

BUCKAROOS: RB’s Walker, Page return from injury

Continued from 1B

four playoff spots, is that they finally have all of their running backs healthy to attack a Lava Bears defense that gave up 257 yards on the ground its last time out.

Senior Gabe Walker (6-foot-3, 210 pounds) will see his first action of the season after tearing ankle ligaments during the preseason, and senior Deven Page (5-9, 180) has been declared a full-go after being limited last week due to a shoulder separation suffered against Redmond in Week 5.

Page was coming off a 124-yard game going into Redmond and had run for 94 against the Panthers before going down.

Seniors Jamal Vann and Morgan Holcomb have taken advantage of the additional touches the last two weeks and Vann ran for 125 yards against Hood River while Holcomb scored his first touchdown on a 21-yard run.

“We have a full stable of back that we can use and I’m excited for it,” Davis said. “We’ve got four kids that we can use back there. I think our run game has to take pressure off of (quarterback) Nick (Bower) and our battered receiving corps, but not exclusively.”

Davis will still want to air it out, and Bower is averaging 30 passes a game with a 51-percent completion rate.

Senior Nick Lani leads available receivers with 26 catches for 409 yards and five touchdowns, and junior Tanner Stephan has 13 catches for 175 yards.

Davis said “possession-type” receivers senior Sebaztian Corona and sophomore Blake Davis are next in line, but they have combined for just five catches and 37 yards so far this season.

“We have to be diligent in our route running,” Davis said.

Along with players stepping up on offense, Davis believes the Bucks will need to get a couple breaks to go their way against a Lava Bears team that is averaging 31 points a game.

“Oftentimes you see in high school football, the team that wins the turnover battle comes out on top,” he said. “We need a couple things to bounce our way, whether that’s the turnover ratio, or somebody coming through big for us. We’re looking for a couple things.”

Pendleton and Bend will kick off at the Round-Up grounds at 7 p.m.

SCOUTING BEND

After scoring at least 42 points for three straight weeks, Bend is coming off back-to-back games in which it found the end zone a total of once.

Davis said that means the Lave Bears will come into Pendleton hungry, with running back Daniel Bazan coming off 124-yard, one-touchdown game in their



**Bend
Lava Bears**
(3-2, 5-2)



**Pendleton
Buckaroos**
(2-3, 3-4)

• **Friday, 7 p.m.**
• **at Round-Up Arena**
• **Radio: KTIX 1240 AM**

28-7 loss to Hermiston last week. Bend averages 212 yards rushing a game.

“They’ve been running a very efficient offense for as long as I can remember,” Davis said. “We’re taking a look at a couple different fronts that we want to run that will hopefully neutralize a couple of things that Bend does.”

Bend isn’t one-dimensional, though, and quarterback Chase Lettenmeier averages 18 passes attempts and 119 yards a game. He has nine passing touchdowns and seven interceptions.

KEYS FOR PENDLETON

SHORT MEMORIES: One of the things Davis thought was paramount in last week’s win was his team’s ability to move past a disastrous final minute in the first half in which they gave up 10 points on a safety, touchdown and two-point conversion to go into the locker room up just 20-17.

“What’s great about it is we didn’t let it compound, we were able to come out in the second half and neutralize their run game and put some points on the board,” Davis said.

The Bucks will need a similar mindset should they run into any hiccups this week.

PLUG THE LANES: Hermiston and Summit gave the Bucks their blueprint for shutting down the Bend offense and it all starts with strong line play to free up linebackers, who can’t miss tackles.

The defense did a great job of that against Hood River, and forced two fumble it didn’t recover, but will still need to step it up a notch against Bend.

If the Bucks can get Lettenmeier facing third and long they can unleash defensive end Beau Skinner, who had three sacks last week.

GO FOR BROKE: A loss guarantees Pendleton’s season ends next week at Hermiston, so the Bucks may as well play as if there’s nothing left to lose at this point.

Bend showed it’s susceptible to the deep pass, and the Bucks could have had a couple long completions last week if Bower hadn’t overthrown his receivers.

Connecting on those big chunk plays could be the difference for the Bucks this week.

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HALL OF FAME:

Continued from 1B

contributions to athletics while attaining outstanding accomplishments in their professions.

Ewing checked both boxes with permanent ink during his 30-year career at Mac-Hi (1970-2000) in which he led the Pioneers to a 409-128-10 record in dual meets and won 17 district titles. Ewing was named the AA Oregon High School Coaches Association Wrestling Coach of the Year three consecutive times (1986-88), and then was named the AAA Coach of the Year in 1991-92.

In 1994 he was named the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Regional and National Wrestling Coach of the Year. Ewing, who also wrestled on the 1968-69 EOU team that will be inducted to the Hall of Fame, now resides in Hawaii.

With the return of EOU wrestling this season, the Mountaineers will honor the 1967-69 squads with enshrinement.

Head coach Erling Odegaard led the team all

three seasons and directed the Mountaineers to three-straight strips to the NAIA National Championships.

Schimmel and Leonard Phelan anchored the 1966-67 team, and Schimmel would win the NAIA national title at 157 pounds. He was also named the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. Phelan would finish in third place at 177.

Schimmel, who already is a member of the EOU Hall of Fame as an individual, went on to teach and coach at Pendleton High for 27 years before his death during a white-water rafting accident in 2006 at the age of 61.

Also gaining enshrinement in the EOU Hall of Fame Class of 2016 will be Don Heuberger (baseball, Class of 1975), Gary Vaughn (football, Class of 1976) and Tricia Haddock Kelly (women’s basketball, Class of 2004).

The Hall of Fame class will be inducted during the Alumni Honors and Athletic Hall of Fame Reception and Ceremony on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Gilbert Center.

Prep Roundup

Helix netters punch district ticket

East Oregonian

HELIX — Cove put Helix on its heels early in their Old Oregon League district play-in match on Tuesday, but the Grizzlies bowed their backs and dug in for a three-set sweep 27-25, 25-19, 25-21.

“We came out a little flat, (Cove) got the jump on us and we had to battle back,” said Helix coach Dianna Anderson. “They put up a good fight, they stuck with it.”

Helix’s comeback was led by balanced net play and strong serving. Lynne Roberts was perfect on her 14 serves, and dropped in

six aces.

Ari Krol hit a team-high five kills, and Sadie Wilson and Kailey Mize each added four.

Helix’s reward for the win is a meeting with No. 1 seed Powder Valley at the OOL district tournament at La Grande High School.

The Grizzlies are 2-1 against the Badgers this season, and beat them in four sets last week in Helix. The top three teams at the district tournament will earn state playoff berths.

Echo will face Joseph in the other first-round game at 9 a.m. after Joseph won its play-in game over Wallow 25-20, 25-19, 25-23 on Tuesday.

BOYS SOCCER

IRRIGON 15, WALLA WALLA VALLEY 0 — At Irrigon, Ruben Barrera scored the first of three goals in the game’s opening minute, and Irrigon led 11-0 at halftime of its nonleague win on Tuesday.

Isaac Estrada and Ruben Torres each scored three goals as well, and Kenny Blurton scored twice. Bruno Salas, Alejandro Alvarez and Marcus Rangel also scored, and Oscar Armenta had three assists while Pedro Maciel added two.

“The kids played extremely well,” said Irrigon coach Paul Keefer. “They played very unselfishly and

passed the ball well. Those are things we can build on for the next three games.”

Irrigon (5-2-1, 1-1-1 SD4) is battling for one of two playoff berths with Umatilla (6-4-2, 2-2-1). The Knights have three league games left and will play at Portland’s City Christian on Thursday at 2:30 p.m., then host Riverside on Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Umatilla’s only remaining league game is next Tuesday when it hosts the Knights at 4 p.m.

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

VOLLEYBALL: Greb leads PHS with 10 kills

Continued from 1B

noticed they couldn’t quite hype up themselves enough to punch the ticket, but they were still able to get it done.”

The win also clinched a postseason berth for the Buckaroos (8-10, 5-4 CRC), who will host a 5A play-in game against either Wilsonville or Hillsboro some time next week. Lapp said she is extremely happy and proud of her team for rebounding from the season’s start to get back into a playoff spot.

“They’re extremely proud of themselves too,” Lapp said. “We didn’t have the best season last year, and I wanted them to turn it around this year. It took more than just coaching, it took a lot more from them, and they actually brought their half to the table for the second half and it was nice to see.”

For Hermiston (6-13, 2-7) it was a tough way to end the season, losing five straight games and seven of its last nine overall, though head coach Elise Fleming said that she was still proud of the effort her team put forth on Tuesday.

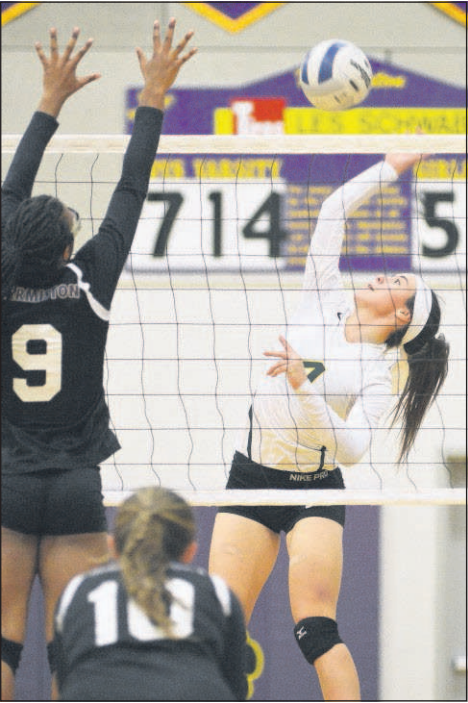
“Ultimately I saw a lot of heart and dedication which we’ve had a lot of throughout the season,” she said.

The first set was a highly competitive one for both squads, with neither team holding a lead bigger than two points for the majority of the match. But near the end of the first set, Pendleton started to gain some momentum and built a 20-16 lead. Hermiston responded with four straight points as Pendleton’s offense got sloppy and tied the match at 20-20 before Pendleton answered with a run of its own as it took the final five points to claim the set win.

Pendleton carried its momentum into the second set and controlled the pace and the lead for most of the period. The Buckaroos held its largest lead of the set at 19-12, but the Bulldogs again pinned their ears back and made a run. Hermiston got the deficit down to two points at 23-21 and then after Pendleton bumped up to set point, the Bulldogs scored three straight points to tie it at 24-24. However two straight kills by Haley Greb



Pendleton celebrates scoring a point against Hermiston in the Bucks’ win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Hermiston.



Pendleton’s Haley Greb spikes the ball guarded by Hermiston’s Ebony Wilson in the Bucks’ win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

again earned Pendleton the set victory.

And then in the third set, Pendleton kept its momentum and was able to hang on with ease, winning 10 of the final 11 points of the set to take the three-set victory.

“We all weren’t having our best nights early, and we just kept telling the girls to keep working in, and by that third set I think they finally clicked,” Lapp said. “Haley (Greb) was swinging well on the outside, the girls were running down balls and picking each other up a lot.”

Greb led Pendleton with 10 kills in the match, while Kalan McGlothlan, Maureen Davies and Rylee Gentner all pitched in four kills to pace the Buckaroos. McGlothlan and Davies also combined for seven blocks to lead the team.

On the other side of the court, Kynzee Padilla turned in another solid performance for Hermiston as she swatted a team-best 12 kills, and the trio of Ebony Wilson, Hayden Meyers, and Maddy Juul each scored four kills in the contest. Other team leaders

included Clarissa Nitz with 26 assists, and Nitz and Ebony Wilson with two blocks each.

For Padilla, Nitz, Meyers, and Wilson, it was a strong impression to leave on the Bulldog fans that filled the Dawg House for the game, as the foursome — along with Alexandra Barton and Baylee Powers — played in both their final home game and final high school volleyball game of their careers Tuesday. Fleming, who is in her first season as the Bulldogs coach, says she wishes she could have known the six seniors longer.

“I’m super proud of the seniors playing their final game, playing with composure, and really playing for their teammates and that’s the biggest thing is being selfless and working hard no matter what,” Fleming said. “They did so much to help change the culture of the program and introduce a lot of new ideas and set good examples for a lot of girls on the younger teams and they’ll always mean a lot to me.

Pendleton will continue its season on Thursday, when it hosts Baker for a final regular season tuneup at Warberg Court at 6:30 p.m.

PHS (8-10, 5-4) 25 26 25 - 3
HHS (6-13, 2-7) 20 24 15 - 0
Stats
KILLS — PHS: H. Greb 10, Ka. McGlothlan 4, M. Davies 4, R. Gentner 4, L. Richards 1. HHS: K. Padilla 12, E. Wilson 4, H. Meyers 4, M. Juul 4, S. Streeter 3, B. Wadekamper 2.

BULLDOGS: Defense keys recent winning streak

Continued from 1B

run-heavy team as Redmond averages 343 rushing yards and 78 passing yards and 39 points per game with a well-balanced offense.

Following the first six games (stats including the Week 7 game were not available), five Panther players had more than 30 total carries, led by senior quarterback Bunker Parrish with 94 and senior running back Cooger Smith with 69. That duo also combines for more than 1,100 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns in six games.

The defensive side of the football has proved to be the Panthers Achilles’ heel, where they give up an average of 31 points per game, and have given up more than 40 against Silverton, Bend, and Summit — all losses.

“Redmond’s still a tough team,” Ramirez said. “What we did against Bend we need to come out and do against Redmond ... we have to be ready to set the tone early.”

KEYS FOR HERMISTON
LIGHTS **OUT**

DEFENSE: In Hermiston’s current three game win streak, a gigantic key has been the increased play by the Bulldogs defense. After giving up 124 points through the first four games, the Bulldogs have allowed a mere 13 points over the three-game span.

Against Bend, Hermiston’s defense held the Lava Bears to just 193 yards of total offense and held Bend scoreless until late in the third quarter. The improvement for Hermiston all started with the front seven, with linemen Bradlee Giusti and Ty Knutz, and linebackers John-Henry Line and Damian McLeod excelling in pass rushing and stopping the run.

“Those four guys are making a lot of plays because they’re aggressive and leading that group,” Hermiston coach David Faaetee said. “They’re just gelling and meshing together and continuing to learn how to play within our system it’s been really good.

Hermiston will need another strong game to extend the winning streak to

four games on Friday.

JAMES TO NEAL CONNECTION: Andrew James and Dayshawn Neal have solidified themselves as one of the top quarterback-wide receiver duos in the state, as Neal has hauled in 11 of James’ 17 touchdown passes and 714 of the team’s 1,615 passing yards — or 44 percent of the total.

Neal has caught a touchdown pass in all but one game he has played in this season, with the lone game being Hermiston’s loss at Lewiston (ID) in Week 2 when he totaled three catches for 47 yards. Hermiston did not utilize the passing game much against Bend, throwing it 24 times for 195 yards, but Neal still totaled 109 receiving yards on four catches — headlined by a 63 yard touchdown catch in the second quarter.

KEEP THE HINKLE HORSE RUNNING: Even with the passing game success, Hermiston’s offense has been at its best when the running game is going strong, predominately behind the senior Jonathan Hinkle. Over the past five

games all in league play, Hinkle has tallied 443 rushing yards on 72 carries for an average of more than 6.1 yards per carry.

Faaeteete said the key to Hinkle’s success has been a maturity on his offensive line.

“Three of those guys had never played a snap of varsity football before this year, so it was an adjustment,” he said. “And as they matured and got better the run game got better and (Hinkle) started getting more patient back there. It’s a combination of everything finally working together.”

Hinkle gets great acceleration from the backfield and hits the holes his offensive line opens up at great speed, and has learned to use his 185-pound frame well once he reaches the defensive lines, bullying through arm tackles for extra yardage. He will be counted on again on Friday night to keep the Bulldogs rolling and keep the pressure of James.

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