

College Football

Ducks freshman linebacker Troy Dye gets off to fast start

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — Troy Dye has appeared in just one college game but already he’s grabbing attention with his play — so much so that he was named Pac-12 defensive player of the week.

Even the freshman linebacker was kind of surprised by his opening line in Oregon’s 53-28 season-opening victory over UC Davis: 11 tackles, including seven solo, 4.5 for loss and a sack. He also blocked a field goal attempt. His overall tackles led the team, and his tackles for loss led the nation.

It was the most for an Oregon freshman since Walter Thurmond III had 14

tackles in 2006.

“The atmosphere was wonderful. It was definitely the atmosphere I expected. But the way I played I didn’t expect at all,” he said. “I went out there and read what I read and played fast and physical like the coaches told me to do. So I mean I just had fun.”

Dye was also named the Ducks’ internal defensive player of the week, head coach Mark Helfrich said Sunday.

He’ll no doubt look to build on his debut on Saturday night when the 24th-ranked Ducks host Virginia. The



Dye

Cavaliers, under new coach Bronco Mendenhall, fell to Richmond 37-20 in their opener.

Dye, who was considered among the nation’s top 30 prospects at safety as a prep player, graduated early from Norco High School in Southern California and arrived in Eugene in time to participate in spring drills. He broke up a pass and had three assisted tackles in the spring game.

The 6-foot-4 freshman worked hard through the summer and added 15 pounds to bring him up to 225.

He figures to be an important piece of the

Ducks’ defense under new coordinator Brady Hoke, the former Michigan coach, who is installing a new 4-3 scheme.

The Ducks needed a defensive makeover. Oregon ranked last in the league by allowing 37.5 points per game last season. Defensive lapses included last season’s Alamo Bowl, when the Ducks squandered a 31-0 halftime lead and fell 47-41 in triple overtime to TCU.

There was admittedly more work to do following the victory over the Aggies. The Ducks allowed UC Davis 21 points in the second half.

“There is a ton of stuff we can get better at. Usually, you make the most improvement

between games one and two and we have a lot of improvement to make,” Hoke said. “It was a tale of two halves. In the first half, I thought we played on edge a bit and then we came out in the second half and didn’t feel the same edge. We gave up some plays you can’t give up.”

Hoke didn’t seem all that surprised about Dye’s ability.

“He’s a very, very good athlete. I think his football instinct IQ is very good. I don’t know that absolutely surprised anybody,” Hoke said. “But there are some things he can do better, too.”

Helfrich wasn’t surprised, either.

“Everything he does in drills, he just competes his face off and he’ll hit you,”

Helfrich said. “He’s a guy that we’ve been very excited about since the day he got here.”

His teammates say Dye studies hard when it comes to the playbook and game film. He said it helps him play fast and, after Saturday’s win, he was already looking forward to seeing the film on the Cavaliers.

It’s obviously paid off for him to be prepared.

“Sometimes when I was out there I knew what was coming,” Dye said. “We watched a lot of film last week and we dissected the offense really well, so I mean there were a lot of indicators and keys that they had so I just read them.”

PREPS:

Continued from 1B

“A five-set loss isn’t horrible at the start of the season, and it’ll help the girls learn what do better in a five-set game down the road,” Fleming said.

Hermiston’s back in action on Saturday when they get into some tournament action at Canby.

BAKER 3, PENDLETON 2 — At Baker City, the Pendleton Buckaroos return home still searching for their first win of the season after a tough five-set loss to the Baker Bulldogs on Tuesday evening.

“Girls played hard tonight, showed a lot of heart and dug deep when the tough got going,” Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said following the game. “Baker looked good tonight with some big hitters on the left side ... we got a lot to take away from this match from tonight and we’re only building up from here.”

The two teams went back-and-forth in splitting the set wins for the night, with La Grande winning the first set 25-21, the third set 25-23 and the fifth set 15-13. Pendleton was victorious in the second and fourth set, both by scores of 26-24.

The Buckaroos next hit the court on Thursday when they host La Grande at 6:15 p.m.

WESTON-MCEWEN 3, DAYTON (WA) 0 — At Athena, Sarah Finifrock smashed a team-high 11 kills as the TigerScots (8-4) swept Dayton 25-15, 25-12, 25-15.

Strong serving also highlighted the performance as the TigerScots were 70 of 74 at the line overall. Bailey Hillmick led those efforts going 17 for 19 with four aces.

Sara von Borstel had a team-high 10 digs to go with five kills and a pair of aces, and Ali Schroeder led them with 15 assists. Bryce Thul added 11 assists, and Maddi Muilenburg and Hailey Weaver combined for five kills and five blocks.

“It’s probably the most consistent we’ve played to-date,” said TigerScots coach Shawn White. “We did nice job of staying in-system and running our offense.”

The TigerScots remain in non-league play Saturday when they open play at the Reedsport Tournament against Oakridge at 10 a.m.

PILOT ROCK 3, HELIX 0 — At Umatilla, the Rockets picked up two non-league wins on Tuesday by beating Helix and Umatilla.

Pilot Rock swept Helix 25-23, 25-20, 25-22, and earned a four-game win over Umatilla 21-25, 25-12, 25-10, 25-20.

Helix split the day by edging Umatilla in five games by scores of 15-25, 26-28, 25-8, 25-13, 17-15.

No other details were reported.

Up next, Pilot Rock (3-2) hosts Enterprise and Helix (5-2) hosts Cove on Thursday at 5 p.m. Umatilla (1-6) will be back in action on Saturday at the Helix Tournament.

BOYS SOCCER

MAC-HI 7, THE DALLES 0 — At Milton-Freewater, the Mac-Hi Pioneers earned their first win of the season with a shutout of The Dalles on Tuesday afternoon.

“We played okay but we couldn’t have done a little better,” said Mac-Hi coach Jose Garcia following the game.

Ricardo Flores scored two goals to lead the Pioneers, while Carlos Evangelista, Sabas Rodriguez, Julian Villegas, and Francisco Flores each tallied one goal apiece as well.

Mac-Hi will look for its second win in a row on Saturday when it hosts Prescott (WA) at Noon.

Report game scores and statistics to sports@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0838.

BOYS SOCCER: Each team scores a goal off penalty kicks

Continued from 1B

Esgar Garcia-Avila laid out in front of the goal to deflect a cross from senior forward Freddy Rodriguez into the net.

“It was a great cross from my teammate and I was just there to finish,” Garcia-Avila said.

Century (2-0-1) back-up goalkeeper Niraj Mali never stood a chance, but was only in the game because starter Cesar Roldan Garcia was injured diving into a mosh pit in front of the net for a loose ball in the 76th minute. It was a game-changing moment for not only that fact, but Hermiston also contended it had just scored what should have been its second goal when Rodriguez got his head on a cross and beat Roldan Garcia. Century defender Christian

Acosta was there to stop the header, but the Bulldogs said he was inside the goal.

For definitive proof you’d have to go to the tape, though. Due to scheduling mix-up there was only one referee for the game, and he was positioned about 30 yards away when the play happened.

The Bulldogs weren’t going to put any blame for the loss on the officiating situation after another self-inflicted slow start and several missed opportunities in the second half. Hermiston had just two first-half shots, one a penalty kick converted by Rodriguez to make it 1-1 in the 25th minute. They increased their shot output to 11 after intermission, with five of those on frame.

“I don’t know what it is, the second half has always been our

better half,” Rodriguez said. “I don’t know what it is. It’s seeing, waiting on our opponent to set the pace and it’s not us, when it should be.”

“We came in kind of slow, I think that was obvious,” Harshberger said. “And at halftime we just talked about settling in and working for each other, and feel like they came out and they did that very well.”

Both teams were beneficiaries of penalty shots, and Century took a 2-1 lead when Monterosso converted easily in the 65th minute. He scored his first goal in the first minute of the game when he cleaned up a rebound in front of the net to beat Hermiston’s Antonio Campos, who had started in the net before moving to the field at halftime.

“I’m just giving guys time.

Now’s the time to test them out,” Harshberger said of the switch. “We’ve got to see what we’ve got, and what we’ve got on the bench. And also test Antonio out in the field and see what he can do for us out in the field.”

Hermiston’s next game is Saturday when it plays at Putnam at 1 p.m.

Goals
1’ — CHS, Pablo Monterosso, unassisted
25’ — HHS, Freddy Rodriguez (PK)
65’ — CHS, Pablo Monterosso (PK)
79’ — HHS, Esgar Garcia-Avila, Freddy Rodriguez
80’ — CHS, Pablo Monterosso, Alonzo Beltran
Campuses
Saves
Cesar Roldan Garcia, CHS, 5
Antonio Campos, HHS, 3
Junior Lopez, HHS, 4

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BUCKS: Running backs look to build off strong start to season

Continued from 1B

the Putnam Kingsmen (0-1), who took 27-15 loss to Molalla in Week 1. The Kingsmen bring something to the table the Buckaroos have not seen very much in recent years — a Wing-T offense. Davis said that the team spent a big portion of Tuesday’s practice implementing a Wing-T style with the offensive scout team so the defense could get an idea of what to expect come Friday.

“It’s an offense we don’t see very often so it’s hard to sometimes simulate, but we’re going to continue to work and see if we can’t stop the run,” Davis said. “(Putnam’s) a run-heavy team and they’ll throw a (bootleg pass) or two off of it, too, but we’re going to have simple assignment defense.”

As far as gameplanning goes, Davis believes it’ll be easier for his defense and coaches going in knowing they only have one facet to really focus on and hope the team

has it all locked in come gametime.

“You never know from week-to-week what they might add, but it’s enough to know we can drill it over and over again in the guys’ heads throughout the week and hopefully it is ingrained by Friday.”

On the offensive side for Pendleton, Davis says that the Buckaroos will see a very similar defensive alignment by Putnam as they did in La Grande — an odd man front that plays a lot of Cover 3. Junior quarterback Nick Bower will look to have another strong game following his 250 yard, three touchdown performance in Week 1, though he said he knows he can play better.

“There were some reads I should’ve made once I watched film on it, and maybe getting the ball out quicker ... there’s always things to improve on,” Bower said. “But overall it was a good performance and a good way to start out the year.”

Some other storylines surrounding Pendleton in Week 2:

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING: Before the season began, Davis said that getting a run game established early and often was critical for his team to have success.

The Buckaroos got off to a good start against La Grande, picking up 98 yards on 16 attempts — averaging more than six yards per carry. Running backs Deven Page and Jamal Vann found the end zone three times in the game as well.

“There’s no doubt it gives us more confidence,” Davis said. “Any time you can do that it opens up your passing game. Both Deven and Jamal run extremely hard, and we were able to get outside with some runs and complete some good screens as well and it really slowed La Grande’s defense down.”

Page, who picked up 73 of the team’s rushing yards, said the run game performed better than he had expected.

“I thought we wouldn’t develop as quickly as we did,” he said, “but we played as a team better than we

did last year. I think we have a better chemistry and that plays a big part.”

DEFENSIVE STAND: Pendleton’s defense was the team’s Achilles heel for several games in 2015, but has shown early in 2016 that it looks to be a stronger unit. The Buckaroos limited La Grande and standout quarterback Andrew Peasley to just 28 points — with the bulk of those coming late in the second half — and has Davis and the coaching staff feeling very pleased.

“Our kids were flying all around the field and we really gave La Grande some fits up front with our two down tackles,” Davis said. “The biggest thing was we were able to contain their horse and we created some turnovers early that our offense was able to capitalize on.

“And obviously getting two defensive touchdowns was huge.”

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BULLDOGS: First-game nerves played part in slow start against Union

Continued from 1B

on him,” Faateete said. “We’ve got to rush and get home, because the guy can throw a dart 50 yards in the air and put it on the (receiver). The guy’s got a cannon, and he’s very accurate with the ball. He doesn’t miss much.”

Coverage and tackling in the secondary will also be under the microscope after the unit struggled against Union.

“One thing I do want to leave behind is our defense,” said senior safety Vaemu Ena. “We struggled a lot on tackling and our depth in our coverages. It was rough.

“(Richardson) can throw deep balls and he can also hit quick routes so we’ve got to be good on our coverage, and we’ve also got to tackle.”

Faateete said he saw way too

much shoulder tackling and not enough wrapping up, so he’s been hammering proper tackling technique in practice this week.

“You know, wrap up, drive for five,” he said.

BUTTERFLIES RELEASED: The Bulldogs attributed their slow start against Union in part to first-game jitters. It was the first varsity start for sophomore Andrew James, who threw both of his interceptions in the first half before settling down to finish 25 for 34 with 362 yards and three touchdowns.

“The first half was pretty shaky, on my part, on everyone’s part. But that second half we definitely got rolling and that should carry on into the next game,” James said. “It all starts with our attitude. Our last game when we came out I don’t think we had the right attitude in our mind. ... You could see in the first

half to the second half how much it changed.”

James also gave a passing grade to his offensive line, which had two new starters.

“They did really well. I felt really good in the pocket, and they had a good game,” he said. “Everything started to open up (in the second half), I started to see the field better.”

OFFENSIVE BALANCE: Wide receivers Dayshawn Neal and Ena combined for 314 yards on 16 catches with Neal getting the bulk with 212 yards on 12 catches. With that performance now on film, the Lewiston defense will be keying on those two players.

That means Hermiston will need more out of its other skill players on offense, which combined for just 116 yards on 33 touches against Union.

EXECUTION KILLS: One key moment in Hermiston’s Week 1 loss, said Faateete, was the 41-yard run on a draw play the Bulldogs allowed after backing Union up for third-and-35 deep in its own territory late in the second quarter.

A missed tackle sprang the run, and a penalty tacked on to the end. Union ended the drive in the end zone and took a 20-7 lead into the locker room at halftime.

“What happens when you tackle poorly and you miss blocks is what happened to us in the first two and a half, three quarters,” Faateete said. “You can’t control everything. You put the guys in the right place but they still have to make the play.”

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SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday

Hermiston at Lewiston (ID), 7 p.m.
Pendleton at Putnam, 7 p.m.
DeSales (WA) at Mac-Hi, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Umatilla, 7 p.m.
Riverside at Union, 7 p.m.
Irrigon at Enterprise, 7 p.m.
Cascade (WA) at Stanfield, 7 p.m.
Grant Union at Heppner, 7 p.m.
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
Ione at Echo, 7 p.m.
Elgin at Arlington, 7 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Thursday

Cove at Helix, 5 p.m.
Ione at South Wasco, 5 p.m.
Dufur at Condon/Wheeler (Fossil), 5 p.m.
Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Waitsburg (WA), 5 p.m.
Arlington at Horizon Christian (Hood River), 6 p.m.
La Grande at Pendleton, 6:15 p.m.
Imbler at Stanfield, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Thursday

Sandy at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday

La Grande at Riverside, 4:30 p.m.
Pendleton at Sandy, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Today

Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla U., 6 p.m.

Thursday

Blue Mountain at Lower Columbia, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMENS SOCCER

Thursday

Eastern Oregon at Sierra Nevada, 4 p.m.

Football

NFL

Week 1

Thursday's Game

Carolina (-1) at Denver, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay (+3) at Atlanta, 10 a.m.
Buffalo (+3) at Baltimore, 10 a.m.
Chicago (+4.5) at Houston, 10 a.m.
Green Bay (+4.5) at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.
San Diego (+7.5) at Kansas City, 10 a.m.
Oakland (PK) at New Orleans, 10 a.m.
Cincinnati (PK) at N.Y. Jets, 10 a.m.
Cleveland (+7.5) at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
Minnesota (-3) at Tennessee, 10 a.m.
Miami (+7.5) at Seattle, 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants (+4) at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.
Detroit (+6) at Indianapolis, 1:25 p.m.
New England (-1) at Arizona, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 12

Pittsburgh (-3) at Washington, 4:10 p.m.
Los Angeles (-1) at San Francisco, 7:20 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 6
Houston 4, Cleveland 3
Baltimore 11, Tampa Bay 2
Chicago White Sox 2, Detroit 0
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 3
Oakland 3, L.A. Angels 2
Boston 5, San Diego 1
Texas 10, Seattle 7

Wednesday's Games

Baltimore (Bundy 8-5) at Tampa Bay (Smly 6-11), 10:10 a.m.
Detroit (Sanchez 7-13) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 11-10), 11:10 a.m.
L.A. Angels (Meyer 0-1) at Oakland (Cotton 0-0), 12:35 p.m.
Toronto (Stroman 9-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Mitchell 0-0), 4:05 p.m.
Houston (Fister 12-10) at Cleveland (Carrasco 10-7), 4:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Duffy 11-2) at Minnesota (Gibson 5-9), 5:10 p.m.
Boston (Price 14-8) at San Diego (Cosart 0-2), 6:10 p.m.
Texas (Griffin 7-3) at Seattle (Miranda 2-1), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Tuesday's Games

St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 7
Washington 7, Atlanta 7
N.Y. Mets 5, Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 4, Miami 3
Milwaukee 12, Chicago Cubs 5
San Francisco 3, Colorado 2
Boston 5, San Diego 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 2

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 12-8) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 8-2), 9:35 a.m.
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 8-5) at Washington (Strasburg 15-4), 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Leake 9-9) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 3-4), 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Hellickson 10-8) at Miami (Cashner 4-11), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 4-5) at Milwaukee (Garza 5-6), 5:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Suzarez 3-3) at Colorado (De La Rosa 8-7), 5:40 p.m.
Boston (Price 14-8) at San Diego (Cosart 0-2), 6:10 p.m.
Arizona (Ray 7-12) at L.A. Dodgers (Stewart 0-2), 7:10 p.m.

Wild Card Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

W

L

Pct.

GB

Toronto

77

61

.558

+1

Boston

77

61

.558

+1

Baltimore

76

62

.551

Detroit

75

63

.543

1

Houston

74

64

.536

2

New York

72

65

.526

3½

Kansas City

72

66

.522

4

Seattle

70

68

.507

6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

West

W

L

Pct.

GB

San Francisco

74

64

.536

+½

St. Louis

73

64

.533

New York

73

66

.525

1

Pittsburgh

67

69

.493

5½

Miami

68

71

.488

6

At The USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

New York

Purse: \$46.3 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Quarterfinals

Gael Monfils (10), France, def. Lucas Pouille (24), France, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (9), France, 6-3, 6-2, retired.

Women

Quarterfinals

Angelique Kerber (2), Germany, def. Roberta Vinci (7), Italy, 7-5, 6-0.
Caroline Wozniacki, Denmark, def. Anastasiya Sevastova, Latvia, 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles

Men

Quarterfinals

Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez (8), Spain, def. Bob and Mike Bryan (3), United States, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-3.

Women

Quarterfinals

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Lucie Safarova (12), Czech Republic, def. Asia Muhammad and Taylor Townsend, United States, 6-1, 6-2.
Ekatarina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (5), Russia, def. Andreja Klepac and Katarina Srebrotnik (13), Slovenia, 6-4, 6-2.
Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic (1), France, def. Sania Mirza, India, and Barbora Strycova (7), Czech Republic, 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Tennis

U.S. Open