

BUCKAROOS:

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on its next possession when Nick Bower found junior Willie Camp, a La Grande transfer, in the corner of the end zone for a one-yard touchdown to tie the game at 7-7.

Just as La Grande took a 14-7 late lead in the first quarter, Bower then floated a pass down the sideline to Tanner Stephan who high-pointed the ball over a Tiger defender, shook free and sprinted 73 yards for a touchdown to tie the game at 14-14.

"That was a huge play," Jerome said. "It was a money play, a great play call and it gave us a spark."

But La Grande went right back down the field on the Buckaroo defense and scored on a 17-yard touchdown pass from Peasley to GT Blackman to go up 21-14 with 10 minutes left in the half, and the teams would take that score to the half.

After a scoreless third quarter, Peasley scored from 26 yards out to put the Tigers up 27-14 and the Buckaroos were left looking for another spark. Unfortunately an ugly four minute stretch followed for Pendleton.

With 10:23 left in the game, Bower floated a screen pass to long and it was picked off by a La Grande defender in Buckaroo territory. Three plays later for La Grande, Peasley's throw was long and it was picked off by Pendleton's Cam Sandford, only to have Bower throw another interception on a screen pass on the very next play.

For the game, Bower finished with four interceptions with 268 passing yards on 23 of 35 passing with three touchdowns. It was a tough game for the senior, though Davis stood by his quarterback.

"Nick is our guy. He'll tell you right now he'd like to have this game back but that's football,"



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Shaw Jerome drives downfield pursued by La Grande's Andrew Peasley in the Bucks' 36-29 loss to the Tigers on Friday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
La Grande's Andrew Peasley leaps over Pendleton's Cam Sandford in the Bucks' 36-29 loss to the Tigers on Friday in Pendleton.

he said. "He threw some tremendous passes ... he's a veteran and I know how hard of a worker he is and he's going to get in front of this film and learn from it."

But after holding La Grande to a field goal, the

Buckaroos were sparked by junior Trent Sorey on the ensuing kick off, as he hauled in the kick and ran straight through the middle of the La Grande coverage and sprinted 93 yards for a touchdown, cutting the deficit to

30-22 after a made two-point conversion.

"Trent Sorey is a gamer," Davis said. "He's a gamer and a winner, he's a fantastic rodeo athlete and football player and a tremendous kid. But I didn't know he could run away from guys like that. I'm absolutely tickled for Trent and to come in and take advantage of an opportunity was great."

One thing for Pendleton's defense to hang its hat on was that other than Peasley the Buckaroos contained La Grande's running backs very well. Tiger senior Isaac Chamberlain had a 14 yard carry on the first play for the Tigers, but after that was held for 20 yards on nine carries and Nathan Reed ran it three times for five yards.

It's a positive that the Buckaroos will take toward next week's game when they host Putnam.

"Our goal to be a playoff team is not damaged in any way shape or form," he said. "We just have to go fix a few things first."

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BULLDOGS:

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on its way outscoring the Bulldogs in three of four quarters.

Union's efforts came from the arm of junior quarterback Lincoln Victor and the feet of Joseph Siofele. Victor completed 11-of-19 passes for 199 yards and threw only one interception and three touchdowns. Siofele led the team with three touchdowns — two on the ground and one in the air.

Darien Chase and Alishawuan Taylor were the only two other Titans to score, and both sent their home crowd into a frenzy. Chase was on the receiving end of a 65-yard completion from Victor with 53 seconds left in the first half and Taylor opened the fourth quarter catching a 16-yard touchdown pass.

By the time Taylor reached the end zone, Union was up 35-6. Hermiston's only first-half score came from a one-yard carry by junior quarterback Andrew

James. Lack of execution hurt the Bulldogs, as they missed the extra point opportunity due to a bad snap.

Hermiston remained scoreless until the fourth quarter, when the Bulldogs put up back-to-back touchdowns. The first was with 7:12 left on the clock. James found senior wide receiver Dayshawn Neal for 16-yards and then converted the two-point pass to fellow senior Joey Gutierrez. Neal once again found the end zone with barely any time left. The three-yard touchdown pass from James came in the final 11 seconds of play.

With the first game jitters hopefully out of its system, Hermiston will prepare to host Lewiston (ID) for its home opener on Friday at 7 p.m.

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PREPS: Heppner gets shut out

Continued from 1B

gles after the game.

"We got tired in the second half," he said. "We had a couple kids go down with cramps, and it wasn't a very good half."

Despite this, Umatilla was able to grind it out for the final 24 minutes of play and will now get ready for another road trip. This time to face Rainier on Friday at 7 p.m.

AMITY 14, IRRIGON 0 — At Hood River, the Irrigon Knights' valiant effort on defense was not enough to take down the Amity Warriors as the Warriors came out top for a 14-0 win on Friday night.

The Warriors scored on their first possession of the game and scored once again in the second quarter, but that was all the stingy Knights (0-1) would allow. However the Knights offense showed its youth and inexperience as they simply couldn't find the end zone.

"We didn't score enough to win, it's as simple as that," Irrigon coach Steve Sheller said afterward. "But the defensive played really, really well and I'm proud of them tonight."

Statistics from the game were not available.

Irrigon next hosts Pendleton junior varsity on Thursday at 7 p.m.

ST. PAUL 40, HEPPNER 0

— Nothing went Heppner's way in front of its home crowd on Friday. The Mustangs (0-1) opened their season with an advantage, and played host to the St. Paul Buckaroos. Equipped with brand new uniforms from Nike, Heppner certainly looked the part but just didn't play the part.

"St. Paul is good and executed well," Heppner coach Greg Grant said. "And every chance we had we seemed to make a mistake, or two."

The Buckaroos (1-0) slowly built up their lead, scoring only one touchdown in the first quarter. A 20-point quarter and 13-point quarter followed, respectively, to leave Heppner in the dust. Quarterback Holden Smith had a standout performance, completing 8-of-10 passes for 129 yards and three touchdowns.

Heppner quarterback Jayden Wilson threw for 70 yards on 9 of 17 passes and Coby Dougherty led Heppner in rushing with 38 yards on eight carries.

"I expect a great practice Monday," Grant said. "The kids had a wake up call and should realize if we do the little things well we can improve."

The Mustangs next face Grant Union on Friday at 7 p.m.

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