15 p.m. Saturday Weston-McEwen vs. TBD at 2A state tournament, TBD Ione vs. TBD at 1A state tournament, TBD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, Noon

COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday Eastern Oregon at CCC Championships, TBD

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday Eastern Oregon at Gonzaga (exhibition), 5 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Today Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 6 p.m. Saturday Eastern Oregon at Arizona Christian, 3 p.m.

Football

NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE EAST

Table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA for NFL American Conference East teams.

WEST

Table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA for NFL West teams.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST

Table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA for National Conference East teams.

SOUTH

Table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA for South teams.

NORTH

Table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA for North teams.

Thursday's Game

Cincinnati 31, Cleveland 10

Sunday's Games

Tennessee (+8) at New Orleans, 10 a.m. St. Louis (+2) at Minnesota, 10 a.m. Green Bay (-2.5) at Carolina, 10 a.m. Washington (+14) at New England, 10 a.m. Miami (+3) at Buffalo, 10 a.m. Jacksonville (+7) at N.Y. Jets, 10 a.m. Oakland (+4.5) at Pittsburgh, 10 a.m. Atlanta (-7) at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m. N.Y. Giants (-2.5) at Tampa Bay, 1:05 p.m. Denver (-5) at Indianapolis, 1:25 p.m. Philadelphia (-2.5) at Dallas, 5:30 p.m. Open: Arizona, Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Seattle

Monday's Game

Chicago (+4) at San Diego, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA

Top 25 schedule Saturday's Games No. 1 Ohio State vs. Minnesota, 5 p.m. No. 3 Clemson vs. No. 17 Florida State, 12:30 p.m. No. 4 LSU at No. 7 Alabama, 5 p.m. No. 5 TCU at No. 12 Oklahoma State, 12:30 p.m. No. 6 Michigan State at Nebraska, 4 p.m. No. 8 Notre Dame at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m. No. 9 Stanford at Colorado, 10 a.m. No. 10 Iowa at Indiana, 12:30 p.m. No. 11 Florida vs. Vanderbilt, 9 a.m. No. 13 Utah at Washington, 4:30 p.m. No. 14 Oklahoma vs. Iowa State, 4 p.m. No. 15 Memphis vs. Navy, 4 p.m. No. 16 Michigan vs. Rutgers, 12:30 p.m. No. 18 Houston vs. Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m. No. 19 Mississippi vs. Arkansas, 12:30 p.m. No. 21 North Carolina vs. Duke, 9 a.m. No. 22 UCLA at Oregon State, 1:30 p.m. No. 25 Texas A&M vs. Auburn, 4:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic Division teams.

WEST

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for NBA Western Conference teams.

Southeast Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Southeast Division teams.

Central Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Central Division teams.

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Western Conference Southwest Division teams.

Northwest Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Western Conference Northwest Division teams.

Pacific Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Western Conference Pacific Division teams.

Thursday's Games

Chicago 104, Oklahoma City 98 Miami 96, Minnesota 84 Charlotte 108, Dallas 94 Utah 96, Denver 84 Portland 115, Memphis 96

Today's Games

Toronto at Orlando, 4 p.m. Philadelphia at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m. Washington at Boston, 4:30 p.m. Milwaukee at New York, 4:30 p.m. Atlanta at New Orleans, 5 p.m. Miami at Indiana, 5 p.m. Detroit at Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Denver at Golden State, 7:30 p.m. Houston at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for NHL teams.

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division teams.

Metropolitan Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Eastern Conference Metropolitan Division teams.

WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Western Conference Central Division teams.

Pacific Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Western Conference Pacific Division teams.

Thursday's Games

Ottawa 3, Winnipeg 2, SO Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 1 Washington 4, Boston 1 Montreal 4, N.Y. Islanders 1 Nashville 3, Minnesota 2 Calgary 2, Philadelphia 1, OT Arizona 4, Colorado 2 San Jose 5, Los Angeles 2 Columbus 3, Games Detroit at Toronto, 4 p.m. Chicago at New Jersey, 4 p.m. Dallas at Carolina, 4 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 6 p.m. Pittsburgh at Edmonton, 6 p.m. Columbus at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Motorsports

NASCAR Driver Standings

- List of NASCAR driver standings including names like Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch, Martin Truex Jr., etc.

BRIEFLY

Mac-Hi looking for Hall nominations

MILTON-FREEWATER — McLoughlin High School will host the 2nd Annual Mac-Hi Hall of Fame induction and “Toast of Talent” auction and wine event on March 5, 2016 from 6-9 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Community Building. Proceeds from this event and the silent auction will raise funds for athletics and art at the high school.

Nomination for the hall of fame may be made in one of six categories — Medicine and Science, Business and Professional, Art and Entertainment, Humanitarian and Service, Athletics, and Lifetime Recognition.

Nomination forms are available at machi.milffree.k12.or.us. Nominations are due by January 10, 2016. Inductees will be announced in early February.

Advertisement for Athlete of the Week featuring Fabian Cardenas, Senior Amatilla Cross Country, with details of his performance and contact information for Advanced Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Institute.