

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 21-22, 2015

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Sports shorts

Curry leads Warriors to 14-0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 27 points and the defending champion Golden State Warriors moved within one victory of matching the best start in NBA history, holding off the Chicago Bulls 106-94 on Friday night to improve to 14-0.

The league's last undefeated team ran its franchise-record home winning streak to 26 games by beating a Chicago team that is the last to win at Oracle Arena during the regular season, way back in late January.

Golden State equaled the 1957-58 Celtics as the only defending champions to win their initial 14 games. The Warriors are one of five teams in NBA history to begin 14-0, and will travel to Denver looking to keep it going Sunday.

Palmer fined for pelvic thrust

NEW YORK (AP) — Arizona Cardinals quarterback Carson Palmer has been fined \$11,576 by the NFL for a celebratory gesture toward the crowd last Sunday.

Palmer pumped his fist and then added a pelvic thrust — drawing the fine for unprofessional conduct — at the end of the Cardinals' 39-32 win over the Seahawks in Seattle. He told ESPN he spotted his friends in the crowd and made the gesture at them, not at Seahawks fans.

Seahawks linebacker K.J. Wright was docked \$23,152 for his personal foul on Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald in that same game. He left his feet to hit Fitzgerald, drawing a penalty.

"We wish we were a part of it but unfortunately a couple mechanical things took us out of this Chase, but we're going to hopefully go out with a bang."

— **Denny Hamlin**
NASCAR racer after winning the pole position for Sunday's season-ending race at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Hamlin is not in contention for the season title. Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. are the four racers vying for the championship.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1953 — Notre Dame ties Iowa 14-14 by faking injuries in both halves. With two seconds to go in the first half, a Notre Dame player stops the clock by faking an injury and the Fighting Irish score on the next play. With six seconds left and Notre Dame out of timeouts, two players fake injuries and the Irish score on the last play to tie the game.

2003 — Golden State's Clifford Robinson makes his 1,000th career 3-pointer in the Warriors' 101-91 victory over the Miami Heat. The 6-foot-10 Robinson is the tallest player to record more than 900 3-pointers.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

PENDLETON T-Wolves rally, advance to semifinals

Blue Mountain comes back to beat Bellevue and Tacoma

East Oregonian

TACOMA, Wash. — The Blue Mountain Timberwolves came back from the brink twice on Friday to punch their fourth-straight ticket to the semifinal round at the NWAC Championships.

Facing 2-0 deficits in each match, the T-Wolves rallied for five-set victories over Bellevue (22-25, 22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-11) and Tacoma (24-26, 13-25, 25-17,

25-21, 15-12).

Head coach Dave Baty said it's a side of his team he had yet to see this season.

"I wouldn't have thought that they could have done that, but they've shown a level of resiliency we didn't have in the season," he said. "We're finding a way to win. As hot as Tacoma was early we were able to withstand that and make a run."

Tacoma appeared to have firm control of their quarterfinal match after a dominant second set in which it hit .348 as a team, but like they did against Bellevue the T-Wolves responded with their best set of the



Blue Mtn
3



Tacoma
2

match to get on the board.

BMCC hit .312 and committed just three errors to get the momentum back in their favor.

Miah Perez finished with a match-high 14 kills against Tacoma, Keri Schwarz added 11 and Klaree Hobart chipped in 10.

Maci Beierle led them with 37 assists and Hannah Bailey had a match-high 31 digs. Beierle and Schwarz tied for a team high with 2.5 blocks.

Against Bellevue, Perez had a match-high 18 kills, Hobart added 14 and Jordan Mix had another 11.

Beierle led them with 28 assists, but Kylie Collins added 12, and Bailey had a match-high 42 digs.

Kristin Williams had her worst match as a hitter against Bellevue with just four kills, but led the team with 4.5 blocks (4 solo) and tied Perez for a team-high two aces.

The T-Wolves will play Linn-Benton in the semifinals today at 1:30 p.m.

Linn-Benton has lost just one set so far this week, and swept Highline (25-18, 25-22, 25-23) and Walla Walla (25-23, 25-15, 25-17) on Friday.

It will be the first meeting of the season between the Timberwolves and Roadrunners.

PENDLETON BMCC breaks into season

Timberwolves cruise past Fairchild in opener

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Blue Mountain's fast break offense had plenty of chances to get out and run as the Timberwolves raced past Fairchild Air Force Base 124-65 on Friday in their season opener.

Six Timberwolves reached double digits in scoring and BMCC never trailed while turning 24 Fairchild turnovers into 42 points the other way. The T-Wolves crossed the century mark with more than 10 minutes left in the second half.

"There was a lot of good things, obviously," said BMCC coach Adam Ellis. "You don't win game like that if you're not doing a lot of good things. It was good for these guys to just kind of get the jitters out, and that was a good game for us to do that."

BMCC freshman D'Quan Crockett threw down a trio of dunks and led the T-Wolves with 29 points, five steals and three assists.

He said his key coming into the game was just being aggressive.

"Getting to the bucket as many times as I felt like I needed to, getting to the free throw line," he said. "And on defense my main focus was getting a lot of tips, setting other guys up to get some fast breaks. Everything to help the team win on defense was what mindset was."

Freshman Jared Mathews added a double-double coming off the bench with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

"He's going to be a very talented kid," Ellis said of Mathews. "He's still kind of trying to transition into understanding offenses and defenses, but one he gets the hang of that I think he's going to be a real tough kid in this league."

Isaiah Harris scored 16 points, Luke Meyers had 13, Jared Schultz added 12 and Tyler Thurman chipped in 11 to round out BMCC's double-digit scorers. La'Quan Hawkins



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
The Timberwolves' Tyler Thurman (14) goes up for a basket under pressure during Friday's game against Fairchild Air Force Base at Blue Mountain Community College.

added nine points, a team-high four assists and three steals.

Blue Mountain led 66-38 at half-time and shot 51-of-98 (52 percent) from the field. They shot 61 percent in the second half.

"They didn't settle, they continued to push on the gas," Ellis

said. "That's a good sign."

The T-Wolves also outrebounded Fairchild 64-36 with 29 offensive boards. Mathews' 10 was a team-high but Crockett added eight and Meyers had seven.

"That's our most important thing, See BMCC/2B

STANFIELD

Tigers thriving despite small roster

Familiarity and conditioning help propel Stanfield to football semifinals

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Scanning through Stanfield's football roster, something jumps out easily.

It's not the size of the players, it's the number of them.

The Tigers list just 20 players on their varsity roster. With 11 on the field at a time, 12 of those 20 must play two ways in some capacity — offense/defense, defense/special teams, etc. — which means there isn't much time to rest.

Stanfield is used to it, though.

As eighth graders, Stanfield went 8-0 with a handful of guys, maybe 13, nobody could quite remember. Last year, Stanfield was deep by comparison, fielding a roster of 28 guys.

So how has a team like Stanfield, whose biggest regular tips the scales at 230 pounds, and who doesn't have enough guys to fill two deeps go 10-1 with a power running game designed to wear down opponents?

The answer isn't simple. The first part is Stanfield's conditioning, which is top-notch. It needs to be, though, with so few guys and a style based on conditioning.

"Everybody just feeds off of everybody else when these guys are moving the ball,"

See TIGERS/2B

Football



#3 Stanfield Tigers (10-1)



#4 Kennedy Trojans (9-1)

• Saturday, 5 p.m.
• at Liberty High School, Hillsboro
• Radio: KOHU 1360 AM

HEPPNER

Mustangs line gelling in playoffs

Heppner blockers paving way for big postseason victories

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The No. 2 Heppner Mustangs enter today's semifinals as the class of the final four.

The highest-ranked remaining team in the bracket, the Mustangs lead the postseason in scoring (107 points) and are Class 2A's No. 1-ranked scoring offense and defense after last week's 52-14 rout of No. 7 Reedsport.

In two playoff games the Mustangs have rumbled for 572 yards on the ground at 7.9 yards a pop.



#3 Regis Rams (8-3)

• Saturday, Noon
• at Liberty High School, Hillsboro
• Radio: KOHU 1360 AM



#2 Heppner Mustangs (11-0)

It's no secret how Heppner has arrived at its lofty rankings and gaudy stat lines — dominant play in the trenches is to thank for the Mustangs' current roll.

"We call them our skill positions," said Heppner coach Greg Grant. "When we had a separate locker room the linemen got the team locker room and the backs dressed outside. The linemen are treated with a great amount of reverence and respect in our program because we know, and

we put good athletes there."

Looking at the Mustangs' 11-0 record, it would be easy to assume this year's group came together flawlessly. But there were times earlier this season when Heppner had to overcome its offensive line's learning curve as it worked three new starters into the mix.

"Offensive lines are based on a couple things: experience, character and intelligence," Grant said. "I think that this line, the only thing they lacked at the beginning of the year is experience. We graduated, I like to tell people, seven years of starting experience off our line from last year. We had two three-year starters that we graduated, so we've had some kids that have had to grow into that."

"It was hard at the beginning," said See MUSTANGS/2B