

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

HEPPNER

Heppner stopped short in semifinals rematch

Mustangs fall to Regis Rams

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian



HILLSBORO — In 27 years as a head coach, Heppner's Greg Grant has never had a team give up two kickoff return touchdowns in a game.

Well, until Saturday afternoon.

The Regis Rams used two kickoff return touchdowns to swing momentum in their favor before pulling away for a 27-6 victory over Heppner in the 2A state semifinals on Saturday at Liberty High School. It was also revenge for the Rams, who fell 26-3 to Heppner in the 2015 semifinals.

"Every time you kick off you have the momentum, it's either the start of the game, start of the half, or you just scored," Grant said after the game, "and to give up two big plays I mean, man. I'm going to lose a lot of sleep over that because that's something we've never ever done, and I just detest. But I can't blame my kids so much as they (Regis) had just had too many athletes in space."

The first return came in the second quarter right after Heppner scored its only touchdown of the game, a six-yard pass from Kevin

Smith to Beau Wolters. On the kickoff, Logan Grieb squibbed it to the near sideline where Regis' Brandon Piette corralled the bouncing kick at his own 20, made a few moves and outran a pair of Heppner defenders down the sideline for the touchdown.

The sequence was frustrating for Grant because it was the Rams that went to halftime with the lead 10-6, despite having just 61 yards of offense on 19 plays as well as one turnover in the half because of a tremendous effort by the Mustangs defense.

"It kind of makes me sick that we played that good of defense and we played that hard to just have a couple letdowns on special teams," Grant said.

See HEPPNER/2B



Heppner's Coby Dougherty is wrapped up by a host of Regis defenders in the Mustangs' 27-6 loss to the Rams on Saturday in Hillsboro.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

STANFIELD

Tigers ride defense to the 'ship

Stanfield beats Kennedy in 2A semifinals

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

HILLSBORO — For the first time since 1957, the Stanfield Tigers will play for a football state championship.

The No. 2 Tigers beat the No. 3 Kennedy Trojans 32-13 in the 2A semifinals on Saturday night at Liberty High School, exacting the revenge they were determined to get following last year's loss to the Trojans also in the semifinals.

"The town of Stanfield has been waiting a long time to get to a state championship and man it feels good to do it," Stanfield coach Davie Salas said with a

See TIGERS/3B



Stanfield's Enol Angel and Jose Garcia bring down Kennedy's Bishop Mitchell in the Tigers' 32-13 win against the Trojans on Saturday in Hillsboro.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

College Football

EOU holds on against Doane

Mountaineers earn first playoff win in program history

East Oregonian

CRETE, Neb. — The first one never comes easy.

The No. 9 Eastern Oregon Mountaineers came up with several clutch plays in front of a hostile crowd, then was able to rely on its defense and running game

to close out No. 7 Doane 34-28 for the program's first-ever playoff win on Saturday at Al Papik Field.

"Credit to Doane," said EOU head coach Tim Camp. "They're a really good football team, they played the game of football the way it's supposed to be played. Eastern Oregon was able to beat a very good football team."



Bartlow tossed the first of four touchdowns less than three minutes in, but the Tigers (8-3) were never far behind and used a pair of big plays on special teams and a steady rushing attack to keep the gap within a score.

Doane returner Drew

See EOU FOOTBALL/2B

PENDLETON

Rough weekend for Timberwolves

Volleyball and basketball teams suffer losses

East Oregonian

TACOMA, Wash. — The Blue Mountain Timberwolves' reign over NWAC volleyball was interrupted by the Lower Columbia Red Devils as they claimed their first title since 1991 at the NWAC Championships on Sunday.

The four-time defending

T-Wolves entered the bracket as a long shot with the No. 13 overall seed after finishing fourth in the NWAC East during regular season play, but as some of the tournament's top seeds suffered early upsets it appeared the path to another title was becoming less cluttered by the round.

But after getting bumped into the loser's bracket during Friday's action, the T-Wolves ran into a very familiar foe that edged them from the tournament by the narrowest of margins.

Coming off a 2-0 win over Bellevue that started their day, the T-Wolves were unable to close out East Region champion Walla Walla in a defensive battle the Warriors won in three, 25-18, 19-25, 15-13.

The teams combined for 133 digs, the most in any match on Saturday, and Blue Mountain was led there by the 19 each of sophomores Miah Perez and Bailey Tillotson. Perez was the only BMCC player to earn all-tournament honors, See TIMBERWOLVES/2B

Sports shorts

Klinsmann fired by US soccer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a sign of just how much American soccer has grown up, U.S. national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann was fired after a pair of losses in the final round World Cup qualifying.

Six days after a 4-0 loss at Costa Rica dropped the Americans to 0-2, Klinsmann was terminated after nearly 5 1/2 years during a meeting Monday at a Los Angeles hotel with U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati and Secretary General Dan Flynn.

Los Angeles Galaxy coach Bruce Arena is the favorite to succeed Klinsmann, and his hiring could be announced as early as Tuesday. Arena coached the national team from 1998 to 2006.

Qualifying resumes when the U.S. hosts Honduras on March 24 and plays four days later at Panama.



Klinsmann

"The play calls were there, real simple. I was trying not to over-complex things, just stick to my reads and not think too much. It definitely played dividends."

— **Marcus McMaryion**
Oregon State football quarterback after throwing five touchdowns in the Beavers' 42-17 win over Arizona on Saturday to end a five-game losing streak. It was the first time since 2013 that an OSU passer had thrown five touchdowns in a game.

Oregon rallies past No. 11 Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Justin Herbert hit Darren Carrington for a 17-yard touchdown pass with two seconds remaining to give Oregon a 30-28 upset victory over No. 11 Utah on Saturday, putting the Utes' hopes of a Pac-12 championship in jeopardy.

Herbert led the Ducks, who have struggled all season and suffered several lopsided losses, on a 10-play, 75-yard drive in just over two minutes, capping it with the TD pass to Carrington. Carrington was initially called out of bounds but that call was reversed after a replay showed he got a foot down in bounds.

Herbert finished the game with 324 yards passing and three TDs. He also scored on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

The Utes had taken a 28-24 lead with 2:18 remaining off a Troy Williams 30-yard touchdown pass but the Ducks then began their comeback drive.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1875 — Harvard beats Yale 4-0 in the schools' first football meeting. With 15 players on each side, the game is a mix of rugby and soccer.

1950 — The Fort Wayne Pistons edge the Minneapolis Lakers 19-18 in the lowest-scoring game in NBA history. John Oldham leads the Pistons with five points and George Mikan had 15 of the Lakers' points.

1986 — Mike Tyson becomes the youngest heavyweight champion ever when he knocks out Trevor Berbick in the second round to win the WBC heavyweight title in Las Vegas.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com