

FINALS RODEO:

Continued from 1B

local ties looking to strike it rich in Vegas this week.

Bareback rider RC Landingham, who lived in Pendleton for eight years while competing in high school and college rodeo, also made his WNFR debut on Thursday. Landingham, who now resides in Hat Creek, Calif., drew Four Star Rodeo's Rusty Slim for his first ride. It proved to be an unlucky pairing as the score came in at just 49 without the option of a re-ride.

That put Landingham in the bottom hole coming into today's performance as all riders covered their steed. Tanner Aus of Granite Falls, Minnesota, moved into the lead with an 85.5 on Cervi Championship Rodeo's RodeoHouston Control Freak.

Steer wrestler Trevor Knowles of Mount Vernon posted a 6.1 in steer wrestling as he competes at his 13th WNFR, and former Blue Mountain Community College standout Dakota Eldridge of Elko, Nevada, had an 8.6 in the same event. Clayton Hass of Terrell, Texas, and Tyler Waguespack of Gonzales,

Louisiana, are tied for the lead at 3.8.

Two WNFR rookies lead their events after 18-year-old saddle bronc rider Ryder Wright of Milford, Utah, scored 87 points on Frontier Rodeo's Time's Up, and barrel racer Pamela Capper of Cheney, Washington, jumped in front by tying the arena record of 13.75 seconds set by Mary Walker in 2012.

Reigning world champion Sage Kimzey of Strong City, Oklahoma, vaulted into the lead in bull riding on the night's final ride by scoring 86.5 on Frontier Rodeo's Aftershock. Shane Proctor of Grand Coulee, Washington, was second with an 83.5 he scored on Pete Carr Pro Rodeo's L.Eroy Brown to open the section.

Leading the tie-down roping is Shane Hanchey of Sulphur, Louisiana, with 7.1. Right behind him at 7.2 is Marty Yates of Stephenville, Texas.

Action resumes tonight, and performances will be held each night at 6:45 p.m. until the final round on Saturday, Dec. 10.

NFL

Seahawks set to host Panthers

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — By this point, they might as well consider Seattle and Carolina a divisional game.

For the seventh time in five years, the Panthers and Seahawks will meet on Sunday night each with a different sense of urgency heading into the final month of the regular season.

Seattle (7-3-1) reverted to its inconsistent form of earlier this season in a loss last week to Tampa Bay that now leaves the Seahawks, while still in complete control of the NFC West, with no room for error in trying to hold off others in the NFC for the No. 2 seed and a coveted first-round bye in the playoffs.

The level of urgency is far greater for the defending NFC champion Panthers.

After last week's loss in Oakland, the Panthers (4-7) are three games behind in the NFC South race and 2½ games behind Washington for the final wild-card spot with five games to go.

There is time for Carolina, but it's running short to avoid joining the list of Super Bowl participants to miss the postseason the following year.

"We've lost five games by three points or less. We had opportunities to win football games down the stretch and didn't do it," Carolina coach Ron Rivera said.

"Those are things that unfortunately we just didn't do. We did it last year and that's probably the hard pill to swallow."

There's also the Super Bowl hangover, something that Rivera acknowledged researching what Seattle coach Pete Carroll did following the back-to-back trips by the Seahawks to the championship game to try and figure out ways to avoid a swoon by his team.

"I think it's got a little bit to do with it. The truth of the matter is if you win the first game, things can be different. Unfortunately we didn't, so we have to battle uphill," Rivera said.

Unlike the Panthers, thus far at least, Seattle was able to overcome early troubles following both of its Super Bowl trips to find a way back to the postseason.

"I think you have to be prepared for it way before you ever get to it," Carroll said.



Carolina Panthers
(4-7)



Seattle Seahawks
(7-3-1)

• Sunday, 5:30 p.m.
• at CenturyLink Field
• TV: NBC

"If it's the first time you ever talk about it, I think you might not be able to have grounded thoughts and approach to deal with it. It's an enormous impact, win or lose."

Thanks to the underperformance by the division, Seattle is in fine shape to make a fifth straight playoff appearance under Carroll, with a three-game lead in the NFC West over Arizona.

The loss last week to Tampa Bay seemed destined from the outset, with the Seahawks down four starters on defense including safety Earl Thomas, and without starting center Justin Britt the anchor to what's been a shaky offensive line all season.

But managing just five points — and only a field goal by the offense — was a startling reversal back to Seattle's offensive problems early in the season when the Seahawks began the season with 12 points in a win over Miami and three points in a loss to Los Angeles.

"We were just a little bit off. Last week was last week. You can always get better," Seattle QB Russell Wilson said.

PAC-12: Huskies to play first game on grass

Continued from 1B

like that, you're frustrated as all get-out and trying to figure out why it's not right. With that being said, we all know it takes some time to develop a program and how you're going to do things."

Mike MacIntyre had a much tougher turnaround task with the Buffaloes (10-2, No. 8 CFP). Colorado was 25-61 in seven seasons before MacIntyre arrived from San Jose State.

But he methodically rebuilt the program to where it is now a surprise participant in the Pac-12 title game with an outside chance of making it to the playoff with a win over the Huskies and some help elsewhere.

"I just think a lot of people on the outside didn't expect us to be here," quarterback Sefo Liufau said. "They want UW for playoff implications or anything like that. Basically the most important thing is what we want in the locker room and we want to win."

PAC-12 Championship



#8 Colorado Buffaloes
(10-2, 8-1)



#4 Washington Huskies
(11-1, 8-1)

• Today, 6 p.m.
• at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, California
• TV: FOX

Here are some other things to watch:

BIG TIME QBS: Both teams rely heavily on their quarterbacks. Washington's Jake Browning was selected as the top offensive player in the conference after throwing for a school-record 40 TDs and only seven INTs. Browning ranks fourth in the FBS in passing efficiency (181.6). Colorado's Liufau wasn't quite as efficient but was almost as effective despite missing time with an ankle injury. He threw for 2,150 yards and 11 TDs and ran for 481 yards and seven scores.

D O M I N A N T

DEFENSE: The game features the top two defenses in the conference with both the Huskies and Buffaloes allowing just 4.7 yards per play. They are both led by their secondaries with Washington's Budda Baker and Sidney Jones making first-team all-conference and Colorado's Chidobe Awuzie and Tedric Thompson earning second-team selections.

TAKE IT AWAY: Both teams have thrived on turnovers this season. Washington led the nation with 30 takeaways and a plus-18 turnover margin. Colorado was second in the Pac-12 at plus-10 in turnovers.

ON THE GRASS: The Huskies will play their first game of the year on natural grass. The playing surface at Levi's Stadium has had issues with footing over the years but has been better this season. With the 49ers having been on the road last week, the field should be in good shape.

"I shouldn't say it doesn't

bother us (because) we're the only team in the country that hasn't played on grass this year, I think," Petersen said. "But the grass is good, so it's like people talking about going to Utah and playing in the altitude. I think it's completely overrated. As long as it's not a muddy field, we're good to go."

HOMECOMING: The game will be a homecoming of sorts for MacIntyre, who got his first head coaching job in 2010 at nearby San Jose State. He took over a two-win team and helped lead the Spartans to an 11-2 record his final year.

"I always hoped that wherever I was we'd be able to play for championships," MacIntyre said. "It has been a little bit of a whirlwind. Eight years seems like a long time but it also goes by very fast."

AP Sports Writers Tim Booth in Seattle and Pat Graham in Boulder, Colorado, contributed to this report

Athlete of the Week

Twenty questions with Stanfield's Dylan Grogan

East Oregonian

STANFIELD — The Stanfield Tigers football team made history last weekend by playing in the state championship game for the first time in nearly six decades.

Senior Dylan Grogan was a big reason why the Tigers made it that far in 2016, leading a potent offense as the quarterback with his dual-threat abilities as well as being a leader on defense from his linebacker position. Stanfield unfortunately wasn't able to bring home the championship this season, but Grogan still had a standout performance as he threw for 107 yards and ran for the Tigers' only two touchdowns of the game.

For his efforts, Grogan has been selected as the Athlete of the Week.

East Oregonian: When did you start playing sports?

Dylan Grogan: Since I was in kindergarten.

What is your favorite sport to play?

Whatever sport I'm playing at the time.

What is your favorite sport to watch?

Baseball

Any sports superstitions? (In baseball) before every pitch I throw, I have to adjust my hat.

If you could attend any sporting event in the world what would you

pick?
I'd go to a Mariners game.

Favorite professional or college sports team?
Minnesota Vikings

Favorite athlete?
(Chicago Cubs 3B) Kris Bryant

If you could try any sport that you have not yet played, what would you pick?

Soccer

Favorite junk food?
Oreos

Favorite holiday food?
Pumpkin pie

Any hobbies outside of sports?

I like going snowboarding.

What would you like to do for a career?

Something involving sports.

Favorite subject in school?

Math

Favorite movie?

Happy Gilmore

Favorite TV show?

That 70s Show

Who would you pick for a fantasy prom date?

(Actress) Blake Lively

First job you had?
Mowing lawns

First vehicle?
GMC truck

Favorite vacation destination?

The coast

Favorite thing about living in Oregon?

Being able to go to the river in the summer and snowboard in the winter.

MOUNTAINEERS: Open bracket against Oklahoma City

Continued from 1B

within one point twice, but a 10-4 run by the Mountaineers made it 20-13 and allowed EOU to coast. A string of EOU errors narrowed the gap at the very end, but a Miller kill followed by a Georgetown error ended it.

The third set was a nail-biter, though, and was tied nine times with four lead

changes.

The final lead change came in the final three points as Eastern ended the match on a rally with a kill by senior middle Kassandra Tuma (4 kills).

Georgetown held its largest lead at 19-16 after an ace by Courtney Grafton, but freshman hitter Megan Bunn picked up three of her five kills in the final 10 points to help spark EOU's comeback.

Kills by Miller and Lindburg tied the score at 23-all, but the Tigers went back up with a kill from Jessica Tapp (4 kills). Georgetown couldn't put EOU away, though, and made errors on the next two rallies to set up Tuma's match-winner. Ashlee Howe led Georgetown with nine kills.

Eastern Oregon will open the single-elimination

16-team bracket today at 3:45 p.m. against Oklahoma City. The winner of that match will advance to the quarterfinals tonight at 8:15 p.m. where they will face the winner of Biola (Calif.) and Hastings (Neb.).

Live stats and video for all matches at the tournament are available online through NAIA.org and NAIAnetwork.com.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Today's Games
Mac-Hi vs. College Place (WA) (Mac-Hi Tournament), 3 p.m.
Echo vs. Pilot Rock (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 3 p.m.
Riverside vs. Touchet (WA) (at Mac-Hi Tournament), 4:30 p.m.
Nixyawawii vs. Days Creek (at Cougar Classic, Molalla), 4:30 p.m.
Irrigon vs. Enterprise (at Lone Bonanza), 4:30 p.m.
Arlington vs. Delphian (at Hawk Invitational, Hood River), 5 p.m.
Hermiston vs. Wilson (at Aloha Tournament), 6:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Lone (at Lone Bonanza), 7:30 p.m.
Heppner at Joseph (Joseph Tournament), 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Monument/Dayville (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Hermiston vs. TBD (at Aloha Tournament), TBD
Irrigon vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), TBD
Lone vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), TBD
Riverside vs. TBD (at Mac-Hi Tournament), TBD
Mac-Hi vs. TBD (Mac-Hi Tournament), 2 p.m.
Pilot Rock vs. Monument/Dayville (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Wheeler HS), 2:30 p.m.
Nixyawawii at Country Christian (at Cougar Classic), 3:30 p.m.
Clarkston (WA) at Pendleton (Red Lion Invite), 5 p.m.
Heppner vs. TBD (Joseph Tournament), 5:30 p.m.
Helix at Bickleton (WA), 5:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Echo (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 5:30 p.m.
Arlington vs. TBD (at Hawk Invitational, Hood River), 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Today's Games
Irrigon vs. Enterprise (at Lone Bonanza), 3 p.m.
Riverside vs. Touchet (WA) (at Mac-Hi Tournament), 3 p.m.
Stanfield vs. Culver (at Sherman County Tournament, Moro), 3 p.m.
Nixyawawii vs. Days Creek (at Cougar Classic, Molalla), 3 p.m.
Arlington vs. Delphian (at Hawk Invitational, Hood River), 3:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock vs. Echo (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 4 p.m.
College Place at Mac-Hi (Mac-Hi Tournament), 6 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Lone (lone Bonanza), 6 p.m.
Heppner at Joseph (Joseph Tournament), 6 p.m.
Monument/Dayville at Condon/Wheeler

(at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 6 p.m.
Wilsonville at Hermiston (Hermiston Tournament), 7 p.m.
Umatilla vs. Colton (at Western Mennonite Tournament, Salem), 7 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Hermiston vs. TBD (Hermiston Tournament), TBD
Riverside vs. TBD (Mac-Hi Tournament), TBD
Weston-McEwen vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), TBD
Lone vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), TBD
Irrigon vs. TBD (at Lone Bonanza), TBD
Arlington vs. TBD (at Hawk Invitational, Hood River), TBD
Heppner vs. TBD (at Joseph Tournament), 11 a.m.
Pilot Rock vs. Monument/Dayville (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 1 p.m.
Mac-Hi vs. TBD (Mac-Hi Tournament), 2 p.m.
Nixyawawii at Country Christian (Cougar Classic), 2 p.m.
Clarkston (WA) at Pendleton (Red Lion Invite), 4 p.m.
Echo at Condon/Wheeler (at Paul Humphreys Tournament, Fossil), 4 p.m.
Helix at Bickleton (WA), 4 p.m.
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Western Mennonite Tournament, Salem), 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Saturday
Mac-Hi at Estacada Tournament, 10 a.m.
Echo, Heppner at Irrigon Duals, 10 a.m.
Hermiston at Oregon City Tournament, TBD
Pendleton, Riverside at Kennewick Tournament, TBD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Saturday's Game
Eastern Oregon at Baker (Kan.) in NAIA FCS semifinals, 11:06 a.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Today's Games
Eastern Oregon vs. Oklahoma City (NAIA Sweet 16; at Sioux City, Iowa), 3:45 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Today's Game
Clackamas at Blue Mountain, 7 p.m.
Saturday's Game
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Today's Game
Grays Harbor at Blue Mountain, 5 p.m.
Saturday's Games
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.
Edmonds at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.
Sunday's Game
Portland at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S WRESTLING
Friday-Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Battle of the Rockies

(Great Falls, Mont.), TBD
COLLEGE WOMEN'S WRESTLING
Saturday
Eastern Oregon at Simon Fraser Open, TBA

Football

NFL
Thursday's Game
Dallas 17, Minnesota 15
Sunday's Games
Kansas City (+4) at Atlanta, 10 a.m.
Los Angeles (+13.5) at New England, 10 a.m.
Philadelphia (-1) at Cincinnati, 10 a.m.
Miami (+3.5) at Baltimore, 10 a.m.
Denver (-5) at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.
Detroit (+5) at New Orleans, 10 a.m.
San Francisco (+3) at Chicago, 10 a.m.
Houston (+3.5) at Green Bay, 10 a.m.
Buffalo (+3.5) at Oakland, 1:05 p.m.
Washington (+2.5) at Arizona, 1:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay (+5.5) at San Diego, 1:25 p.m.
N.Y. Giants (+6) at Pittsburgh, 1:25 p.m.
Carolina (+6.5) at Seattle, 5:30 p.m.
Open: Tennessee, Cleveland
Monday's Game
Indianapolis (-2.5) at N.Y. Jets, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA
Top 25
Today's Games
No. 4 Washington vs. No. 9 Colorado, Pac-12 championship at Santa Clara, Calif., 6 p.m.
No. 13 Western Michigan vs. Ohio, MAC championship at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Saturday's Games
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 15 Florida, SEC championship at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
No. 3 Clemson vs. No. 19 Virginia Tech, ACC championship at Orlando, Fla., 5 p.m.
No. 6 Wisconsin vs. No. 8 Penn State, Big Ten championship at Indianapolis, 5:17 p.m.
No. 7 Oklahoma vs. No. 11 Oklahoma State, 9:20 a.m.
No. 14 West Virginia vs. Baylor, 12:30 p.m.
No. 20 Navy vs. Temple, AAC championship, 9 a.m.

NAIA
Playoffs Semifinals
Saturday's Games
Saint Francis (Ind.) (11-1) at Reinhardt (Ga.) (13-0), 10:30 a.m.
Eastern Oregon (10-2) at Baker (Kan.), 11:05 a.m.

NBA
Thursday's Games
Charlotte 97, Dallas 87
Milwaukee 111, Brooklyn 93
L.A. Clippers 113, Cleveland 94
Memphis 95, Orlando 94
Miami 111, Utah 110
Houston 132, Golden State 127
Today's Games

Orlando at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Sacramento at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 5 p.m. (ESPN)
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

NCAA
Men's Top 25
Thursday's Games
No. 8 Gonzaga 97, Mississippi Valley State 63
Cincinnati 55, No. 19 Iowa State 54, OT
No. 20 South Carolina 68, Vermont 50
No. 24 Florida 91, North Florida 60
Today's Game
SIU Edwardsville at No. 13 Indiana, 4 p.m.

Women's Top 25
Thursday's Games
No. 2 Connecticut 91, No. 15 DePaul 46
No. 3 South Carolina 76, No. 14 Texas 67
No. 4 Baylor 79, Abilene Christian 34
No. 5 Maryland 78, No. 7 Louisville 72
No. 11 Stanford 77, CSU Bakersfield 56
No. 13 Washington 101, Grand Canyon 66
No. 17 Kentucky 82, No. 12 Oklahoma 68
No. 18 Miami at No. 9 Ohio State, 4 p.m.
Kansas State 71, No. 23 Auburn 66
Today's Game
Idaho at No. 24 Oregon State, 8:30 p.m.

Hockey
Thursday's Games
Boston 2, Carolina 1, SO
Buffalo 4, N.Y. Rangers 3
Pittsburgh 6, Dallas 2
N.Y. Islanders 3, Washington 0
Florida 2, Detroit 1, OT
Philadelphia 3, Ottawa 2, OT
St. Louis 5, Tampa Bay 4
Edmonton 6, Winnipeg 3
Chicago 4, New Jersey 3, OT
Columbus 3, Colorado 2
Los Angeles 4, Arizona 3
Anaheim 3, Vancouver 1
Today's Games
Minnesota at Calgary, 6 p.m.
Montreal at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

MLS
Conference Championships Eastern Conference
Tuesday, Nov. 22: Montreal 3, Toronto FC 2
Wednesday, Nov. 30: Toronto FC 5, Montreal 2, Toronto FC advances 7-5 on aggregate
Western Conference
Tuesday, Nov. 22: Seattle 2, Colorado 1
Sunday, Nov. 27: Seattle 1, Colorado 0
Seattle advances 3-1 on aggregate
MLS Cup
Saturday, Dec. 10: Toronto FC vs. Seattle, 5 p.m. (TV: ESPN)

Soccer
MLS Conference Championships Eastern Conference
Tuesday, Nov. 22: Montreal 3, Toronto FC 2
Wednesday, Nov. 30: Toronto FC 5, Montreal 2, Toronto FC advances 7-5 on aggregate
Western Conference
Tuesday, Nov. 22: Seattle 2, Colorado 1
Sunday, Nov. 27: Seattle 1, Colorado 0
Seattle advances 3-1 on aggregate
MLS Cup
Saturday, Dec. 10: Toronto FC vs. Seattle, 5 p.m. (TV: ESPN)

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

DYLAN GROGAN

Stanfield Football-QB

Grogan threw for 107 yards and ran for two touchdowns as Stanfield earned 2A state runner-up in a loss to Regis on Saturday.

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