

Motorsports

Kenseth speeds to Kansas pole

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Joe Gibbs Racing made another big statement in qualifying at Kansas Speedway on Friday.

The dominant Sprint Cup team this season, JGR swept the top three spots for the second race in the round of 12 of the Chase. Matt Kenseth will start on the pole after his lap of 192.089 mph, Kyle Busch will start alongside him and Carl Edwards will start right behind them in third.

Throw in Martin Truex Jr., whose Furniture Row team has an alliance with the Gibbs boys, and there will be quite a Toyota presence leading the field to the green flag Sunday.

“Our cars are pretty fast this weekend but anything could happen, as we saw last weekend,” said Kenseth, who won at Kansas the last time he sat on the pole in 2013. “We have to go 400 miles on Sunday. Hopefully we can stay up front and be in the mix.”

Most of the Chase contenders were in the



AP Photo/Orlin Wagner
Matt Kenseth finishes a qualifying lap at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., on Friday.

mix in the final round of qualifying.

Joey Logano will try to win the Kansas race for the third straight time for the sixth spot, while Denny Hamlin gave JGR another strong qualifying effort with seventh. Brad Keselowski will start eighth, Kevin Harvick will start 11th and Austin Dillon will roll off in 12th.

“We have a decent starting spot. We’ll get a good stall from there,” Logano said. “Our team’s got confidence, for sure. We had a very fast car last weekend at Charlotte.”

The winner last week, Jimmie Johnson, struggled

with a tight car in qualifying and will start 21st on Sunday. Chase Elliott will start 13th and Kurt Busch will start 15th as they try to take the pressure off the crapshoot known as Talladega by advancing in the Chase with a win.

“We just missed it a little bit,” Elliott said, “but the starting spot is the starting spot.”

EDWARDS RALLIES: Edwards had a lousy first attempt in the opening round of qualifying, and needed a last-ditch second effort to make it through. He posted the fourth-fastest lap with about 2 minutes left in the second

round, then had a lap of 191.015 in the third round. “I had to run an extra round because I screw up the first round,” Edwards said. “I really thought we were shot after that first one. I didn’t think we had a shot at a top five.”

PENALTIES ISSUED: Kyle Busch hardly seemed hurt by a penalty for swerving after last week’s race at Charlotte that forced him to sit the first 30 minutes of practice Friday. The swerving is a tactic teams have used to help make sure they pass laser inspections.

“You swerve, you’re sitting,” NASCAR vice president of competition Scott Miller said.

WATCH THE WIND: Ricky Stenhouse and Clint Bowyer scraped the wall in almost the exact same spot in the first round of qualifying. Wind gusts down the backstretch created a tricky exit to Turn 4, and both drivers slapped the right rear into the outside wall. Neither had serious damage, and Stenhouse managed to get into the second round of qualifying. He’ll start 18th and Bowyer will start 31st.

DAWGS: James, Hinkle both run for 100 yards

Continued from 1B

to put Hermiston on top 14-0 with 6:44 to play in the second quarter.

Hinkle ended the game with 103 rushing yards on 15 carries to go with his score.

Later in the second quarter, Hermiston was facing a third down and long from deep in its own territory when James dropped back and tossed a long pass towards his favorite target, Dayshawn Neal. Neal was able to get some separation from the Bend defender to make the catch and then outran the Lava Bears all the way to the end zone for a 64 yard score to put Hermiston up 21-0 right before halftime.

With so much success in the run game, James had a rather quiet game passing with 195 yards on 12-24 completions, with Neal catching four of his passes for 109 yards. James did finish the game with 114 rushing yards on 15 carries.

The Bulldogs third rushing touchdown and final score of the game came with 3:47 left in the fourth quarter, when John-Henry Line plunged in from one yard out to put

Hermiston up 28-7.

Hermiston’s defense put forth another outstanding effort, holding the Lava Bears to just 193 yards of total offense. The Bulldogs defensive line was extremely active in the game, shooting gaps to stuff run plays and putting pressure on Bend quarterback Chase Lettenmaier any time he dropped back for all of his 15 pass attempts, of which he completed just three for a mere 15 yards.

Overall, the Bulldogs outgained Bend 452-193 in total offensive yardage.

Hermiston will now prepare for their second straight road game against a tough Redmond (3-4, 3-2) team that took the Summit Storm to double overtime on Friday before falling 41-35.

HHS (4-3, 4-1) 14	0	7	-	28
BHS (5-2, 3-2) 0	0	7	0	- 7
Stats				
PASSING — Hermiston: A. James 12-24, 195, TD, Bend: C. Lettenmaier 3-14, 15.				
RUSHING — Hermiston: J. Hinkle 15-103, TD; A. James 15-114, TD; P. Earl 11-35; J. Line 3-5, TD, Bend: D. Bazan 21-133, TD; R. Stanley 4-52; C. Lettenmaier 4-4-10; C. Johnston 2-0; M. Davis 1-3.				
RECEIVING — Hermiston: D. Neal 4-109, TD; J. Ramirez 3-44; T. Salinas 2-17; T. Rohrman 1-11; J. Hinkle 1-4; P. Earl 1-0, Bend: D. Bazan 1-7; R. Stanley 2-8.				
PENALTIES — Hermiston 6-50, Bend 4-40.				

BUCKS: Vann runs for season-high 120 yards, Bower tosses pair of TDs

Continued from 1B

threat to a knee injury on the opening kickoff of the second half, but was able to rely on its defense and rushing attack to close out the Eagles.

“I wanted to go back out there, just because the game was close, you know, but they said no,” Jerome said.

“Seeing Shaw go down, it made everyone step up and realize that not everyone can take a hit really hard and keep going so everyone has to step up,” said senior running back Jamal Vann.

Vann ran for more than 100 yards in the second half alone and Morgan Holcomb and Greg Lee added their first touchdowns of the season.

All three also starred for a defense that for most of the second half held the Eagles to 62 yards of offense and shut them out.

Hood River quarterback Caden Leiblein was under pressure all game, and Beau Skinner got in for three sacks while Brandon Bedolla and Tanner Stephan each had interceptions.

“We were just like, ‘Go get it!’” Lee said of the defensive mindset. “If we don’t then, I don’t want to say it, but they were going to score over our safety’s head or something. We didn’t want that to happen so we had to go get the football.”

Hood River ended up out-gaining the Bucks on offense 390-363, but picked up 81 of those yards on a pair of bombs in the game’s final minute after the outcome had been decided.

When the Eagles had a chance to tie the score early following Jerome’s punt return, the defense stiffened

Pendleton’s Cade Anderson (57) and Morgan Holcomb (11) tackle Hood River’s Connor Coerper in the Bucks’ 33-23 win against Hood River on Friday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



to stop a run up the middle on fourth and goal at the one.

The teams then traded three-and-outs before Pendleton could get its next score on a 28-yard end around by Jerome late in the first quarter, which was preceded by a 22-yard catch and run by Nick Lani.

Hood River brought it back to one-score margin on a quarter-spanning, 12-play drive that ended in a four-yard swing pass to running back Michael Jones. The extra point made it 14-7.

Jones would score on a similar play later in the game, but finished with just seven yards on five catches as Pendleton coach Erik Davis has team prepared for Hood River’s check downs.

“Once they stuck to their assignments, sometimes kids get to trying to do other peoples things, and once they did their own assignments our linebackers (Cade Anderson and Grant Kennedy) were able to fly to their tailback,” Davis



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton’s Morgan Holcomb tries to bring down Hood Rivers’ Michael Jones in the Bucks’ 33-23 win against Hood River on Friday in Pendleton.

said. “We’re not going to come up and press anybody, we’re going to try to keep everything in front. The main things is our linebackers get their eyes up and read.”

Pendleton answered the Eagles’ long scoring drive with an 11-play march of their own that was extended when junior quarterback Nick Bower lowered his shoulder at the point the

contact, then stretched for the final inches on a 4th-and-4 at Hood River’s 10.

“He’s a gamer, and sometimes I’m hard on my quarterbacks because I expect them to do great things and he’s risen to that occasion, Davis said of Bower. “And that was an effort thing right there. He knew he needed to get four, he got four and moved the chains.”

PREPS: Heppner clinches playoff spot for 20th consecutive season with win

Continued from 1B

WESTON-MCEWEN 13, PILOT ROCK 8 — At Pilot Rock, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots hadn’t even practiced it, but when coach Travis Glover saw the opportunity present itself he didn’t hesitate to call in the play.

The TigerScots completed an 84-yard hook-and-ladder at the end of the second quarter that ended up being the deciding score in Friday’s Columbia Basin Conference game. Brett Speed passed the ball to Kirk Scott, who then pitched it to Ethan Reger who ran it the rest of the way.

“These kids are smart, they’ve run plays like that before, and so they figured it out,” Glover said.

Jake Speed scored Weston-McEwen’s first touchdown on a 46-yard run, and Pilot Rock added its only score late in the third quarter on a 38-yard run by Logan Weinke.

Reger finished with 100 yards on 17 carries and Jake

Speed added 98 on 10 totes.

The TigerScots have a bye next week while Pilot Rock plays at Culver next Friday.

W-M	0	13	0	0	-	13
PR	0	0	8	0	-	8

NYSSA 41, IRRIGON 26 — At Irrigon, the Knights just didn’t have enough in the tank to pull out a victory on Friday night, as the Nyssa Bulldogs left town with the 41-26 victory.

“We just came up short,” Irrigon coach Steve Sheller said. “I’m proud of the guys for battling the whole game, and the kids really worked hard.”

Carlos Zacarias led the Knights (2-5, 1-2 EOL) offense with 171 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries and Josh Aguilera picked up 106 yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries. Lino Covarrubia also added 63 yards rushing on 18 carries.

The game played out like a back-and-forth tennis match, with Nyssa (3-3, 2-1) taking a 12-0 lead after the

first quarter before Irrigon battled back to take a 20-18 lead into halftime.

But then in the second half, it was all Nyssa as the Bulldogs outscored the Knights 23-6 to grab the victory. It was the second-straight game that Irrigon let slip away after losing to Vale in overtime, and Sheller says the differences in these games all stem from a weight room.

“I think a lack of summer weight training is really showing up,” Sheller said. “We went to football camp but then when we came back, the weight room was the loneliest place in Irrigon, which was frustrating for those of us that were there.

“We are right there where we want to be, right there, but it’s just that little bit of work that we’re missing.”

Irrigon will look to rebound at home next week when it hosts Umatilla.

LA CENTER (WA) 28, STANFIELD 6 — At La Center, Washington, a

stout opposing defense and some sloppy field conditions contributed to the Stanfield Tigers first loss of the season on Friday night.

“La Center is a very good football team, and they were able to stop our run game,” Stanfield coach Davie Salas said. “It was just one of those days.”

Stanfield (6-1, 2-0 CBC) had its lowest offensive yardage output of the season, totaling 131 yards rushing and 101 yards passing. Adrian Renner was the team’s leading rusher with 39 yards on two carries, and Dylan Grogan threw for 101 yards on 11-28 passing. Thyler Monkus scored Stanfield’s only touchdown with 5:15 left to play in the first quarter on a two-yard plunge, and finished the game with a mere 21 yards on three carries.

Stanfield will now prepare for what is effectively the CBC title game next Friday when they travel to Heppner.

“We’ll have to be more solid with our blocking,”

Salas said. “If our run game can’t get going, then we’ll struggle.”

SHS (6-1, 2-0) 0	0	0	0	-	6
LAC (6-1)	0	21	0	7	- 28

Stats

PASSING — D. Grogan 11-28, 101
RUSHING — A. Renner 2-39; M. Blankenship 2-36; D. Grogan 8-35; T. Monkus 3-21, TD.

VOLLEYBALL

ECHO 3, JOSEPH 2 —

At Joseph, the Echo Cougars earned the season sweep of the Eagles with a hard-fought 19-25, 25-19, 16-25, 29-27, 15-9 victory on Friday afternoon.

The win solidified Echo (22-6, 11-3 OOL) into the No. 2 seed for the Old Oregon League district tournament which begins next week.

COVE 3, NIXYAAWII 0 — At Cove, the Nixyaawii

Golden Eagles fell to Cove 25-11, 25-3, 25-4 on Friday afternoon.

Nixyaawii (0-14, 0-12) finishes up its season today with a dual match against Wallowa and Powder Valley at home.

IONE 3, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 1 — At Ione, the Cardinals won their second straight match with a 25-19, 23-25, 25-10, 25-13 win over Horizon Christian on Friday evening.

Ione (9-13, 7-6 BSL) will finish up its regular season today on the road, playing Condon/Wheeler at Fossil.

BURNS 3, RIVERSIDE 0 — At Burns, the Riverside

Pirates saw its losing streak grow to 10 games with a 25-20, 25-4, 25-17 loss to Burns on Friday.

Riverside (3-16, 1-7 EOL) will finish up the regular season today with a match at Nyssa at 2 p.m. and a match at Vale at 5 p.m.

BURNS 3, IRRIGON 1 — At Burns, the Irrigon

Knights fell to the Hilanders for the second time this season, losing 20-25, 25-19, 25-10, 25-16. Irrigon (15-11, 4-4 EOL) finishes up the regular season today at Vale at 1 p.m. and at Nyssa at 6 p.m.