

PENDLETON: Page will suit up two weeks after shoulder injury

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the second half that’s kind of what they went to, ‘Hey, we’ve got a 215 pound back and we’re just going to pound it.’”
Davis said that’s not really an excuse, though.
“Even though we’re an iron man team, we’ve got to keep putting in a steady effort for all four quarters, and until we do that we’re going to be in for some long games.”
The schedule would appear to give Pendleton (2-4, 1-3 SD1) a break as it prepares for its homecoming game, and winless Hood River (0-6, 0-4) will visit the Round-Up grounds on Friday at 7 p.m.
Overlooking the Eagles isn’t an option for the Bucks, who need to win all three of their remaining games to make the state postseason.
“Overlook is not in our vocabulary, it can’t be,” Davis said. “We have no room for error whatsoever when it comes to any opponent.”
There may be even

less room for error with the Eagles than the record would indicate as well.
In their last eight meetings the teams have split 4-4, and Hood River won last year’s game 42-21 in Hood River. The teams are fairly even against common opponents this year as well. Both teams lost to Redmond by a margin of 18 points, and a shorthanded Hood River squad was a missed 24-yard field goal away from beating Ridgeview in regulation in a game they lost 12-6 in overtime. Pendleton beat Ridgeview 29-25 in Week 4 for its only league win.
“You look at the last couple years and we’ve been in shootouts every year, whether we’re considered the better team or they’re considered the better team, we’ve always been in shootouts whether its through the air or down to the last minute,” Davis said. “So we kind of expect that same thing come Friday.”
“Hopefully the kids control their emotion and

play four full quarters.”
SCOUTING HOOD RIVER
Like the Bucks, the Eagles have been hit by the injury bug in recent weeks, but both squads appear to be getting healthy as they head into their meeting at the Round-Up grounds.
That could mean plenty of touches for running back Michael Jones against a Pendleton defense that has struggled to stop the run, but whether or not he’s in the backfield the Eagles are going to give sophomore quarterback Caden Leiblein a chance to throw out of their spread attack.
In his first season as the varsity starter, Hood River’s offensive production has dipped to 11.7 points a game, but the Eagles are coming off their biggest output of the season in a 48-20 loss at Redmond.
“(Leiblein’s) another kid that you see that has improved throughout the year,” Davis said. “You watch film and you see he’s starting to put the ball on

target. They throw a million different looks at you, a bunch of different motions ... but they run a lot of the same kind of stuff we do, same kind of concepts and spread the ball out a little bit.”
The Eagles have a little more size than the Bucks, but it shouldn’t be as stark a contrast as in recent weeks. One player they’ll need to account for is defensive lineman Justin Wilson, a 290-pound senior that anchors the Eagles’ 4-2 front.
Hood River is the only SD1 team giving up more points per game than Pendleton at 41.7. The Bucks are allowing 40.2 on average.
KEYS FOR PENDLETON
PROTECT THE PASSER: Junior quarterback Nick Bower may have passed for 229 yards and a pair of touchdowns last week, but was under pressure the entire game, especially in the second half.
“Offensively we couldn’t

protect,” Davis said. “We lost it in the trenches a little bit n that second half.”
When Bower has time, he’s proven he can pick apart a defense, and keeping him clean will be the biggest thing the Bucks can do to ensure a win this week.
FINISH STRONG: The Bucks know Hood River has nothing left but pride on the line this season, and senior Nick Lani said he expects the team to keep its foot on the gas should it get a lead on Friday.
“We’ve got to stay within ourselves. We can’t say, ‘Oh we’re up and relax.’” he said. “We’ve got to stay in it, keep each other going.”
“They’re probably going to play all out. They’ve got nothing to lose, and they could potentially be dangerous. But we’re dangerous too because we’re scratching and clawing for our wins.”
WEAPONS RETURN: The Pendleton offense will get at least one of its key members back this week as slot receiver Cam Sandford

has been cleared from a concussion that had him sidelined last week. Also, almost unbelievably, senior running back Devan Page will suit up just two weeks after suffering a grade three shoulder separation and could see some carries.
“He’s just a tough kid,” Davis said.
SECONDARY COVERAGE: After three straight weeks playing run-first offenses, the Bucks are happy to be playing a team that embraces the forward pass.
“We’re going to let our athletes in the secondary be athletes and not have to be downhill run stoppers,” Davis said. “That plays a little bit more in our favor. Hopefully those kids run around in space pretty well.”
“It’s just like playing ourselves, pretty much, so it’ll be fun,” said junior Shaw Jerome.

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BUCKS: Travel to The Dalles on Thursday

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come next as they came out of the break and won six on the next nine points for an 18-16 victory that handed the Eagles their first league loss.
Pendleton had taken the first two sets 25-20, 25-19 before Hood River evened it up with wins of 25-13, 25-21.
“We just wanted to run back out there, ‘Bucks go!’ We were just so fired up and just wanted this game to be over,” said Pendleton senior Haley Greb of the late break in action. She finished with a team-high 14 kills and delivered the match-winner. “We got it done and I couldn’t be more proud of my teammates. It’s just a fun night to be a Buckaroo.”
A rally in the fourth set gave Pendleton (6-10, 3-4 CRC) a boost as it looked to close out the Eagles, and the Bucks carried that momentum to an 11-5 lead in the fifth set following a Lauren Richards ace.
Hood River (22-3, 6-1) refused to lay down, though, and worked its way back to tie the score at 12-all on an ace from Shae Duffy, then took the lead on a kill by Kennedy James to force Pendleton’s final timeout.
The teams traded kills out of the break to get to 15-all, then Maureen Davies came up with a block and a kill on the same point to put Pendleton back up by one. After finding some success with tips earlier in the set, Davies didn’t hold back with the match on the line.
“I think that they realized toward the end of the match that’s what I’ve been doing all night,” said Davies of the tips. “So I tried to change it up a little bit and hit harder and maybe get it to the back row to switch things up. We had players on the court telling each other where the open spots were, where to go, and it always helps out.”
Following a Hood River timeout, a serving error knotted it again, but the



Pendleton’s Kalan McGlothlan (9) and Rylee Gentner got up to block a shot from Hood River’s Bianca Badiello (4) in the Bucks’ game against the Eagles on Tuesday in Pendleton.
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Bucks closed it out with kills by Davies and Greb. Davies finished with 12 kills and team-highs of three blocks and two aces.
“We’ve been trying to drill in the last couple practices that you earn your points, you don’t wait for them to make a mistake on your point,” Lapp said. “That kind of hit home for them tonight and it was nice to see.”
The finish was more proof of how far the Bucks have come this season, and came on the night they honored their two seniors — Greb and Raylee Lehnert.
“Last game we played (Hood River) at home we had them at 24-18, we just needed that one point and it was almost like we were waiting for them to

make the mistake,” Greb said of a 3-2 loss to Hood River on Sept. 13. “This game I thought we came out totally different and we finished, we executed when it mattered and I think that was the big difference tonight.”
Pendleton never trailed in either the first or second set, but appeared to be just going through the motions as Hood River dropped in eight aces to boost its win in the third set.
“I felt like (Pendleton) had the first two, so they thought maybe they could take a breather on these first couple points,” Lapp said. “Hood River’s not going to just let them sleep, so they pounded it through and they earned the momentum.”
James and Duffy dominated the fourth set on their

way to big kill totals. They combined for 10 in the set, and James led the way with 23 for the match while Duffy had 22.
The win puts Pendleton in a tie for second place with The Dalles, which it’ll play at The Dalles on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
“Every practice we’re looking better, we’re starting to flow a little better,” Greb said, “and tonight I think is just a little glimpse of what we’re really capable of.”

HRV	20	19	25	25	16	—	2
PHS	25	25	13	21	18	—	3
Stat leaders							
KILLS — Pendleton (36): Haley Greb 14, Maureen Davies 12. Hood River (57): Kennedy James 23, Shae Duffy 22.							
BLOCKS — Pendleton (6): Maureen Davies 3. Hood River (6): Hannah McNerney 2, Kaylin Winans 2.							
ACES — Pendleton (4): Maureen Davies 2.							
ASSISTS — Pendleton (22): Lauren Richards 21.							

PREPS:

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A big key for the TigerScots dominance was their performance from the serving line. The team combined for 19 aces and had three players go perfect from the serving line.
“We served really tough balls and the girls were hitting their seams,” White said.
Other team leaders for the TigerScots included Sarah Finifrock with 12 kills, Ali Schroeder with 27 assists, Chelsea Quaempts with 14 digs, and both Alyssa Finifrock and Maddi Muilenburg registered two blocks.
Weston-McEwen will next travel to Heppner on Thursday for a 5 p.m. start while Stanfield will travel to Culver on Thursday for a 6 p.m. start.
CULVER 3, PILOT ROCK 1 — At Pilot Rock, the Rockets lost for the fifth time in their last seven games after falling to Culver 19-25, 25-23, 20-25, and 13-25 on Tuesday evening.
“Overall we played tough tonight,” Pilot Rock coach Elainna Howland said. “(Culver is) ranked No. 1 in the state for a reason. It was good, however, to get a (set) win against them, it shows what we are capable of.”
Abby Rigby led Pilot Rock (12-9, 3-4 CBC) with eight kills, while Kayla Deist finished with six and Tehya Ostrom five. Ostrom also led the team with 16 digs and Deist registered a team-best five aces.
“We will need to refocus, work on a few little things to get ready for (Weston-McEwen) Tuesday and going into districts,” Howland said.
Pilot Rock will finish up the regular season next Tuesday against the TigerScots at 5 p.m. in Athena.
THE DALLES 3, HERMISTON 1 — At The Dalles, Hermiston continued its late-season slide with a 21-25, 17-25, 25-14, 22-25 loss to The Dalles on Tuesday night.
The loss marks the fifth one in the last six games

for Hermiston (6-11, 2-5 CRC), who now finds itself in the basement of the CRC standings.
Kynzee Padilla and Hayden Meyers paced the Bulldogs with eight kills and seven kills respectively, while Clarissa Nitz added 18 assists and Baylee Powers 22 digs.
Hermiston returns home on Thursday when they host Hood River at 6:30 p.m.
LA GRANDE 3, MAC-HI 0 — At Milton-Freewater, the Mac-Hi Pioneers fell short of getting the elusive first league win as La Grande earned the 25-13, 25-11, 25-18 victory on Tuesday night.
“The ladies played well tonight, they got on the floor and were very scrappy,” Mac-Hi coach Amanda Nelson said. “They improved as the night went on and gave a good effort.”
Delaney Karrles led Mac-Hi (1-11, 0-5) with eight assists, while Brooke Smiley turned in three kills and five digs and Alexxus Shelton added three blocks and two kills.
Mac-Hi will finish up its season on Saturday when it hosts Ontario at Noon.
IRRIGON 3, UMATILLA 0 — At Umatilla, the Irrigon Knights cleared the 15-win mark on Tuesday night with a 25-13, 25-21, 25-13 win over the Vikings.
Irrigon (15-10, 4-3 EOL) next travels to Burns on Friday for a Noon start, while Umatilla (2-18, 1-6) heads to Nyssa on Friday for a 2 p.m. start.
HELIX 3, IONE 0 — At Ione, the Helix Grizzlies snapped a two-game losing streak with a clean sweep of the Ione Cardinals on Tuesday night, 25-23, 25-13, 27-25.
Helix (15-8, 6-5 OOL) next heads to Nixyaawii today, while Ione (7-13, 5-6 BSL) returns home to host Mitchell/Spray on Thursday at 5 p.m.

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BULLDOGS: First time playing the Lava Bears since a 36-6 win in 2012

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home playoff game possibly and a top-two spot if we win out, and it all starts Friday.”
SCOUTING BEND
On offense, Bend has the ability to run a pretty balanced attack, but tends to lean more on the run game in the long run. Over the first six games, Bend has ran for 1,578 total yards (263 per game) and thrown for 868 yards (144 per game).
Leading the rushing attack are senior running back Daniel Bazan and Cohl Johnston. The 5-8, 155 pound Bazan is the team’s leading rusher with 839 yards on 111 carries this year, averaging 7.6 yards per carry and plunging into the end zone 11 times already this season, and the 5-10, 180

pound Johnston has carried it 50 times for 322 yards and one touchdown.
At quarterback, senior Chase Lettenmaier is leading the way with 836 passing yards and nine touchdowns on the year, completing 61 percent of his passing in doing so. The 6-1, 205-pound Lettenmaier has several targets he frequents at receiver, led by senior Ryan Stanley (5-11, 175-pounds) who has 31 catches for 345 yards and four touchdowns this season, as well as a 6-5, 215-pound tight end Trent Findley with 11 catches for 148 yards and three touchdowns.
On defense, Ramirez said Hermiston expects to see a lot of zone coverage from the Lava Bears against the

Dawgs spread offense.
“We expect to see their corners drop a lot and the outside (linebackers) to cover the flats a lot, so we have to work in between and go from there,” he said.
Bend has some solid athleticism and skill in their front seven that will try and slow the Bulldogs offense down, led by senior lineman Reese Buck (50 tackles), who checks in at 6-3, 230-pounds, and linebackers Dalton Lickteig (45 tackles), and Kaleb Wyngarden (41 tackles).
WHAT TO WATCH FOR
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN: Friday’s match-up between the Bulldogs and Lava Bears will be the first time the teams have met

since the 2012 season, when Bend traveled to Hermiston in Week 4. In that meeting, the Bulldogs came away with a dominant 36-6 victory.
Before that, the teams played each other regularly while a part of the Inter-Mountain Conference in the mid-2000s. Hermiston is 4-1 against Bend overall dating back to 2006, with Bend’s only victory coming in 2007 when the Lava Bears edged the Bulldogs 41-35.
FINISH, FINISH, FINISH: If you have the chance to watch a midweek Hermiston practice, there’s a good chance you will hear the words ‘Finish, finish, finish’ being shouted from the mouth of Jerry Ramirez.
“I just try to keep everyone’s spirits high, and keep

everyone going hard,” he says.
But Ramirez said that mantra is a big key for Hermiston this week if they hope to come home with the win instead of the loss.
“We have to finish our drives, we have to finish at the goal line ... we have to finish every single play,” Ramirez said. “Against Summit we had our chances but we couldn’t finish. We’re so close sometimes and hopefully we can keep riding this momentum.”
KEEP JAMES COMFORTABLE: A big reason for Hermiston’s success on offense over the past two games has been the improvement of quarterback Andrew James. The sophomore has thrown for 483

yards and eight touchdowns over the last two games, completing more than 68 percent of his passes and throwing just one interception in that same span. He threw for eight touchdowns and seven interceptions over the team’s previous four games.
“Every game he comes out with more and more confidence,” Ramirez said of James. “He’s shown a lot of growth since we started and as receivers we’re trying our best to catch every ball we can to keep his spirit high and keep that momentum going.”