

Prep Roundup

Heppner upsets top-ranked Culver

Mustangs topple Bulldogs in five sets

East Oregonian

CULVER — The Heppner Mustangs put together their best game of the season to pick up their biggest win of the season so far, knocking off the top-ranked Culver Bulldogs 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Volleyball



Heppner



Culver

3

2

right places at the right time. We played them tough at the net and it worked out in our favor.”

Culver shot out of the gates to take the first set 25-12 before Heppner (14-5 overall, 4-1 CBC) rallied to take the next two 25-13 and 28-26. The Bulldogs (16-2, 4-1) stormed back to force a fifth set with a 25-16 win in the fourth, but Heppner was able to grind out an 18-16 win in the fifth to clinch the match.

“This was a whole team effort from the court, to the bench, to the stands,” Wilson said. Jacee Currin was a standout performer for Heppner, smacking 10 kills and three aces and adding 16 assists and 12 digs. Morgan Correa added nine kills and 21 digs, Sydney Wilson had a team-best 27 digs and Sophie Grant added 12 assists.

Heppner next travels to Pilot Rock on Thursday evening for a 6 p.m. game.

UNION 3, WESTON-MCEWEN 2 — At Union, the TigerScots battled for five sets but came up just short in a non-league

See PREP ROUNDUP/3B

HERMISTON

Bucks rally to stun Bulldogs



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Scout Reagan attempts to block a spike from Pendleton's Maureen Davies in the Bucks' 3-2 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Pendleton erases two-set deficit to beat Hermiston

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

On Thursday night an entirely new Hermiston volleyball team took the court to start the rivalry match against Pendleton.

The Bulldogs commanded an early lead and came out with all cylinders firing as they took the first two sets. But once again, Hermiston's youth and inexperience crept in and gave Pendleton enough room to make its move. The Bucks rallied in the final three sets to take the match 3-2 at The Dawg House.

“We had to dig deep,” Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said. “We’ve seen it a little bit over the last week, they kind of get themselves in a rut and we’ve got a couple of our key players that are out and are hurt and we’re trying to work through that. It’s nice to see them dig in with a lot of heart and play hard.”

While the Buckaroos (10-3 overall, 5-1 CRC) have dominated the Columbia River Conference for much of the season, a recent speed-bump slowed down their momentum. They suffered their first league loss to Hood River Valley a week ago, and it looked as if their second was going to be handed to them Thursday night.

But the Bulldogs (2-13, 0-6) have had little go their way in league play and even after putting on a show this time around, the outcome was still the same. They have now won only five sets on the season, as their youth has been

See VOLLEYBALL/3B



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

New York Yankees' outfielder Aaron Judge (99) celebrates with catcher Gary Sanchez after hitting a two-run home run during the fourth inning of the AL wild-card game against the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday in New York.

Yankees homer way to Wild Card

New York erases early deficit to advance

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge, Didi Gregorius and a brilliant bullpen rescued New York from a rugged start and lifted the Yankees to their first postseason victory in five years.

Gregorius' three-run homer tied the score after Minnesota knocked out Luis Severino in the first inning, a pumped-up Judge showed his most emotion this season when he hit a two-run shot in his playoff debut and the Yankees beat the Twins 8-4 Tuesday night in the AL wild-card game.

Brett Gardner also homered for the Yankees, who chased

Ervin Santana after two innings and once again eliminated the Twins from the playoffs.

Chad Green, David Robertson, Tommy Kahnle and Aroldis Chapman combined for 8 2/3 innings of one-run, five-hit relief, striking out 13 to tie the postseason record for a bullpen. “It was just remarkable,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

New York opens a best-of-five Division Series on Thursday at the AL Central champion Indians.

“We’re not done yet,” Judge said. “We’ve just got to keep it

rolling in Cleveland.”

The Twins lost their 13th consecutive postseason game, tying the record set by Boston from 1986-95.

Brian Dozier led off the game with a home run and Eddie Rosario hit a two-run drive as the Twins burst to a quick lead and stunned the sellout crowd of 49,280 at Yankee Stadium.

But Santana was little better than Severino, going to full counts on eight of 11 batters. Gregorius erased the lead four batters into the bottom of the first, and Santana was removed after six outs and 64 pitches with the Twins trailing 4-3.

“You can sit here and try to imagine if it was 0-0 after the first what it would have felt like compared to scoring three and giving three back,” Twins

See WILD CARD/3B

Sports shorts

Sabres lock up star center Eichel with 8-year, \$80 million contract

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The Buffalo Sabres have reached an agreement to sign their franchise player, Jack Eichel, to an NHL-maximum eight-year, \$80 million contract.

Eichel is entering the final year of his three-year entry level contract and only eligible to become a restricted free agent next summer.

Eichel has previously said he's open to playing this season without an extension after negotiations cooled over the past six weeks.

Eichel was the second player selected in the 2015 draft, one spot behind Edmonton's Connor McDavid. Eichel is coming off a season in which he had a team-leading 57 points and finished second with 24 goals in 61 games despite missing the first two months of the season with a sprained left ankle.



Eichel

“I feel like I’m ready ... My quarterback coach from high school, he actually told me one time pressure only appears when you’re not prepared for something. So that’s kind of how I feel pressure. You only get nervous or feel pressure when you’re not prepared for the situation or you don’t know what you’re doing.”

— Mitchell Trubisky

The No. 2 pick in the 2017 NFL Draft and Chicago Bears' rookie QB will make his first career NFL start on Monday night as the Bears host Minnesota.

NBA scraps East-West format for 2018 All-Star Game

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA is scrapping the East vs. West format for its All-Star Game and will have captains pick teams this season.

The league said Tuesday the two starters with the highest fan vote totals from each conference will choose teams from the pool of players who were voted as starters and reserves.

The change will begin with this season's game in Los Angeles on Feb. 18.

Players and league officials have been eager to inject new interest in the often defense-absent game, and they decided to act after another dull affair last February in New Orleans.

The 10 starters will continue to be chosen by a combination of fan, player and media balloting, with the coaches from each conference then selecting the 14 reserves.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1969 — Mississippi's Archie Manning becomes the first player in college football to throw for 300 yards and rush for 100 yards in the same game as the Rebels fall short in a 33-32 loss at Alabama.

1991 — The San Jose Sharks surrender 52 shots and lose 4-3 to the Vancouver Canucks in their first NHL regular-season game.

2010 — The Europeans reclaim the Ryder Cup winning 14½-13½. The Americans rally from a three-point deficit to tie the score, but Graeme McDowell beats Hunter Mahan in the final singles match.

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