

JAMES: Emergence shifts Neal to WR

Continued from 1B

that saw its quarterbacks carry the ball 172 times last season. He's not a "running quarterback," though, and has been getting high marks from his receivers when it comes to delivering a catchable ball.

"He gets everything, he gets the arm, he gets the strength," said senior receiver Jerry Ramirez. "He's mature as a sophomore. We've just got to get in there and feed off him, every ball he throws us we've got to catch. He throws really good balls. We've just got to pick him up and he'll feed off us, once we start making grabs."

James said the chemistry in the passing game seems to be improving with each practice.

"I've got some good wide receivers to throw to. There's definitely some skill out there," he said. "They're working on their part and I'm working on my part and we should be able to put it together. Every day we've gotten better. Once we got pads on the fire came under us and everything started to click better."

James' emergence allows junior Dayshawn Neal to shift out to wide receiver where his athleticism and speed can be used a variety of ways. Neal was the starting quarterback to open the 2015 season, but the team was winless when he broke his ankle in Week 5 and the since-graduated Nathan Hunsaker stepped in to go 4-1 in his starts.

Transfer senior Damien McLeod (Ridgeview) has



Hermiston senior Damien McLeod looks to hand the ball off during drills on Tuesday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

won the backup quarterback role, and said he's coming from a system where he was mostly used as a runner.

"(James) reads the defense and steps up into the pocket and throws, which is great," McLeod said. "We've both kind of been learning off each other."

McLeod, who also starts at linebacker, said he sees his most important role in the offense as that of mentor.

"He's a young kid, so

my senior values I can put off onto him, but he's going to be ready," McLeod said. "Coming here, Andrew was pretty much the first kid I met. We kind of have that kind of bond, he was my first buddy."

"We work out (together) in the weight room and as a backup I kind of take that as pushing him to be the best that he can be, and I'm just try to work him, get him going."

McLeod also gives James insight into the defensive mindset.

"From the opposite side of the ball I've been scouting QBs from Day 1," he said. "I guess that's more knowledge that I can put off onto him."

One thing McLeod said he won't need to help James learn is how to be a leader in the huddle and the locker room.

In fact, it's one of the areas James said he feels he's the strongest, and he's been working hard to demonstrate that by "knowing every position so I can give everyone my input and let them do what they do."

"He's smart, intelligent, just confidence is the biggest key for him," Ramirez said. "Once we get that going we're going to be a scary team. Last year as a freshman he started all three sports — football, basketball and baseball. So we don't doubt him one bit."

"Friday nights varsity is a different animal, a different beast, but he'll be good."

James echoed Ramirez's confidence, and said he's envisioning a clean entry.

"There's a big difference between practice and Friday night lights," he said. "I'll be ready for it, but it will sure be a surprise. It should be good."

Hermiston will hold its intrasquad scrimmage on Saturday at Kennison Field from 9-11 a.m. Admission is free.

Contact Matt Entrup at mentrup@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0838.

MARINERS: Reliever Tony Zych recalled

Continued from 1B

by Ronald Torreyes.

The Yankees made it 4-1 in the sixth when Mark Teixeira doubled, took third on Brian McCann's groundout and scored on Aaron Judge's sacrifice fly to center.

New York added an unearned run in the ninth when Ellsbury reached on a two-base error by left fielder Guillermo Heredia and scored on Didi Gregorius' ground-rule double.

The Yankees took a 1-0 lead with an unearned run in the second. Judge reached on a two-out error when his infield bouncer went off the top of third baseman Kyle Seager's glove. Aaron Hicks walked and Torreyes followed with an RBI double to left.

TRAINING ROOM:

Yankees: RHP Anthony Swarzak, who took the loss after giving up Mike Zunino's go-ahead three-run homer in a 7-5 loss Monday, was placed on the 15-day disabled list with right rotator cuff inflammation. RHP Ben Heller, acquired from Cleveland in the trade for Andrew Miller on July 31, was called up from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Heller also was with the Yankees from Aug. 11-13 but did not pitch.

Mariners: RHP Tony Zych was recalled from a rehab assignment with Triple-A Tacoma and activated off the 60-day disable list Tuesday. Zych was 1-0 with a 3.00 ERA in 10 early

season relief appearances before going on the 15-day DL (right rotator cuff tendinitis) in early May and was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 24. IF/OF Stefen Romero, who was called up Friday, was sent back to Tacoma.

MORE MARINERS MOVES: To make room for Walker, the Mariners optioned RHP Cody Martin to Tacoma. Martin was called up Aug. 16, his third stint with Seattle this season. He made two spot starts without a decision, including Monday's 7-5 victory over the Yankees, when he allowed five runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings — with all the runs coming on four home runs.

UP NEXT: Yankees: RHP Masahiro Tanaka (10-4, 3.24 ERA) has won three consecutive starts for the first time since July 9-23 of 2015. He is 4-0 in four career starts against the Mariners, including 2-0 with a 1.69 ERA at Safeco Field. Tanaka will be facing former Japanese teammate Hisashi Iwakuma, with whom he played from 2007-11 with Rakuten. The two also met in April, with Tanaka getting the victory and Iwakuma the loss in a 4-3 Yankees' win.

Mariners: In a season of injuries, trades and roster shuffling, RHP Iwakuma (14-8, 3.78) has been the most consistent member of the rotation, leading in starts (25), victories and strikeouts. He is 13-4 in his last 17 starts.

VOLLEYBALL: Anderson knows there are big shoes to fill with Grizzlies

Continued from 1B

opening for the position, it instantly piqued her interest.

"I've always been interested in being a head coach in volleyball or track and field," Fleming said, "and when I saw Hermiston had an opening I thought it would be a good opportunity to take on my own program and create my own culture outside the Tri-Cities area that I was used to."

Fleming and her Bulldogs recently completed the tryout portion of camp and are heading full-force into season preparations as they inch toward the season opener on Sept. 2. She emphasized how lucky she is to have a great mix of talents and experience on the team for her first year as coach, which has her excited to see

how far the team can go.

"One of the things I like about this team is their optimism and positive outlook," she said. "They are very future-focused and goal-oriented and having them that way will help get us to where we want to be."

Fleming, who is also a physical education teacher at Armand Larive Middle School, inherits a Hermiston roster that had a disappointing 2015 season in which it went 5-11 overall and 1-8 in the Columbia River Conference, and is five years removed from its last league title. So how does Fleming hope to build up the program?



Anderson

"My plan is to create a competitive culture and get the girls in a competitive mindset all the time," she said. "When they compete every day in practice and go through the ups and downs there, they will be ready for anything during the games."

Another team getting acclimated to new coaches is the Helix Grizzlies, as longtime coach Tammie Parker retired following the 2015 season after 15 years at the helm of the Grizzlies program. In her place steps Dianna Anderson, who like Fleming is in her first year as a varsity head coach, but has numerous years of coaching experience at the youth level.

"It's big shoes to fill, no doubt," Anderson said. "It's tough for me to follow because of (Tammie's) reputation."

Anderson, a native of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, began coaching middle school volleyball in Pendleton in 2007 and until 2012 she had stints as the Pendleton freshman and junior varsity coach before moving back to the middle school level in Pilot Rock, a position she held until 2014. After that, Anderson took a two-year hiatus from coaching and instead got involved with officiating before soon realizing how much she missed the coaching aspect in games.

"I love the sport and have always had a passion for it," Anderson said. "Around that time, I knew Tammie

was wanting to retire and she had always raved about her group of kids here, so I thought I'd throw my name in the ring ... and here we are."

Anderson, who works as a police assistant for the Pendleton Police Department, admits that it was a bit of a tough transition for the team, but the players appear to have found a groove heading towards the season.

"It's a big adjustment for them, Tammie was there for a long time," she said. "Especially at the beginning, we had to feel each other out and some girls were standoffish, but now we're gelling more and more as we go along."

Helix opens its season on Friday at the Umatilla Jamboree before hosting Mac-Hi and Riverside for

the first matches in Helix on Sept. 1. The Grizzlies lost a couple of key pieces from last year's playoff team, but Anderson said she has a strong group this season and that she couldn't have picked a better group of girls to get started with.

"The thing with Helix compared to a place like Pendleton, these girls have a real sense of team and camaraderie and every day they just boost each other up," she said. "It's just a great, great group to get in here with and they're so welcoming and fun."

"Time just flies by when we're on the court."

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

BALDWIN: Receiver finished 2015 with 78 catches and led NFL with 14 TDs

Continued from 1B

feel loved and appreciated and valued," Baldwin said. "When you put a number to it, honestly, it's really not about the money, but the money does equate to respect and appreciation and love. It feels great, but at the same time nothing really changes. When we are on the football field we are still going to work because we have an ultimate goal to get to. It does feel good to have that behind me so we can

focus on the field."

Baldwin was at the center of Seattle's offensive progression in 2015. While the Seahawks will always be a run-first team, they discovered a quick passing game during the latter half of last season where Baldwin thrived. Baldwin finished the year with 78 catches and 14 touchdowns, tied for the NFL lead. Eleven of those 14 TDs came in the final six weeks, including a three-game span with eight TD catches.

The success of last season seemed to validate what Baldwin claimed for years: that if given the opportunity, Seattle's passing game could be among the best in the league.

While the underlying expectation is that Baldwin needs to come close to replicating last year to avoid having it considered an anomaly, it may not happen simply because of Seattle's offensive focus.

"It is a mindset you have to have when you come to

the Seattle Seahawks, when you come to any run-first offense you have to realize you are going to be called upon to block, more so than scoring touchdowns," Baldwin said.

To that point, Baldwin's goal has become efficiency rather than raw numbers. He'll never see anything close to the 193 targets Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Antonio Brown had last year, so Baldwin must make the most of the throws that come his way. Last year,

Baldwin caught nearly 76 percent of the passes thrown in his direction.

Even someone who has been around Baldwin for close to a decade can see the continuing evolution of his teammate both at Stanford and with the Seahawks.

"I told him the other day he had a fantastic feel for the game. He is just a man among boys right now," Richard Sherman said. "He knows his spots, he knows where he needs to be on the field, he knows when he

needs to be there and he and Russell (Wilson) just have a great rapport going on right now. I think in terms of the skill set was the same, he's still as fast, he's still as explosive, but the feel wasn't the same. He would be running into coverage sometimes, now he's running into spots making sure he's open. Russell is hitting him on time. He's not juking and jiving, he's making his one cut ... he's more confident in what he's doing."

SCOREBOARD

Baseball				NATIONAL LEAGUE				WILD CARD STANDINGS				LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES				MOTORSPORTS																																			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct																																
MLB EAST DIVISION	Toronto	71	54	.568	Washington	73	52	.584	Toronto	71	54	.568	At South Williamsport, Pa. (TV: ESPN)	Colorado	11	3	10	43	27	20																															
Boston	71	54	.568	Miami	65	60	.520	Boston	71	54	.568	Double Elimination	Real Salt Lake	11	8	7	40	37	36																																
Baltimore	69	56	.552	New York	63	62	.504	Tri-City (Padres)	10	16	.385	Tuesday's Games	Sporting KC	11	11	5	38	32	30																																
New York	64	61	.512	Philadelphia	58	68	.460	San Francisco	65	56	.532	Consolation: Tokyo 6, San Antonio 1	Los Angeles	9	4	11	38	38	24																																
Tampa Bay	62	72	.419	Atlanta	46	80	.365	San Nicolas, Mexico 7, Vancouver, B.C. 1, Vancouver eliminated	Spokane	65	60	.520	Toronto FC at Orlando City, 4:30 p.m.	Portland	8	10	8	32	37	39																															
CENTRAL DIVISION	Cleveland	72	52	.581	Chicago	79	45	.637	Johnston, Iowa 3, Warwick, R.I. 2, Warwick eliminated	San Jose	7	10	31	26	27																																				
Detroit	66	59	.528	St. Louis	66	58	.532	Sydney 2, Willemstad, Curacao 1, Willemstad eliminated	Seattle	9	12	3	30	29	31																																				
Kansas City	65	60	.520	Pittsburgh	63	60	.512	Goodlettsville, Tenn. 4, Chula Vista, Calif. 2, 7 innings, Chula Vista eliminated	Vancouver	8	12	6	30	34	43																																				
Chicago	60	64	.484	Milwaukee	55	70	.440	2, 7 innings, Chula Vista eliminated	Houston	5	10	9	24	27	30																																				
Minnesota	49	76	.392	Cincinnati	54	71	.432	Wednesday's Games	Everett at Eugene, 7:05 p.m.	Houston	5	10	9	24	27	30																																			
WEST DIVISION	Texas	73	53	.579	Los Angeles	70	55	.560	San Nicolas, Mexico vs. Sydney, 10 a.m.	Spokane at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.	Los Angeles at Chicago, 4:30 p.m.	Phoenix	10	14	.417	11																																			
Seattle	67	58	.538	San Francisco	68	57	.544	Johnston, Iowa vs. Goodlettsville, Tenn., 12 p.m.	Seattle at Houston, 6 p.m.	Dallas	9	15	.375	12																																					
Houston	65	61	.516	Colorado	60	66	.476	Agudulce, Panama vs. Seoul, South Korea, 2:30 p.m.	Seattle at Houston, 6 p.m.	San Antonio	5	16	.360	12½																																					
Oakland	54	72	.429	San Diego	53	73	.421	Endwell, N.Y. vs. Bowling Green, Ky., 4:30 p.m.	Seattle at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.	San Antonio	5	18	.217	15½																																					
Los Angeles	52	73	.416	Arizona	52	74	.413	Friday's Game	Los Angeles at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.	San Antonio	5	18	.217	15½																																					
Tuesday's Games	Baltimore 8, Washington 1	Baltimore 7, Houston 1	Toronto 7, L.A. Angels 2	Boston 2, Tampa Bay 1	Cincinnati 3, Texas 0	Kansas City 1, Miami 0	Chicago White Sox 9, Philadelphia 1	Detroit 8, Minnesota 3	Oakland 9, Cleveland 1	N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 1	Wednesday's Games	Houston (McHugh 7-10) at Pittsburgh (Cole 7-8), 9:35 a.m.	Cleveland (Bauer 9-5) at Oakland (Graveman 9-8), 12:35 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 10-4) at Seattle (Iwakuma 14-8), 12:40 p.m.	Baltimore (Miley 7-10) at Washington (Roark 13-6), 4:05 p.m.	L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 7-13) at Toronto (Estrada 7-5), 4:07 p.m.	Boston (Porcello 17-3) at Tampa Bay (Andriese 6-5), 4:10 p.m.	(Roark 13-6), 4:05 p.m.	Kansas City (Gee 5-6) at Miami (Fernandez 12-7), 4:10 p.m.	Texas (Darvish 4-3) at Cincinnati (Adleman 2-1), 4:10 p.m.	Detroit (Boyd 4-2) at Minnesota (Duffey 8-9), 5:10 p.m.	Philadelphia (Eickhoff 8-12) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 5-15), 5:10 p.m.	Philadelphia (Eickhoff 8-12) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 5-15), 5:10 p.m.	Atlanta (Teheran 3-9) at Arizona (Greinke 11-4), 6:40 p.m.	San Francisco (Cuetto 14-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Hill 9-3), 7:10 p.m.	Atlanta (Teheran 3-9) at Arizona (Greinke 11-4), 6:40 p.m.	San Francisco (Cuetto 14-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Hill 9-3), 7:10 p.m.	San Nicolas, Mexico 7, Vancouver, B.C. 1, Vancouver eliminated	Johnston, Iowa 3, Warwick, R.I. 2, Warwick eliminated	Sydney 2, Willemstad, Curacao 1, Willemstad eliminated	Goodlettsville, Tenn. 4, Chula Vista, Calif. 2, 7 innings, Chula Vista eliminated	San Nicolas, Mexico vs. Sydney, 10 a.m.	Johnston, Iowa vs. Goodlettsville, Tenn., 12 p.m.	Agudulce, Panama vs. Seoul, South Korea, 2:30 p.m.	Endwell, N.Y. vs. Bowling Green, Ky., 4:30 p.m.	Montreal at Toronto FC, 4:30 p.m.	San Jose at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.	FC Dallas at Houston, 6 p.m.	Vancouver at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.	Sunday's Games	Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 5 p.m.	Portland at D.C. United, 4 p.m.	Spokane at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	Montreal at Toronto FC, 4:30 p.m.	San Jose at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.	FC Dallas at Houston, 6 p.m.	Vancouver at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.	Sunday's Games	Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 5 p.m.	Portland at D.C. United, 4 p.m.	Spokane at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.