

MUSTANGS:

Continued from 1B

but I don’t put a ceiling or a floor on our teams,” he said on Thursday. “We just worry about ourselves, work hard and practice hard every day. But I am really happy for the kids.”

This Heppner has shown glimpses of being yet another dominant postseason team this year, as through two games they’ve outscored opponents 101-20. The defense has stepped it up to another level in the postseason, allowing an average of just 167 total yards and have forced six turnovers in the two games. And Heppner’s offense has been predominately one-dimensional this year, as the Mustangs supply a superb combo out of the backfield with speedy Logan Grieb, a bruiser in Coby Dougherty, and a change-of-pace guy in Beau Wolters.

But the Mustangs know they will need to have maybe their most dominant performance on Saturday against a very tough Regis team that the Mustangs are very familiar with. The Mustangs and Rams have met two times prior in the semifinals, most recently just last season when the then-No. 2 seed Mustangs thumped the No. 3 seed Rams 26-3, and then in

the 2013 semifinals when No. 2 Regis held off No. 3 Heppner 21-14. This season Regis has dropped only two games, a 16-13 loss to Class 3A Dayton on Sept. 9 and then a 20-14 loss on the road at Stanfield on Sept. 23. Since that point, the Rams have won seven straight games, most recently a 50-0 win over St. Paul in the quarterfinals, and won those games by a combined score of 246-34.

Grant said that the Mustangs know what to expect of the Rams once the game starts on Saturday, and are excited for the challenge.

“They’re just another year older, and look a little more athletic,” he said. “They (Regis) throws the long ball real well and we’ll probably give up some completions here and there, but we just have to limit the big hits.

“And offensively we’ll just have to get after it physically because they’re a real physical team up front.”

Kick-off is set for Noon at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

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TIGERS: Stanfield looking to get healthy

Continued from 1B

with them (Kennedy) and just as talented across the board, but we just made some mistakes that led to a few late scores,” Salas said. “They’re pretty similar to last year and I expect a good battle.”

Stanfield junior Makiah Blankenship said that the players are really looking forward to the rematch, and believe they have a solid game plan put together to come out on top this time.

“We *have* to limit their run game and their pass game,” Blankenship emphasized. “Last year we had a pretty good shot at shutting down the pass game but it was the run game that got us. We know what our mistakes were last year and we’ve been working on them all year and now we’re ready to go.”

Both teams come into the game off of shutout victories in the quarterfinals, Kennedy 47-0 over Toledo and Stanfield 13-0 over Santiam, though Stanfield did get a bit of a wake-up call. Santiam played the Tigers tougher than expected, holding Stanfield scoreless until the final seconds of the first half.

“It was kind of a weird game and we just couldn’t get anything going,” Salas said. “Santiam played great and we didn’t play our usual football. Maybe some of the kids were looking forward to

this (semifinals), but we snuck one out and sometimes you’re going to have to win those kind of games.”

Blankenship added that the team has used that game as even more motivation this week.

“Oh yeah, it let us know that we’re not going to run over every team, we’re going to have a battle every once in a while especially in the playoffs,” Blankenship said. “Teams are going to be good and we have to work harder and harder every week and we’re coming this week with a whole new intensity and now we’re ready to play.”

With the game on Saturday, Stanfield is embracing the extra day of preparation to get the players as close to 100 percent healthy for the game as they can be. Salas said that starting center/linebacker Abraham Gomez and receiver/defensive back Adrian Renner will be full-go for the game, after both have been dealing with bum ankles for the first two rounds.

“It’s good to get some more mental reps, we haven’t been doing too much hitting this week, just trying to stay healthy,” Salas said.

Stanfield will be looking to lock up a spot in the title game for the first time since 1957 on Saturday, and Blankenship said that the team wants to make it happen for the town that has supported them their entire lives.

“It’d be amazing. This small town’s just been waiting for it to happen and it’d be great to go with these seniors it’s their last year and we just want to make it happen for them,” he said.

The Tigers and Trojans kick-off at 5 p.m. at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

ROOTING FOR HEPPNER

Salas is rooting for a Heppner-Stanfield title game, not only because they play in the same league but because it would be a big deal for this part of the state.

“It’s huge for our area because we’re the last two teams in this part of the state left,” he said. “It’d be really great for the area, and I’m not just talking about for Heppner or Stanfield, but for Hermiston and some Pendleton people would probably come down and watch some good football.

“I’m an Eastern Oregon boy born and raised and that’d be awesome to remember forever for the kids, the town, everything. These kids know each other, they’ve competed their whole lives against eachother, so why not end their careers playing in the state title against each other?”

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T-WOLVES: BMCC’s Williams leads match with 13 kills

Continued from 1B

The Timberwolves were on point at the net all day, but were at their best in the first set as they hit .391 to roll to a 25-9 win.

Highline put up a fight in the next two, but couldn’t quite match the T-Wolves in set scores of 26-24 and 25-23.

“I think Highline was maybe a little bit apprehensive to play us,” said BMCC co-head coach Jessica Humphreys. “They did not come out with a lot of energy and we really took advantage of that. The girls approached the game nicely. We talked about how to manage nerves and they did a good job of that.”

Blue Mountain (23-15) finished the match hitting .314 as a team and were led by sophomore middle blocker Kristin Williams with 13 kills on a whopping .500 percentage.

“That’s better than we’ve seen the last two weeks, but some of our strategy against Highline was to set the ball more toward the pins and away from the middle because they’re such a good blocking team in the middle,” Humphreys said. “What Kristin did in this

game is she really exercised good decision making. There were a lot of those kills that weren’t hard-hit balls, and she did a great job finding the open spots with tips.”

Sophomore Miah Perez added 12 kills while hitting .346, and sophomore Jordan Mix chipped in eight. Perez also had a team-high four service aces.

“We had a couple areas of the court we specifically wanted to attack against Highline, and (Perez) implemented it with ease,” Humphreys said.

Sophomore Kylee Chavez set a match-high 29 assists, and tied freshman Anjoilynn Vreeland with a match-high 13 digs.

Humphreys said the team’s strong defense has been the backbone of its recent success.

“We talked a lot about what our team is capable of offensively, and it’s certainly fun to watch our team warm up, specifically hitting warm-ups, but what’s really charing our energy is the defensive mindset that they’re embracing,” Humphreys said. “No ball hits the ground without a body diving at it, and there were three or four times this

match that somebody reached further than they ever have before to get the ball.”

Highline (30-6) didn’t have any players reach double digits in kills and hit just .092 as a team.

One bright spot for the Thunderbirds was the serving of libero Pumehana Nedlic, who finished with a match-high five aces. Blue Mountain will look to clean up its serve-receive in the next round after committing nine errors there on Thursday.

The win advanced the T-Wolves into the second round today at 12:30 p.m. where they’ll face Chemeketa on Court 1. The match will be broadcast online on the Youtube channel NWAC Sports Network.

Chemeketa defeated Shoreline in four sets on Thursday by scores of 25-21, 25-17, 14-25, 25-16. Blue Mountain and Chemeketa haven’t played each other since the first day of the season in a best-of-three match that Chemeketa won 25-18, 25-16.

“We’re such a different team than when we played them the very first tournament of the season,” Humphreys said. “I like where I’m sitting, I can say that.”

The biggest shocker from the first round was overall No. 1 seed Bellevue losing to Umpqua in five sets 20-25, 20-25, 25-19, 25-15, 15-13.

“It’s not about the best team, it’s about which team is playing the best right now, and we saw a great example of that today,” Humphreys said.

In other first-round matches it was: Lower Columbia over Spokane in five, 25-13, 18-25, 15-25, 25-9, 16-14; No. 4 Clark over Skagit Valley in five, 21-25, 25-19, 24-26, 25-16, 15-12; Walla Walla over Tacoma in five, 17-25, 21-25, 25-14, 25-19, 17-15; No. 2 North Idaho over Pierce in three, 25-12, 25-23, 25-12; Linn-Benton over Edmonds in three, 25-19, 25-20, 25-20.

SCOREBOARD																
Local Slate																
PREP FOOTBALL																
Saturday																
#4 Heppner vs #1 Regis (2A semifinals, at Liberty HS, Hillsboro), Noon																
#2 Stanfield vs #3 Kennedy (2A semifinals, at Liberty HS, Hillsboro), 5 p.m.																
COLLEGE FOOTBALL																
Saturday																
Eastern Oregon at Doane, 11 a.m.																
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL																
Today																
Blue Mountain vs Chemeketa (NWAC Championships, Tacoma, Wash.), 12:30 p.m.																
Saturday																
Blue Mountain vs TBD (NWAC Championships, Tacoma, Wash.), 11:45 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.																
Sunday																
Blue Mountain vs TBD (NWAC Championships, Tacoma, Wash.), 2 p.m.																
COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY																
Saturday																
EOU men and women at NAIA National Championships, 8:30 a.m.																
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL																
Today																
Eastern Oregon at Westminster, 5 p.m.																
Saturday																
Eastern Oregon vs California Miramar (exhibition), 3 p.m.																
Sunday																
Blue Mountain at Mt. Hood, 4 p.m.																
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL																
Today																
Blue Mountain vs. Chemeketa (at Yakima), 2 p.m.																
COLLEGE WRESTLING																
Sunday																
Eastern Oregon men and women at Spokane Invite, TBA																
Football																
NFL																
AMERICAN CONFERENCE																
East																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
New England	7	2	0	.778	241	163										
Miami	5	4	0	.556	204	206										
Buffalo	4	5	0	.444	237	203										
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300	179	244										
South																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Houston	6	3	0	.667	161	188										
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	264	251										
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	239	256										
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	174	239										
North																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556	182	160										
Pittsburgh	4	5	0	.444	214	206										
Cincinnati	3	5	1	.389	187	210										
Cleveland	0	10	0	.000	175	301										
West																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Kansas City	7	2	0	.778	205	168										
Oakland	7	2	0	.778	245	223										
Denver	7	3	0	.700	239	189										
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	292	278										
NATIONAL CONFERENCE																
East																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Dallas	8	1	0	.889	258	170										
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0	.667	182	184										
Washington	5	3	1	.611	212	209										
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	226	160										
South																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	320	283										
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	216	242										
New Orleans	4	6	0	.400	285	286										
Carolina	4	6	0	.400	244	246										
North																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Detroit	5	4	0	.556	205	206										
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	175	152										
Green Bay	4	5	0	.444	223	234										
Chicago	2	7	0	.222	141	215										
West																
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA											
Seattle	6	2	1	.722	193	158										
Arizona	4	4	1	.500	202	160										
Los Angeles	4	5	0	.444	139	173										
San Francisco	1	8	0	.111	187	283										
Thursday's Games																
Carolina 23, New Orleans 20																
Sunday's Games																
Baltimore at Dallas, 10 a.m.																
Chicago at N.Y. Giants, 10 a.m.																
Jacksonville at Detroit, 10 a.m.																
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.																
Arizona at Minnesota, 10 a.m.																
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 10 a.m.																
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 10 a.m.																
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 10 a.m.																
Miami at Los Angeles, 1:05 p.m.																
New England at San Francisco, 1:25 p.m.																
Philadelphia at Seattle, 1:25 p.m.																
Green Bay at Washington, 5:30 p.m.																
Open: San Diego, Atlanta, Denver, N.Y. Jets																
Monday's Game																
Houston at Oakland, 5:30 p.m.																
NCAA																
AP Top 25																
Today's Games																
Houston 36, No. 3 Louisville 10																
Arkansas State 35, No. 25 Troy 3																
Today's Game																
No. 22 Boise State vs. UNLV, 6 p.m.																
Saturday's Games																
No. 1 Alabama vs. Chattanooga, 4 p.m.																
No. 2 Ohio State at Michigan State, 9 a.m.																
No. 4 Michigan vs. Indiana, 12:30 p.m.																
No. 5 Clemson at Wake Forest, 4 p.m.																
No. 6 Wisconsin at Purdue, Noon																
No. 7 Washington vs. Arizona State, 4:30 p.m.																
No. 8 Oklahoma at No. 10 West Virginia, 5 p.m.																
No. 9 Penn State at Rutgers, 5 p.m.																
No. 11 Utah vs. Oregon, 11 a.m.																
No. 12 Colorado vs. No. 20 Washington State, 12:30 p.m.																
Memphis 6 5 .545 2½																
Dallas 2 8 .200 6																
New Orleans 2 10 .167 7																
Northwest Div. W L Pct GB																
Oklahoma City 7 5 .583 —																
Utah 7 6 .538 ½																
Portland 7 6 .538 ½																
Denver 4 7 .364 2½																
Minnesota 4 7 .364 2½																
Pacific Division W L Pct GB																
L.A. Clippers 10 2 .833 —																
Golden State 9 2 .818 ½																
L.A. Lakers 7 5 .583 3																
Sacramento 4 8 .333 6																
Phoenix 3 9 .250 7																
Thursday's Games																
Washington 119, New York 112																
Miami 96, Milwaukee 73																
Houston 126, Portland 109																
Minnesota 110, Philadelphia 86																
Chicago 85, Utah 77																
Today's Games																
Atlanta at Charlotte, 4 p.m.																
Phoenix at Indiana, 4 p.m.																
Detroit at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.																
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.																
Golden State at Boston, 5 p.m.																
Portland at New Orleans, 5 p.m.																
Memphis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.																
Toronto at Denver, 6 p.m.																
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.																
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.																
NCAA																
Men's Top 25																
Thursday's Games																
No. 3 Villanova 76, Western Michigan 65																
No. 4 Oregon 76, Valparaiso 54																
No. 9 Wisconsin 69, Chicago State 51																
No. 11 Xavier 83, Missouri 82, OT																
No. 12 Louisville 88, Long Beach State 56																
No. 16 UCLA 88, San Diego 68																
No. 23 Texas 85, Eastern Washington 52																
Today's Games																
Mississippi Valley State at No. 13 Michigan State, 4 p.m.																
Georgia State at No. 15 Purdue, 4 p.m.																
Mouthouth at No. 18 Syracuse, 4 p.m.																
Siena at No. 7 Kansas, 5 p.m.																
Washington 16 10 4 2 22 45 37																
Pittsburgh 16 10 4 2 22 48 46																
New Jersey 16 9 4 3 21 39 34																
Philadelphia 18 8 7 3 19 62 64																
Columbus 14 8 4 2 18 47 33																
Carolina 15 5 6 4 14 39 46																
N.Y. Islanders 16 5 8 3 13 40 51																
WESTERN CONFERENCE																
Central Division																
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA										
Chicago	17	11	4	2	24	54	43									
St. Louis	18	9	6	3	21	44	50									
Winnipeg	19	8	6	2	20	56	55									
Minnesota	16	9	6	1	19	42	29									
Dallas	17	7	6	5	18	49	59									
Nashville	16	7	6	3	17	46	44									
Colorado	16	7	9	0	14	33	45									
Pacific Division																
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA										
Anaheim	18	9	6	3	21	48	43									
Edmonton	18	9	8	1	19	49	49									
San Jose	17	9	8	0	18	39	39									
Los Angeles	18	8	9	1	17	44	47									
Vancouver	19	8	10	1	17	41	59									
Calgary	18	7	10	1	15	42	60									
Arizona	17	5	9	3	13	43	57									
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.																
Thursday's Games																
Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 1																
Philadelphia 5, Winnipeg 2																
Toronto 6, Florida 1																
Nashville 5, Ottawa 1																
St. Louis 3, San Jose 2																
Minnesota 1, Boston 0																
Dallas 3, Colorado 2																
Anaheim 3, New Jersey 2																
Vancouver 3, Arizona 2, OT																
Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 2																
Today's Games																
Detroit at Washington, 4 p.m.																
N.Y. Rangers at Columbus, 4 p.m.																
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.																
Montreal at Carolina, 4:30 p.m.																
Chicago at Calgary, 6 p.m.																
Tennis																