

M’S: Walker looks to rebound in next game

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was on base four times and scored three runs. Griffin (7-4) lasted four innings, giving up seven hits and all eight runs. Griffin had won his previous two decisions and the four innings was his second-shortest outing of the season. LEWIS RETURNS Rangers manager Jeff Banister said Colby Lewis will return to the Rangers rotation this weekend and is scheduled to start on Sunday against the Angels. Lewis has been out since June 21 with a strained muscle in his right shoulder. Before going on the DL, Lewis was 6-1 with a 3.21 ERA in 15 starts. Lewis’ return will give the Rangers six pitchers in their rotation for the final few weeks. UP NEXT Rangers: Derek Holland (7-6) will start the series finale. Holland is 2-1 with a 2.00 ERA in three starts since coming off the DL on Aug. 23. Mariners: Taijuan Walker (4-10) looks to rebound from the shortest start of his career. Walker gave up five earned runs and six hits and recorded just two outs in a loss to the Angels. He’s 0-3 with a 7.90 ERA in his last three starts.

FOOTBALL: Heppner hosts Grant Union for home opener

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our coaches have been working their butts off all summer long and to finally go out there and get that first win, it was overwhelming.” Overall, new coaches in the area were just 2-4 on opening week. Umatilla’s Dan Durfey was the other coach to open his tenure on a victory when the Vikings outlasted Union 21-13 in overtime. Durfey was in a better situation than Robertson, and inherited a team coming off a 5-4 campaign under previous coach Mike Mosher. But it was still the Vikings’ first winning season since 2008 and beginning the Durfey era with a win sets a great tone for the Vikings. “Entire new coaching staff, a lot of new faces on the team,” said junior quarterback/safety Kaden Webb. “That first win was just key to building off that for the season.” “It was a completely different team after that game,” said sophomore running back/linebacker Trent Durfey, who rushed for 119 yards including the game-winning score. “Everybody was high energy, everybody was excited and everybody was happy to be there, which is way different from years before. Everybody was excited to win, it was awesome. It was a good feeling.” The Vikings and Pioneers will hoped to keep the good times rolling in Week 2. “The team was fired up (this week),” Webb said. “We got the first victory, that one’s out of the way, now we’re on to the next one.” Here’s a quick look at this week’s match-ups for local small schools: DESALES (WA) (0-1) at MAC-HI (1-0), 7 p.m. — At Milton-Freewater, the Pioneers found success with running back/safety Riley Chester and quarterback Drew Birdwell last Friday, with

Chester running for 78 yards and grabbing two interceptions while Birdwell passed for 105 yards on 11-of-15 completions and ran for 55 yards to grab the 14-7 victory over Waitsburg-Dayton (WA). Mac-Hi and DeSales are in the back end of a home-and-home series that started last season, when DeSales stomped the Pioneers 33-7 in Washington — which happened to be its only win of the season. With that familiarity in mind, the Pioneers know what to expect come Friday. If the Pioneers win, it will be the first season with two wins since 2013. PILOT ROCK (0-1) at UMATILLA (1-0), 7 p.m. — At Umatilla, the Rockets were able to find some room in the running game and Devin Hasher chunked off 138 yards while Chris Weinke added 78 in their season-opening 32-12 loss to Imbler last week. With Umatilla gaining much of its yardage against Union on the ground as well, both teams are gearing up for a battle in the trenches this week. “They’re definitely going to try to stop the inside run,” Umatilla’s Trent Durfey said. “If we run inside it’s going to be a tough game but I think we can do it.” “We’ve just got to play hard. We’ve got to be fast and we’ve got to smack them in the mouth. ... I know they like to run a lot. I haven’t watched too much film on them yet but I know what they try to do.” The Vikings defense held twice with the game on the line against Union — once at the end of regulation and again in overtime — but they’re looking for an improvement against Pilot Rock. “Defensively we had a really good week with gang tackling, but this week I think we can improve with wrapping up better,” said Webb. “Last week we had a lot of plays where defensive linemen

were getting in the backfield but we weren’t able to make plays back there. Capitalizing on our opportunities like that will be big this week.” IMBLER (1-0) at WESTON-MCEWEN (0-1), 7 p.m. — At Athena, the Weston-McEwen Tiger-Scots are looking to rebound from a Week 1 31-0 loss to Grant Union as they opens up their home slate against Imbler on Friday. TigerScots coach Travis Glover said that the coaches have been trying to increase team speed all around the field for Week 2. “A lot of speed, making sure our conditioning is right and that we have a healthy team going into this game, that’s the focus,” he said. “Also, we need to start being the aggressive team and stop waiting for something to happen first now that we have some experience.” Glover said his defense has been putting in some extra work to prepare for the Imbler offense, which runs a complex system that can put up plenty of points, evidenced by its 32-18 win over Pilot Rock last week. “They run what’s called a Queen Pistol set, which is a kind of smoke-and-mirrors offense,” he said, “and we have to stay focused on that because if you start watching bodies they’re going to run by you before you know it.” RIVERSIDE (0-1) at UNION (0-1), 7 p.m. — At Union, Riverside’s debut under first-year coach Ben Tucker did not go as it hoped with a 38-0 loss to Tri-Cities Prep (WA). The Pirates have another shot at win No. 1 on Friday, when they hit their road again to face a Union Bobcats squad that also lost in Week 1 with an overtime loss to Umatilla. IRRIGON (0-1) at ENTERPRISE (0-1), 7 p.m. — At Enterprise, the Irrigon Knights will look to clean things up after a sloppy season-opener that finished with a

26-13 loss to Amity last week. The Knights had two turnovers that led to touchdowns in Week 1, and head coach Steve Sheller said on Wednesday that his team is focused on ball control and trying to improve every facet for Friday’s game. CASCADE (WA) (0-1) at STANFIELD (1-0), 7 p.m. — At Stanfield, the Tigers ran wild on Enterprise last week to the tune of a 54-22 victory, and will look to do the same against Cascade, a team out of the 1A rank in Washington. To make things better for Stanfield, Tiger fans will see quarterback and linebacker Dylan Grogan back on the field on Friday. The senior missed the Week 1 game with a hip pointer, but said he is back and ready to go to make his season debut on Friday night. GRANT UNION (1-0) AT HEPPNER (1-0), 7 p.m. — At Heppner, the Mustangs used some fourth quarter magic to pull out a 22-18 victory over St. Paul in Week 1, and will have their hands full again on Friday with a talented Grant Union squad. Grant Union pulled off an impressive 31-0 defeat over Weston-McEwen last week, forcing multiple TigerScots turnovers which led to a few scores. The Mustangs will need an improved game all around to move to 2-0 on the season. IONE (0-1) at ECHO (0-1), 7 p.m. — At Echo, both the Cougars and Cardinals will be extra motivated on Friday night as neither team wants to leave with an 0-2 record. Echo fell to Siletz Valley 42-28 and Ione lost to Triad 42-14 last week. The focus will be on the running back positions, where Echo junior Zach Gehrke and Ione senior Cord Flynn are set to put on a show. Gehrke ran for 129 yards and three touchdowns on nine carries last week, while Flynn tallied 111 yards on 25 carries in three quarters.

SEAHAWKS: Team excited to see Michael, Rawls fill Lynch’s shoes in backfield

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the interior with Justin Britt moving to center, rookie Germain Ifedi at right guard and Mark Glowinski at left guard. It’s on the edges where there’s uncertainty. Bradley Sowell appears locked in at left tackle, and either J’Marcus Webb or Garry Gilliam will start at right tackle. It’s not an ideal situation, but if the preseason is an indication the Seahawks should be better off than the start of last

season, when the line was at the root of their offensive problems. GROWTH POTENTIAL: Can Wilson match what he did the latter half of last season when he tore up the NFL at a record pace? The better question might be whether Seattle goes back to more of a power run game or uses the quick passing that led to Wilson’s rise the end of last season. The answer is likely somewhere in the middle. Seattle always wants to be a run-first offense, but

knows ways to be successful in the passing game without putting Wilson at undue risk of getting hit. STAYING ON TOP: For each of the past four seasons no defense in the NFL has been tougher to score on than Seattle’s. It’s a run not seen in the NFL since the Cleveland Browns of the 1950s. If the Seahawks are to stay on top they’ll need a pass-rush replacement for departed linebacker Bruce Irvin, and hope they can be better in the back end than a season ago.

Seattle never fully overcame safety Kam Chancellor’s 2015 holdout, but with everyone healthy and in camp from the start, the Seahawks believe they can remain the standard for the league. “You know who’s around you and where they’re going to be and you trust them,” Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. “The more years you play with them, the more years you trust them, and it’s exciting. I think we’re fortunate.” BEAST MODE 2.0: No one is going to adequately

replace Marshawn Lynch. The style and attitude he brought the Seahawks was unique and separate from the way he ran. But Seattle can replace his production on the field. Thomas Rawls is back from the broken ankle that ended his strong 2015 early. Christine Michael continues to show maturation and promise as a legitimate NFL running back after three seasons of underachievement. Couple those two with rookies C.J. Prosise and Alex Collins and Seattle has

plenty of options to remain a run-first team. PAY THE MAN: Michael Bennett has made it known for more than a year he would like a reworked contract that pays him on par with comparable defensive linemen. Despite being unhappy with his deal, Bennett hasn’t pouted when it comes to the field, remaining a disruptive presence lined up at both end and tackle. Another strong season will likely lead to a financial reward for Bennett.

PIGSKIN PICKERS Week 1

Last season: Hermiston at Lewiston Pendleton at Putnam Pilot Rock at Umatilla Ione at Echo WSU at Boise St. BYU at Utah Virginia at Oregon Panthers at Broncos Dolphins at Seahawks Patriots at Cardinals



Kevin Fisher 83-37 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Ione Boise State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Mike Appleton 82-38 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Wash. State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Clint Shoemaker 81-39 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Boise State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Matt Entrup 78-43 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Boise State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Eric Singer 77-43 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Boise State BYU Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Mario Ramirez 76-44 Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Wash. State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



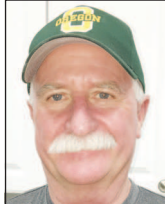
Ron Gibbs New picker Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Ione Boise State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Anna Aylett New picker Hermiston Putnam Pilot Rock Ione Boise State BYU Oregon Panthers Seahawks Patriots



John Airolti New picker Lewiston Pendleton Umatilla Echo Boise State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Cardinals



Mark Royal New picker Hermiston Pendleton Umatilla Ione Wash. State Utah Oregon Panthers Seahawks Patriots

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