

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

HEPPNER

Mustangs stampede past Prospectors

Heppner back in 2A semis for fourth straight year

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

On Saturday afternoon, Heppner's six seniors — Jake Lindsay, Logan Grieb, Kolby Currin, Tim Jaca, Kevin Murray, and Trevin Horne — stepped onto the grass of Les Payne Field for one final home football game.

The field at Morrow County Fairgrounds has been a place of great success for the Mustangs over the course of the seniors' four-year high school career, with Heppner winning 25 of 26 games in that span. But this game held more meaning than typical home game — a win over Grant Union on Saturday would send the Mustangs back to the state semifinals for the fourth straight season.

The senior six did their parts to leave a lasting impression on the Mustang fans once the game was played, leading No. 4 Heppner to a 46-0 victory over No. 5 Grant Union.

"It's awesome, really awesome," Grieb said of the victory. "I never thought it (home finale) would come



Heppner's Logan Grieb (5) scampers downfield on his way to a touchdown during Saturday's state playoff game against Grant Union at Les Payne Field in Heppner.

this fast, but it did and it's a heck of a way to go out."

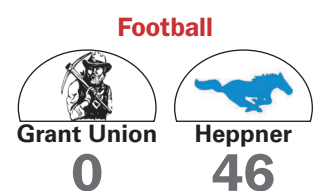
"We're playing in the best town with the best fans and

atmosphere you could ask for and we played as hard as we could to get the best memory here," Murray added. "And

all of my brothers were on great Heppner teams and they didn't even make it to the semis four years in a row,

but it feels awesome and we're jacked to get back."

With a steady wind blowing from left to right for



most of the game Saturday, Heppner (8-2) coach Greg Grant did not venture into the pass section of the offensive playbook except once — an incomplete pass in the first quarter. But the Mustangs didn't need the passing game to be effective, running the ball 43 times for 380 yards and seven touchdowns scored by four different players.

"Coach Grant gave us a great game plan and we focused on the fundamentals a lot because that's what wins games in the playoffs," Grieb said. "You just have to dig deep and do what you learned back in fifth, sixth grade and we did a good job of that."

Grieb led the way with three of those touchdowns from his running back spot — all scored in the first half — and finished with 145 yards on 18 carries. Junior running back Coby Dougherty had a solid game with 103 yards on 16 carries and two scores.

"It's the greatest thing ever to block for those guys," Jaca said, "and when you feel their hand on your back to

See MUSTANGS/2B

College Roundup

EOU hits the road for first playoff game

Football team matches program record for wins

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Following Saturday's 27-17 win over Carroll College, the Eastern Oregon Mountaineers officially clinched a spot in the NAIA football playoffs for the first time in program history.

The No. 9 Mountaineers (8-2) will begin their playoff journey this coming Saturday when the team travels to Crete, Nebraska to battle the No. 7 Doane Tigers (9-1) in the first round. Doane reached the postseason

with the No. 2 at-large bid out of the Great Plains Athletic Conference, while EOU wrapped up its spot with the No. 4 at-large spot from the Frontier Conference.

The Mountaineers have had tremendous success in road games in 2016, finishing the regular season with a perfect 5-0 record on the road. EOU is also one of three squads making its first playoff appearance.

Saturday's win at Nelson Stadium saw the teams combine for 35 points in the second half after EOU took a 6-3 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Senior quarterback Zach Bartlow tossed two touchdowns and 144 passing yards,



while junior wide receiver Brenden Kelly caught five passes for 64 yards and two touchdowns. On the ground, senior running back Alfred Gross paced the Mountaineers with a career-high 158 rushing yards on

24 carries.

Carroll had a chance to score late in the fourth, but senior linebacker Tucker Stanley came up with his third interception of the season.

Eastern's eight wins matches a program high, a mark it's achieved four times.

"It is a great day to be a Mountie," said head coach Tim Camp. "I'm proud of the players and coaches."

See EOU/2B

Rodeo

Patterson ropes fourth gold buckle

Kansas cowboy wins steer roping national title

PRCA Media

MULVANE, Kan. — Roping steers is what Rocky Patterson does — and does well.

In fact, no cowboy in the PRCA roped them better in 2016 than the Pratt, Kansas, cowboy.

With Pendleton's Curt Robinson calling the action from the announcer's booth, Patterson earned \$56,432 at the 2016 Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping and rode away with his fourth gold buckle.

"It's big," said Patterson, 50, about his latest accomplishment. "It isn't as easy for me to get out there and practice as it was 25 years ago. It probably has not sunk in yet, but this is big."

Patterson's NFSR performance vaulted him to the world championship with a single-season steer roping record of \$141,350, surpassing the previous record of \$121,112 by Trevor Brazile last year.

Although Patterson came into his latest NFSR — the 22nd of his decorated career

See PATTERSON/2B



Patterson

NFL

Seattle ignores excuses, comes up with victory

Seahawks' latest win ranks among most impressive under Carroll

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Playing across the country on a short week and facing one of the top teams in the NFL coming off a bye, the Seattle Seahawks had every reasonable excuse available.

And yet, what could have been an expected setback instead became one of Seattle's most impressive regular season wins under coach Pete Carroll.

See SEAHAWKS/3B



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin (89) catches a pass for his third touchdown of the game during the second half of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. The Seahawks won 31-24.

AP Photo/Steven Senne

Sports shorts

Mariners acquire Danny Valencia

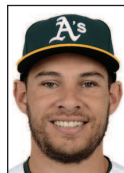
SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners have acquired utility player Danny Valencia from the Oakland Athletics for minor league pitcher Paul Blackburn.

Valencia played four positions for Oakland last season and hit .287 with 17 HR and 51 RBIs in 130 games.

Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said Saturday that Valencia's ability to play first and third base and left and right field gives manager Scott Servais a "welcome level of flexibility."

The 32-year-old Valencia also has played for Minnesota, Boston, Baltimore, Kansas City and Toronto. He's a career .321 hitter against left-handed pitching.

Blackburn, 22, was 9-5 with a 3.27 ERA in 26 games in Double-A last season. Blackburn was acquired by Seattle in July as part of the trade that sent Mike Montgomery to the Cubs.



Valencia

"It's not just a normal, 'Hey, I hurt my knee in practice.'"

— Gary Andersen
Oregon State football coach confirming sophomore wide receiver Seth Collins treated at a hospital for an undisclosed ailment on Monday. Due to privacy issues, he would not comment further than to say that his thoughts and prayers were with Collins and the team would be there to support him in any way possible.

Dodgers' Seager, Tigers' Fulmer take Rookie of the Year honors

(AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager is the unanimous winner of the NL Rookie of the Year award, and Detroit right-hander Michael Fulmer beat out New York Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez for the AL honor.

Seager is the 17th Dodgers player to earn Rookie of the Year honors easily the most of any team but the franchise hadn't had a winner since Todd Hollandsworth in 1996. Seager hit .308 with 26 home runs and 72 RBIs this year.

Fulmer went 11-7 with a 3.06 ERA, establishing himself as a Rookie of the Year candidate early on and holding off a late challenge from Sanchez. Fulmer received 26 of 30 first-place votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The votes were announced Monday night on MLB Network.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1943 — Sid Luckman of the Chicago Bears becomes the first pro to pass for more than 400 yards as he throws for 433 and seven touchdowns in a 56-7 victory over the New York Giants.

1964 — Gus Johnson and Walt Bellamy become the first NBA teammates to score 40 points apiece as the Baltimore Bullets beat the Los Angeles Lakers 127-115. Johnson has 41 points, Bellamy 40.

1970 — Forty-three members of the Marshall football team die when their chartered plane crashes in Kenova, W.Va.

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