

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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HERMISTON Bulldogs drop rematch

Late comeback attempt not enough for Hermiston

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

The final 10 minutes of the Hermiston football team's season opener were anything but dull. Two touchdowns, an interception, and Union's (WA) turnover on downs finally gave the Bulldogs (0-1) some momentum. Despite these efforts, it was too little too late under the Friday night lights in Camas, Wash.

The Titans (1-0) were first on the board early in the opening quarter, taking a lead they would never relinquish and for the second consecutive year the Bulldogs were unable to make up the deficit. Union finished on top 35-21, and sent Hermiston

See BULLDOGS/3B

Prep Roundup Umatilla tops Union in opener

East Oregonian

UNION — The Umatilla Vikings will travel home with smiles on their faces after opening the season with a 28-15 victory over Union on Friday. Under the bright lights, the Vikings' (1-0) defense shined, and held off a last ditch effort from the Bobcats (0-1).

It was the type of disciplined football any coach could hope for, just ask Dan Durfey.

"The defense played really well tonight," he said. "They really didn't let [Union] get any big yardage stuff. They kept everything contained well, tackled well, and played really well."

While the defense did its part to help secure the win, senior quarterback Kaden Webb and the offense lit up the scoreboard. Webb finished the night completing 9-of-12 passes for 149 yards and four touchdowns. He also racked up 13 yards on five carries.

Webb was aided by junior running back Trent Durfey, who tallied eight carries for 37 yards and was on the receiving end of five completions for 101 yards. All in all, he ended with a team-high of two touchdowns.

The win was by no means a walk in the park. Dan Durfey acknowledged the teams struggle.

See PREPS/3B

Sports shorts

Browns release QB Brock Osweiler

CLEVELAND (AP) — Brock Osweiler is being released by the Cleveland Browns, which will have to pay his \$16 million guaranteed contract not to have him on their roster.

Osweiler will be officially cut on Saturday when the team trims its roster to 53.

The 26-year-old Osweiler was acquired by the Browns on March 9 from Houston for a 2018 second-round draft pick. The team did not have any long-term plans for Osweiler, who went 8-6 as a starter for the Texans last season. However, because of his large contract, the Browns were unable

to unload Osweiler and he competed for their starting job this summer.

Osweiler was beaten out by rookie DeShone Kizer, who will be the 27th starting quarterback for Cleveland since 1999 when the team opens against Pittsburgh on Sept. 10.



Osweiler

"It was my time to do what was best for me in terms of my intentions, and that's going after something bigger than myself ... Me leaving (Cleveland) wasn't about basketball; it was more or less about creating that foundation of me in Cleveland, and then now taking this next step ... and being the best basketball player I can be."

— Kyrie Irving

The new Boston Celtic was introduced to the media at a press conference on Friday.

PENDLETON

Tigers run past Buckaroos



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Beau Skinner (10) and Emmitt May bring down La Grande's Andrew Peasley in the Bucks' 36-29 loss to the Tigers on Friday in Pendleton.

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

In an interview after practice on Tuesday afternoon, Pendleton head coach Erik Davis described the teams' defensive game plan for La Grande with one simple phrase: to contain quarterback Andrew Peasley.

The 6-foot-3 senior for La Grande is a dual-threat in the backfield, with a big arm that can hit almost any throw and enough speed to escape a pass rush. However even with a game plan centered on the quarterback, the Buckaroos could not execute it. Peasley ran for 119 yards and three touchdowns and passed for another 216 yards and another touchdown as his Tigers beat the Buckaroos 36-29 in both teams' season openers.

"He's probably the best athlete we'll see the rest of the year," Pendleton senior Shaw Jerome said emphatically after the game.

Peasley dashed and darted



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Aiden Patterson gets brought down by La Grande's GT Blackman in the Bucks' 36-29 loss to the Tigers on Friday in Pendleton.

through Pendleton's defense for most of the game. A few times Pendleton would build some momentum on defense and back La Grande into third-and-long situations, but

then Peasley would bail the team out with a long scramble or would use his feet to get a receiver open enough for a first down seemingly every time.

Football

La Grande **36**

Pendleton **29**

"He was the best athlete on the field by quite a bit," Davis added, "and we couldn't handle him and that's what it came down to. We felt pretty good going in with our plan, but we didn't execute it. And (Peasley) had some good athletes to throw to as well and they proved tonight to be better than ours, and when that happens you usually don't come out victorious."

Peasley flashed his wheels just a few minutes into the game, zipping around the left side of the field and through the Buckaroo defense for a 31-yard touchdown run for an early 7-0 Tigers lead. After a three-and-out on its first drive, Pendleton answered the score on its

See BUCKAROOS/3B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs boys soccer drop first game of season

Hermiston's first loss comes at the hands of the La Grande Tigers

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

The Hermiston boys soccer team returned home to a scorching Kennison Field Friday afternoon after a brief one-game road stint looking to add to its hot start.

It entered the match against La Grande 2-0 with shutout victories to open the season, but fell 1-0 in a defensive battle.

From the first whistle, La Grande maintained control of the ball. The Tigers gave up few possessions early on and when the ball was in

their own final third, the Bulldogs couldn't find the net. They had enough chances, taking over 10 shots on goal, but saves by La Grande's junior goalkeeper Christian Waugaman or shots too wide and too high plagued the team.

"We just weren't playing at our pace, we weren't playing our game," head coach Rich Harshberger said. "[The] first couple of games we came out and played our game and for some reason tonight we just couldn't get it clicking. I'm not going to use any kind of excuse, it's just a tough one."

The lone goal came off the head of junior midfielder Aaron Corsini.

Boys Soccer

La Grande **1**

Hermiston **0**

After a free kick near midfield went deep into the box, Hermiston's senior goalkeeper Antonio Campos charged towards the ball. Before Campos could come close to it, Corsini's head already made contact and the ball sailed into the back of the net in the 16th minute.

Despite the loss, the Bulldogs have the opportunity to bounce back and find their rhythm before league play begins in late September.

"This is a big test," Harshberger said. "We've got a lot of season left and so we can decide how the rest of that season is going to go based on this."

According to Harshberger, to bounce back from the loss the boys have to take a look at their goals, which are to repeat last season's success and make a strong run in the post season. To do this, he added, the Bulldogs can't dwell on Friday evening's performance.

"We're going to get out and if we're going to go down, we're going to go down playing our game and the way we know how," Harshberger said.

Hermiston will travel to Hillsboro to continue play against Century. Kick off will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Contact Alexis at amansanarez@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4542. Follow her on Twitter at @almansanarez.

Eastern Oregon-SOU football opener moved to Sherwood

LA GRANDE — The season opener for the Eastern Oregon Mountaineers team against the Southern Oregon Raiders has been moved from SOU's Ashland campus to Sherwood High School, southwest of Portland.

The game was moved because of unhealthy air quality levels caused by raging wildfires in the area, originally postponing the game before the schools found an alternate location.

Tickets already purchased are still valid for Saturday's game, and refunds are available for all tickets purchased online.

The game will feature the No. 7 Mountaineers, a NAIA national semifinalist last season, against the No. 25 Raiders, the national champion in 2015. Kickoff is still set for 6 p.m.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1971 — Chris Evert, 16, wins the first of her record 101 U.S. Open matches, defeating Edda Buding 6-1, 6-0. Jimmy Connors, playing on 19th birthday, comes back from a two-set deficit to beat Alex Olmedo for his first victory.

2001 — Michael Schumacher becomes the winningest driver in Formula One, winning the Belgian Grand Prix for his 52nd career victory.

2007 — Allyson Felix becomes the second woman to win three gold medals at a single world championships meet, helping the United States to victory in the 4x400-meter relay.

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