

DUCKS: Freeman led team with 150 yards on 23 carries

Continued from 1B

three times, in 2013 against Nicholls, 2012 against Colorado and 2008 against Utah State. UCLA also scored seven rushing touchdowns against the Ducks at Autzen in 1975. Oregon scored more points in a game than it has in 101 years.

“That was the first step, going out there to try and put as many points on the board as we can,” Freeman said. “That’s our mentality week in and week out.”

Freeman looked like the back who ran for 3,200 yards in his first two years before injuries kept him below 1,000 last season.

The senior had 78 yards in the first quarter, 116 in the opening half and finished with 150 yards on 23 carries.

Benoit turned seven carries into 107 yards, including Oregon’s longest run of 35 yards. The senior scored on runs of 10, 1 and 29 yards.

“We wanted to dominate as a group,” he said. “We are always talking about competing with each other. When I see Royce do good, I want to do well and Tony wants to do well.”

Brooks-James added 32 yards on nine carries, and the Ducks finished with 348 yards on 52 carries, an average of 6.7 per rush behind an experienced line.

“I thought they did what they were supposed to do,” coach Willie Taggart said of his line. “Let’s see here, 348 yards, yeah, I think they did a good job. It starts there. Those guys open holes for Royce and Kani and Tony.”

Benoit’s final touchdown broke the stadium record of seven rushing touchdowns.

“I wasn’t really keeping track of how many touchdowns we scored, but it’s exciting to learn that we broke a record,” senior offensive lineman Tyrell Crosby said.

Crosby was back after missing almost all of last season with a foot injury to join returning starters Shane Lemieux, Jake Hanson and Calvin Throckmorton. Jake Pisarcik made his second career start at guard.

“I’m glad they produced out on the field and showed everybody the improvements they’ve made,” Freeman said. “They made many strides to get better and they’ve gotten me better bringing a physical nature to the field.”

While Freeman was the lead back once again with 23 carries, Benoit and Brooks-James combined for 16 and Oregon got 13 carries combined from five other runners in the first game for running backs coach Donte Pimpleton.

“It does take some pressure off coach P knowing he has a deep backfield,” Freeman said. “If any of us get tired or have any problems, we have more than capable other versatile running backs behind you.”

Freeman, Benoit and Brooks-James are in their third season working together.

“We’re looking at fronts and schemes so when (Freeman) comes to the sideline we try to help him find holes,” Benoit said. “We help each other out and keep learning the game.”

BEAVERS: Defense still lacks consistency

Continued from 1B

If the Beavers continue to play at the current level, they will be hard pressed to pull out additional wins.

Andersen said the Beavers, defensively, have a long ways to go.

“The thing that I’m surprised (about) is we’re not where we need to be from a fundamental standpoint at times and the attacking ability,” he said Saturday. “I think these kids are a lot better. I know we’re a lot better. We just have to continually work with them, and the youth cannot be an excuse. We have seven young guys out there on the field at that point and that’s what we’ve got. ... It is what it is.”

The Beavers did show the ability to make plays on defense. They had six tackles for loss and intercepted two passes, one that Manase Hungalu returned for a touchdown to put the Beavers up 28-20 in the third quarter.

Those were flashes the Beavers were unable to capture and make consistent.

“It felt like we expected too much,” Hungalu said. “We needed to respect our opponent a little bit more. But we needed to make those adjustments as the game (went on) and we did. It could be better and we’re going to work on that this next week.”

The Beavers are working to find an offensive identity,



Portland State’s Josh Kraght (4) fights his way through the Oregon State defense near the goal line during Saturday’s game in Corvallis.

AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez

though they are closer on that side of the ball.

OSU threw 47 passes against Colorado State. On Saturday, quarterback Jake Luton completed 18 of 25 passes for 235 yards and a touchdown with one interception against the Vikings.

Luton has also shown he can move the team in two-minute situations.

He led the Beavers on the 77-yard touchdown drive that won the game and also had a nice drive at the end of the first half at Colorado State.

“We put together a couple of huge drives, the one last game in the first half and now the last drive of the game here to put us in a great spot to be able to take the lead,” Andersen said. “Those were huge drives.”

The run game, however, has not taken off yet. The Beavers

rushed for 154 yards and three scores on Saturday, and Artavis Pierce looked explosive on his four carries.

Ryan Nall was unable to get on track and finished with 59 yards on 16 carries.

The Beavers did go to backup quarterback Darell Garretson and his run-oriented package a few times, mostly deep in the red zone.

Garretson rushed six times for 29 yards and a touchdown, but did not throw a pass.

“There is no quarterback controversy,” Andersen said. “Those kids understand the situation and it is a package for us. Darell will have a package for us and we’ll need him. He causes some problems with his legs and he can still run the offense very well. We need them both and we’re going to use them both.”

PREPS: Umatilla’s Celeste Rodriguez scores hat trick as Vikings top Buckaroos

Continued from 1B

1A-4A class.

Heppner’s very own Madelyn and Hunter Nichols placed sixth and fifth, respectively, in the girls and boys varsity 5,000-meters. Madelyn Nichols clocked 22:31.82, while Hunter Nichols pushed the Heppner boys squad into eighth place (272 points) after recording a time of 17:49.72 — edging out his competition by at least five seconds.

Mackenzie Heideman also had a strong finish in the 5,000-meter varsity race and

placed 24th in 25:00.98.

“Today was an early meet,” head coach Russ Nichols said. “We just wanted some of those kids to experience a meet ... we just wanted to get one under their belt before we run in Hermiston next weekend ... so that’s what our goal was today.”

All three schools will compete against each other next week Runner’s Soul XC Fest in Hermiston on Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL
HEPPNER — Grant

Union, Weston-McEwen, Imbler, Crane, Enterprise, and Pilot Rock all converged on Heppner High School on Saturday morning for all-day volleyball action, but only one team went home a winner.

That was the Grant Union Prospectors, who knocked off Weston-McEwen for the second time this season 2-0 (25-9, 25-7) to win the tournament championship.

Weston-McEwen (7-2) beat Grant Union’s JV team 2-0 (25-19, 25-20) and host Heppner 2-0 (25-16, 25-15) to reach the title game.

Leading the TigerScots in statistics on the day were Alyssa Finifrock with 28 kills, Bryce Thul with 54 assists, Chelsea Quaempts with 47 digs and both Thul and Finifrock with seven aces.

“It was a great tournament for us,” Weston-McEwen coach Shawn White said. “I thought we did a nice job going through the day with a lot of good learning and good effort put into the tournament by my team.”

Heppner (4-3) beat Enterprise 2-0 (25-16, 25-18) in bracket play before getting

ousted by Weston-McEwen, and Pilot Rock lost to Imbler 2-1 (25-19, 9-25, 15-13) in bracket play.

Weston-McEwen next plays on Thursday at Dayton (WA), while Heppner hosts South Wasco County and Irrigon today at 4 and 5:30 p.m. Pilot Rock (3-2) also plays on Thursday against Riverside and Helix at Helix.

GIRLS SOCCER
UMATILLA 5, PENDLETON 1 — At Umatilla, the Vikings picked up their first win of the season with a commanding 5-1 victory

over the Pendleton Buckaroos on Saturday afternoon.

Celeste Rodriguez fired home three goals in the game to lead the Vikings (0-1-1), while Devina Monreal and Mayra Ortiz each picked up a goal as well. Pendleton (0-2) statistics were not available.

Umatilla will next host Baker today at 3:30 p.m. Pendleton will travel to La Grande today at 4 p.m.

Coaches can report game scores and statistics by calling 1-800-522-0255 or emailing sports@eastoregonian.com.

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