

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

HEPPNER

Mustangs, Prospectors meet again

Heppner hosts Grant Union for quarterfinal game Saturday

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

On Sept. 9, the Heppner Mustangs hosted the Grant Union Prospectors for a regular season game that can be best described as a learning experience for both sides.

Both Heppner and Grant Union trotted out numerous new starters and contributors on both sides of the ball for the 2016 season and it showed. The teams combined for seven turnovers in that match-up, but in the end Heppner prevailed with a 36-20 victory thanks to a quick start on offense and a defense that hung on just enough to keep the Mustangs out in front for good.

Now nine weeks later, those two teams will square off on Les Payne Field once again this weekend as the No. 4 seed Mustangs will host the No. 5 seed Prospectors for a Class 2A quarterfinal on Saturday afternoon. Heppner coach Greg Grant says that both teams are much improved from that first meeting, and that his team has not put a lot of time reflecting on the game in terms of preparation this week.

"I don't think it'll mean



Mustang running back Coby Dougherty (24) races downfield during a football state playoff game against Gold Beach on Saturday, Nov. 5 in Heppner.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

a whole heck of a lot," Grant says. "We saw them, they saw us ... we're just expecting a good game from a really good football team."

At stake on Saturday is a trip to the state semifinals, where Heppner has been for the past three years and a place that Grant Union is hoping to get back to for the first time since 2013. The Mustangs hope that their home field advantage continues to give the advan-

tage that it has over these past few years.

"I think it's a good thing," Grant said. "It's something you have to work hard for and have to earn. This will be the eighth home playoff game here in four years, and that's pretty good."

Heppner is coming into the game with a full head of steam fresh off of a 55-20 win over Gold Beach in which the Mustangs outgained Gold Beach 361-182. The

Mustang starters only played the first half of the game as they dominated Gold Beach to a 49-6 halftime lead, though Grant says there is still plenty to improve upon for Saturday.

"I think there's a lot of things to work on. At this point of the season it's all about habits formed and how you handle the mental side of the game," Grant said. "Effort is obviously something that will play in, so they need to

bring great intensity and play at their best."

Another advantage Heppner holds is playoff experience, as guys like Logan Grieb, Kevin Murray, Tim Jaca, and Wyatt Steagall were all key contributors to Heppner's state championship last year and have really stepped up as leaders in the postseason according to Grant.

"I think it's been a natural flow of things, the seniors

Football



• Saturday, 1 p.m.
• at Morrow County Fairgrounds, Heppner

and most experienced players need to set the tone," Grant said, "and those guys have taken the younger kids and set good examples."

Heppner's defense will have its hands full with Grant Union's offense again Saturday, led by junior quarterback Wade Reimers. The 6-3 quarterback had a solid game against the Mustangs in Week 2, throwing for 130 yards and running for 121 yards and one touchdown. Grant Union actually outgained Heppner 304-302 in offensive yardage in that game as well.

Grant says this time around playing a clean football game will be the biggest key for his team to come out with the victory.

"It's always a game of turnovers, so limiting turnovers and penalties and doing as many things right as possible we will have a chance," he said.

Kick off is set for 1 p.m. at Les Payne Field at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

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Photo courtesy of Eastern Oregon University Athletics

The Eastern Oregon University volleyball team poses with its regular season Cascade Collegiate Conference championship banner and trophy at the CCC awards banquet on Thursday in La Grande.

College Volleyball

EOU sweeps top conference honors

Chamberlain named Player of the Year, Morehead takes Coach of the Year

East Oregonian



Chamberlain



Morehead

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Mountaineer volleyball team was the best in the Cascade Collegiate Conference once again in 2016, winning the conference

title with a 26-2 overall record and a mere one loss in league play.

On Thursday night, two big pieces of the Mountaineer team were recognized for their efforts

as head coach Kaki McLean Morehead was named CCC Coach of the Year and senior setter Rachele Chamberlain was selected as the conference's Player of the Year at the all-conference awards banquet.

For Morehead, it's the third straight season she has brought home the Coach of the Year trophy as 2016 also marked her Mountaineers' third straight league title. The 10th year coach has compiled a 208-81 (.776) record in her time

See EOU/2B

NFL

Seahawks struggling to get rest for defense

Seattle faces tough test with New England on short week

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Just as the Seattle Seahawks are evolving offensively and appearing to find success, they have another problem emerging.

In the last few weeks, Seattle can't get off the field on defense. And it's not the best time to be



Seattle Seahawks (5-2-1)

• Sunday, 5:30 p.m.
• at Gillette Stadium
• TV: NBC



New England Patriots (7-1)

struggling on that side of the ball about to go on the road, on a short week and face Tom Brady and New England on Sunday night.

In the past two weeks, Seattle has started to display signs that maybe the wear of its overtime tie

with Arizona on Oct. 23 is starting to impact its defense. Combined with an offense that seems to be abandoning their attempt at running the ball and controlling time of possession, the Seahawks defense has been asked to be on the field for an inordinate amount of time lately. "We're playing a little bit more ball but at the same time I think we're doing some good things," Seattle defensive end Cliff Avril said.

While the players say this is not an issue and Seattle coach Pete Carroll is almost defiant that the

See SEAHAWKS/2B



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Buffalo Bills running back LeSean McCoy, right, rushes against Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, left, and free safety Earl Thomas (29) in the first half of Monday's game in Seattle.

Sports shorts

Seattle's Sherman fined for hit

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman confirmed he's been fined by the NFL for unnecessary roughness for his hit on Buffalo kicker Dan Carpenter in last Monday's game against the Bills.

Sherman said Thursday that the explanation and wording of the letter from the league makes it nearly impossible for him to appeal. Sherman said the justification in the letter was that the hit came after the whistle was blown.

Sherman was not penalized for unnecessary roughness on the play. He was flagged for being offside, but referee Walt Anderson's explanation after the game said he didn't believe the contact was excessive enough to warrant an unnecessary roughness foul. NFL head of officiating Dean Blandino said that interpretation was incorrect and Sherman should have received a personal foul on the play.



Sherman

"It sucks that he had to do what he did, but I stand behind him 100 percent with the decision that he made because you only have one brain, and football is (only) for so long."

— T.J. Daniel

Oregon senior defensive lineman on the decision of teammate Canton Kaumatule to take a medical medical hardship due to concussion-related concerns and end his playing career. The sophomore defensive lineman was a former five-star recruit.

Sounders forward Morris voted MLS Rookie of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Seattle forward Jordan Morris has been voted Major League Soccer's Rookie of the Year after scoring 12 goals in his first professional season.

The 21-year-old made his national team debut two years ago while still at Stanford.

He received an average of 45 percent of the vote in balloting by players, media and club management that was announced Thursday.

He will miss Friday's World Cup qualifier against Mexico because of a hamstring injury.

Philadelphia right back Keegan Rosenberry was second at 31 percent, followed by New York City midfielder Jack Harrison at 15 percent.



Morris

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1911 — Carlisle Indian School of Carlisle, Pa., led by Jim Thorpe, beats nationally ranked Harvard 18-15 before 25,000 in Cambridge, Mass. Thorpe scores all the points for Carlisle, a touchdown, extra point and four field goals.

2001 — In his sixth career start, Shaun Alexander has 266 yards rushing on 35 carries and an 88-yard touchdown run to lead Seattle past AFC West-leading Oakland 34-27.

2012 — Antron Brown becomes the first black champion in any NHRA pro series when he wins the Top Fuel title at the season-ending event.

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