

College Soccer
T-Wolves

wrap up
2017 season

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Blue Mountain Timberwolf men's and women's soccer teams wrapped up the regular season by hosting Treasure Valley on Wednesday.

The BMCC men rallied from a three-goal deficit and earned a 3-3 draw with the Chukars while the women lost 5-0.

For the men, Giovanni Madrigal, Mark Otton, and Anthony Carillo all scored goals for the Timberwolves, while Isaac Munoz-Ortega and Madrigal each had an assist. Goalkeeper Pedro Palacios tallied four saves.

The team finishes its inaugural season 1-12-1 overall and 1-10-1 in NWAC East.

For the women, BMCC (0-16, 0-14 NWAC East) goalkeeper Ashley Mendes stopped 17 of 22 shots.

FOOTBALL: Bucks focused on containing Bulldogs' James, Neal

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Hermiston this week, especially on offense. The Bulldogs' offense runs through quarterback Andrew James, running back Jonathan Hinkle, and wide receiver Dayshawn Neal, who has caught 51 percent of Hermiston's completed passes this season.

"I think every coach I've talked to that played Hermiston has high praises of Neal and his ability to be worth a couple touchdowns," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said at practice on Wednesday. "The biggest thing that we've talked about as a program is what got us here and made us a solid defense is hopefully going to win us that football game, not changing what we've done. Do we see him (Neal) being a downfield threat? You bet. But at the same time we have some pretty tremendous athletes in our secondary matching up and our front 7 has been pretty good at run stopping so hopefully with good

scheme and athleticism we can contain the run game too."

It will be interesting to keep an eye on how Pendleton's defense tries to contain James' dual-threat abilities as well. The last time Pendleton played a true dual-threat QB was Week 1 against La Grande's Andrew Peasley, who ran around and threw through Pendleton's defense. But Davis is confident in his defense's improvement from Week 1 to attack James better than it did Peasley.

One boost will be the full return of junior outside linebacker Willie Camp, who is a full-go this week after an emergency appendectomy more than three weeks ago. Camp played sparingly last week against Bend, but will give the Buckaroos a boost in the run defense.

And offensively, Pendleton is facing a Hermiston defense that thrives on causing turnovers, but is susceptible to giving up the big plays. Davis says the key will be for the Buckaroos'

offense to run through quarterback Nick Bower and to limit turnovers.

"Nick's matured as a QB over the last few weeks mainly in taking care of the football and not trying to do too much with it and not turning the ball over," Davis said. "I truly think this game could come down to turnover ratio, if we give them more chances to be on offense, then we could be in for a long night but if we create some turnovers we're in a better position to be successful. But Nick has to be good, has to be on, our offensive line has to keep him clean."

ON BULLDOGS SIDE-LINE: Since Hermiston met its own demise against Mountain View in Week 3, the Bulldogs have been playing lights out on offense. Their winning streak is thanks to a balanced attack led by James and reliable targets in the backfield like Hinkle and fellow senior Peter Earl, and of course Neal — who is on the verge of eclipsing 800 receiving

years on the season.

The depth of the senior class is undeniable. Behind Neal, senior Tyler Rohrman has racked up 218 yards and two touchdowns on just eight catches and the Hinkle-Earl duo is just as big of a threat on defense. Also on defense, AJ Tuia and Joey Gutierrez pack a punch and have combined for 71 total tackles and Tuia lead the team with three sacks.

Hermiston has caused problems for opposing offenses all season, which is most recently highlighted by a 68-yard pick-six by Gutierrez in the Oct. 13 showdown with Bend. But with the big plays also comes some big mishaps.

When the Bulldogs enter Round-Up Stadium, they will need to have their cleanest offense performance to date.

Throughout the past eight weeks, Hermiston has fumbled the ball 12 times — only able to recover four of the 12 — and James' interception tally rose to five after a fluky play two weeks

ago against Bend where a Lava Bear broke through the offensive line and tipped and caught James' pass. Neal, who is James' favorite target, accounts for almost half of the fumbles (5). Some of those have been due to an extra effort on the part of Neal. One instance he had gotten the first down, and wanted to add a few more yards but instead lost control of the ball and gave up possession all together.

It will be a battle against Pendleton, and Hermiston needs to be in it for the long haul by not only playing hard, but also playing smart.

The defense will also need to be mistake free and put the pressure on Bower, who isn't afraid to get his feet dirty.

Stopping the run has been on Hermiston's to-do list all season. Twice this year, the Bulldogs have given up 300 or more rushing yards and while Pendleton might not be known for their run the defensive line better be ready if and when the secondary diminishes Bower's options.

BUCKAROOS: Don Requa peptalk helped salvage a Pendleton win in 1969

Continued from 1B

21-18. "We were fortunate and lucky to get out of there with a win to keep the streak alive," he said.

The 1969 meeting has become known as "the chicken game" to the locals, and Fouquette still chuckles about it.

During pre-game warmups that year in Hermiston, some Bulldog cheerleaders left some dead chickens in the home team's locker room designed to fire up their team to try and end the dreadful losing streak. The cheerleaders even left a note behind that was signed by the Buckaroos.

Fouquette said he and his team were clueless about the incident until a few years later when he became friends with a few Bulldog players and cheerleaders and was told of the incident.

"It's what makes it a huge rivalry," Fouquette said. "It's the biggest game of the year

to the citizens of Pendleton and Hermiston. It's really for bragging rights, Expectations are high for both teams to win."

When Fouquette was a senior in 1970, the Buckaroos again came into the game 7-0 but this time they were more prepared from the start and went on to win the game 17-7 thanks to a better mindset and, of course, another Requa pep talk.

"I can remember Requa saying 'Most of you guys are going to be living here (Pendleton) for the rest of your life and if you lose to them, you'll have to listen to them talk about this at weddings, funerals and graduations, so by god you better get out there, take care of business and win the football game,'" Fouquette recalled.

Hermiston finally ended the streak against Pendleton in 1984 with a 27-14 come-from-behind victory. But Pendleton again dominated the series for the next decade-plus with 13 straight victories

until the Bulldogs finally started to build a winning program in the late 1990s and won in 1997 and then again in 1999.

Mulvihill has seen both sides of the rivalry now after living in Hermiston for numerous years and as a school administrator and calls it a "very healthy rivalry between communities." He even remembers the day he interviewed for an administrator position with Hermiston years ago, the second question he was asked was where he would sit during the game.

However, as Pendleton was the big brother in the rivalry for more than half of a century, Hermiston has overtaken that role since the turn of the 21st century. The Bulldogs are 10-7 since 2000 and have won five straight to bring the all-time series record to 76-14-1. But that doesn't mean that guys like Fouquette, Mulvihill and Boor, who have all made friends with former Hermiston

players, don't miss the opportunity to reminisce about their dominant days.

"You always talk about it, even when I had my 40-and-over baseball team I had guys from Hermiston and we'd always reminisce," Fouquette said. "There's some good-natured ribbing that goes on but when you get older and become friends and know people better, some of that stuff goes away, but you'll always have bragging rights if your team wins. For us our teams were successful against Hermiston, and now we get to listen to those people from Hermiston that have been successful against us. It's not a lot of fun but they have the right, they won the game and can say what they want and we just have to grin and bear it because we've been there and that's part of the rivalry."

Which also makes it harder for Buckaroo alumni to hear that Friday's Pendleton-Hermiston game will be the 92nd and likely final

meeting. With Hermiston leaving the OSAA for the WAAA starting with the 2018-19 season, the Bulldogs will have just one non-league game with a floating bye week year-to-year, which makes scheduling a game with Pendleton very difficult. On top of that, Hermiston's enrollment is nearly twice the size of Pendleton's which begins to create a competitive balance issue, which is enforced more in today's OSAA than it was when the two schools began playing.

"There's a lot of factors involved," Hermiston athletic director Larry Usher said. "One of them is we only get one non-conference game a year, and it is during a rotating bye week. At the same time both of our schools, while we are really competitive in all sports including football, are really going different directions. Our community is continuing to grow and grow, and if there is a sport in high school athletics where numbers is an issue, it ends

up being football."

Understandably, Buckaroo alumni are devastated that the rivalry is ending.

"I wish they could keep the rivalry," Fouquette said. "The atmosphere is always good no matter where you're playing. It's still a very healthy rivalry that gets the kids excited, gets the coaches excited, and certainly gets the fans excited. I hate to see that go away, but like a lot of this redistribution within the OSAA a lot of rivalries have gone away like this one."

"Being on both sides of it, it makes me sad," Mulvihill added. "We used to have rivalries with La Grande, Baker, Ontario, all of these east side competitive games and were losing another part of that tradition. The games are great community-bonding, quality entertainment that's being taken away and it's disappointing."

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PIGSKIN PICKERS

Week 8

Overall: 56-14
Last Week: 9-1
Hermiston at Pendleton
Bend at Mt. View
Arlington at Pilot Rock
Burns at Irrigon
WSU at Arizona
USC at Arizona State
Utah at Oregon
Texans at Seahawks
Steelers at Lions
Broncos at Chiefs



Ron Gibbs



Clint Shoemaker



Eric Singer



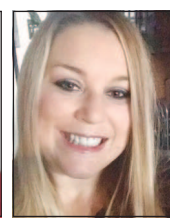
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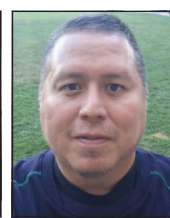
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Weston Putman



Brandon Case



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Seahawks
Steelers
Chiefs

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Chiefs

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