College Football

Beavers' Hicks-Onu making most of his chance

By KEVIN HAMPTON
Albany Democrat-Herald

As a redshirt freshman last season, Omar Hicks-Onu got the vast majority of his playing time in 12 games on special teams.

Through two years and seven games at Oregon State, Hicks-Onu had not gotten a start for the Beavers.

But a thinned out secondary and steady practice helped Hicks-Onu to the point where he was rotating with the first and second teams prior to the Stanford game. It helped that he had six solo tackles and a forced fumble a few weeks earlier at USC.

The day before the game, Hicks-Onu got the call and he practiced with the ones, then started at nickel against the Cardinal.

Hicks-Onu

Hicks-Onu's first thought was that he had to take advantage of the chance.

"The opportunity came, it's my third year here and I finally got the opportunity to start a game, so I can't screw it up," Hicks-Onu said. "I've got to go out there and do my thing."

He certainly did his thing. He had five total tackles, 1.5 for loss and came up with an interception on a good read of Stanford quarterback Keller Chryst.

Hicks-Onu did it with three weeks of practice at nickel.

"I thought he had a solid game and also he's kind of in a dual role. He'll play a little nickel and he'll play some safety. And so with that, that's two big responsibilities and he did a great job," defensive coordinator Kevin Clune said.

"I'm looking for him to continue to move forward after that and keep helping us out, but I thought he had a solid effort on Thursday night."

Hicks-Onu was happy glad to get a lot of time on the field instead of sticking mostly to special teams play.

"I got more plays last game than I've got since I've been here," he said. "So it felt good to finally be out on the field again and make a few plays, but the overall goal we want to see is a (win)."

He wasn't overly surprised by his ability to make some big plays.

"A few plays that stood out were just my (tackles for loss) and interception," he said. "But you know when you're going to make plays like that. It's just something that you think about all week and it's something you dream about every day, so it's not a surprise when it happens."

Hicks-Onu said he feels good about his game but was also expecting a better performance out of himself.

He wants to play a bigger role in helping the Beavers break through for some wins.

"I want to go make some more plays for the team so we can have success and just have fun together," he said. "The more plays I make, the more plays other people make. The more greedy the defense will want to be, the more plays everybody will make."

Man coverage and footwork are two areas he wants to perfect.

"(Those are) probably the most important keys because if you beat, sometimes that might be the last of it," he said. "And you're a linebacker at the same time, so you're run-first most of the time, so you have to force, you have to set the edge. You can't be nimble at nickel. You've got to go force something."

Hungalu status

Clune had no comment when asked about inside linebacker Manase Hungalu's status for Saturday's game at California.

Hungalu was cited for violent conduct by a Corvallis Police Department officer early Saturday morning for his part in a heated argument on the sidewalk near Qdoba on Monroe Avenue.

Hungalu did not seem to be participating in practice on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"I'm not going to talk about that," Clune said.

Clune said practices have gone well and he doesn't expect any letdowns from any players who might go on Saturday if Hungalu is out.

"Doug Tamoleau might have to play up some reps and (Jonathan) Willis is ready, he had a great game last week and let's see if he can keep improving. Hamilton (Hunt) is ready and Wes Payne is ready,"

PLAYOFFS: Tigers, Cougars hit the road for Round 1, Mustangs host

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the Tigers' offensive attack. Renner has taken off this year, Salas said, and will have a big role in keeping Monroe's offense off the field.

"We didn't give ourselves the best position in playoffs," Salas added. but we're going to go out there and make the most of it."

ECHO (7-2) at FALLS CITY (7-1), 7 p.m. — The Echo Cougars are hoping to accomplish a feat they haven't been able to since first joining Class 1A in 2000, and that's advancing to the quarterfinals.

The Cougars will get their chance at Falls City on Friday. Echo enters Round 1 of the 1A state championships as the No. 11 seed, and have been pitted against a tough opponent in No. 6 Falls City. The Mountaineers have been near perfect all season, as their lone loss came in Week 1 against Dufur, the defending state champion. After that 50-12 defeat, Falls City never looked back.

The Mountaineers record includes three shutout out wins, two of which where by 58 points and 60 points, and an 84-32 win against Yoncalla in Week 6. But Echo is no stranger to grand success this season, either.

Echo enters the match up coming off a 70-14 win over Harper Charter, and have defeated two other teams that have made the playoffs — a 34-20 win over Arlington/Condon to open the season and a close 36-24 victory against Cove in Week 8.

The Cougars haven't had a back-to-back playoff appearance since the 2008 and 2009 seasons. A win in Round 1 will put Echo against either Cover or Camas Valley.

SATURDAY

HEPPNER (5-3 overall) at NEAH-KAH-NIE (7-1 overall), 1 p.m. — Heppner will begin its postseason run Saturday, when it hosts the No. 9 seeded Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates. The Mustangs earned the No. 8 seed after an impressive run late in the season.

Heppner opened the year with three consecutive losses, but was finally able to turn the tide a week before league play opened with a 46-6 win over Toledo. The Mustangs only allowed 64 points against league opponents, while winning by a margin of 144 points on their way to a 5-3 overall record.

The offensive efforts have be led by senior Coby Dougherty, who has 931 all-purpose yards on the season. Dougherty has shared the back field with freshman quarterback Jayden Wilson, who has completed 44 percent of his passes for 709 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Dougherty's favorite target has been another senior, Beau Wolters, who has 20 receptions for 382 yards and six touchdowns, and he's the only Mustang to eclipse 100 receiving yards. But there's no question that Heppner has favored the run, and setting it up early will be the key against a team that has only given up 111 points all season.

Heppner is no stranger to postseason play, as this is its 20th consecutive year making the playoffs. In 2015, the Mustangs took home the state title in what was only their third championship game appearance.

To get back there, Heppner must contain an opponent who has also been successful toward to end of the season.

Neah-Kah-Nie will be coming to Heppner on a three-game winning streak, shutting out one opponent in the process (a 58-0 win over Gaston in Week 6).

Heppner's defense has had strong outings from defensive linemen Jason Rea and Wyatt Steagall. Rea has racked up 47 total tackles with Steagall trailing at 44 on the season.

Dougherty, who is dominated on both sides of the ball, is an asset at the heart of the defense. In his linebacker role, he's recorded 32 total tackles and one sack.

The game will be held at Les Payne Field at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

ARLINGTON/CONDON (5-4) at CRANE (7-1), 1 p.m. — Arlington/Condon hasn't had much success in the playoffs. In its first appearance last season the Honkers lost to Days Creek, 56-12. Now, they are hoping to turn that around when they make the nearly five hour trip down to Crane on Saturday.

But a win against the Mustangs will be hard fought. Crane, the 2016 state runners-up in each of the past two seasons, has only one loss this season, and that came in the season opening game against Hosanna Christian.

Since Week 1, the Mustangs have been on a roll. They have blow out their opponents with the biggest win in Week 4, a 102-12 victory over Huntington.

While Crane breezed through its schedule, Arlington has struggled as of late.

The Honkers were riding a five-game winning streak, which including three consecutive shutouts by 57 or more points. But that quickly ended in Week 7 when a loss to Dufur sparking a three-game skid to end the regular season.

If the No. 13 seeded Honkers can upset the No. 4 seeded Mustangs, they will play either North Douglas or Hosanna Christian in the quarterfinals.

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

BLAZERS: Overcome tough road loss with win in front of home crowd

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard drives to the basket on Los Angeles Lakers' Kyle Kuzma and Lonzo Ball during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017. The Blazers won 113-110.

AP Photo/Steve Dykes

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Lillard's free throws with 1:56 left. Kuzma made a hook shot on the other end, but Lillard answered with a layup before Nurkic made free throws for a 110-107 lead. The standing crowd chanted "Beat LA!"

But Kentavious Caldwell-Pope quieted the fans with a 3-pointer off an assist from Ball to tie it with 15.5 seconds left. Lillard hit the winner over the outstretched arm of Brandon Ingram after letting some time run off the clock. To the roar of the crowd, Lillard pointed to his wrist to indicate "Lillard Time."

Portland was playing the second of a back-to-back. The Blazers lost 112-103 in overtime to the Jazz in Utah on Wednesday night.

The Blazers were without Al-Farouq Aminu, who injured his right ankle on Wednesday night against the Jazz. The team posted a photo of the 6-foot-9 forward on crutches before Thursday's game.

Aminu was averaging 9.4 points and 8.1 rebounds this season. Noah Vonleh, who returned the night before following a shoulder injury in camp, started in his place.

The Blazers took a 35-23 lead late in the first quarter on Pat Connaughton's 3-pointer. McCollum had 13 points in the period, including 3-of-4 shooting from deep, and Portland led by as many as 18 points.

Kuzma sparked the Lakers off the bench with 11 points in 13 minutes, and the Lakers closed the gap to 66-62 at halftime.

The Lakers were coming off a 113-93 victory at home against the Pistons on Tuesday night.

TIP INS

Lakers: Los Angeles was 0 for 9 from 3-point range in the first half.

Trail Blazers: Rookie Zach Collins started the second half for the Blazers in place of Vonleh, who had collected four fouls. Collins, a 7-footer out of Gonzaga, was acquired by the Blazers in a draft-day deal with Sacramento.

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers host the Thunder on Sunday night.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday
No. 15 Stanfield at No. 2 Monroe (2A first round), 6 p.m.
No. 14 La Salle Prep at No. 3 Hermiston (5A first round), 7 p.m.
No. 13 Pendleton at No. 4 Churchill (5A first round), 7 p.m.
No. 11 Echo at No. 6 Falls City (1A first round), 7 p.m.
Saturday
No. 9 Neah-Kah-Nie at No. 8 Heppner (2A first round), 1 p.m.
No. 13 Arlington at No. 4 Crane (1A first round), 1 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Friday
No. 9 Heppner vs. No. 1 Culver (2A first round at Ridgeview High School), 8 a.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Friday
No. 6 Cottage Grove at No. 3 Mac-Hi (4A quarterfinals), 5 p.m.
Saturday
No. 14 Hermiston at No. 6 Bend (5A quarterfinals), 2 p.m.
No. 9 Oregon Episcopal at No. 1 Riverside (3A/2A/1A quarterfinals), 4 p.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Saturday
Heppner at 3A/2A/1A State Championships (Lane Community College), 10:35 a.m.
Mac-Hi at 4A State Championships (Lane Community College), 11:15 a.m.
Hermiston at 5A State Championships (Lane Community College), 1:15 p.m.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Friday
BMCC at Spokane, 6 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday
Montana Tech. at College of Idaho, 12 p.m.

Football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	2	0	.750	216	179
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	174	149
Miami	4	3	0	.571	92	152
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.444	191	207
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	4	3	0	.571	158	173
Jacksonville	4	3	0	.571	183	110
Houston	3	4	0	.429	215	188
Indianapolis	2	6	0	.250	142	246
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	167	131
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500	170	148
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	122	135
Cleveland	0	8	0	.000	119	202
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750	236	180
Denver	3	4	0	.429	127	147
L.A. Chargers	3	5	0	.375	150	152
Oakland	3	5	0	.375	169	190

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	1	0	.875	232	156
Dallas	4	3	0	.571	198	161
Washington	3	4	0	.429	160	180
N.Y. Giants	1	6	0	.143	112	156
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	191	145
Carolina	5	3	0	.625	148	142
Atlanta	4	3	0	.571	153	152
Tampa Bay	2	5	0	.286	148	168
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	179	135
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	164	161
Detroit	3	4	0	.429	176	169
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	134	171
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	2	0	.714	175	132
L.A. Rams	5	2	0	.714	212	138
Arizona	3	4	0	.429	119	191
San Francisco	0	8	0	.000	133	219

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Week 9
Thursday's Game
N.Y. Jets 34, Buffalo 21
Sunday's Games
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 10 a.m.
Baltimore at Tennessee, 10 a.m.
L.A. Rams at N.Y. Giants, 10 a.m.
Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 10 a.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 10 a.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 10 a.m.
Denver at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.
Washington at Seattle, 1:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.
Oakland at Miami, 5:30 p.m.
Monday's Game
Detroit at Green Bay, 5:30 p.m.

NCAA

Top 25 Schedule
Friday
No. 22 Memphis at Tulsa, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)
Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 19 LSU, 5 p.m. (CBS)
No. 2 Georgia vs. South Carolina, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)
No. 3 Ohio State at Iowa, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
No. 4 Wisconsin at Indiana, 9 a.m. (ABC)
No. 5 Notre Dame vs. Wake Forest, 12:30 p.m. (NBC)
No. 6 Clemson at No. 20 NC State, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
No. 7 Penn State at No. 24 Michigan State, 9 a.m. (FOX)
No. 8 Oklahoma at No. 11 Oklahoma State, 1 p.m. (FS1)
No. 9 Miami vs. No. 13 Virginia Tech, 5 p.m. (ABC)
No. 10 TCU vs. Texas, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
No. 12 Washington vs. Oregon, 7 p.m. (FS1)
No. 14 Iowa State at West Virginia, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
No. 15 UCF at SMU, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN2)
No. 16 Auburn at Texas A&M, 9 a.m. (ESPN)
No. 17 USC vs. No. 23 Arizona, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)
No. 18 Stanford at No. 25 Washington State, 12:30 p.m. (FOX)
No. 21 Mississippi State vs. UMass, 9 a.m.

Pac-12 Schedule
Friday
UCLA at Utah, 6:30 p.m. (FS1)
Saturday
Stanford at Washington State, 12:30 p.m. (FOX)
Oregon State at Cal, 2 p.m. (PAC12)
Colorado at Arizona State, 6 p.m. (PAC12)
Oregon at Washington, 7 p.m. (FS1)
Arizona at USC, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Soccer

MLS Playoffs
Conference Semifinals
First leg
Eastern Conference
Oct. 30: Toronto 2, New York 1
Oct. 31: Columbus 4, New York City FC 1
Western Conference
Oct. 29: Vancouver 0, Seattle 0, tie
Oct. 30: Portland 0, Houston 0, tie
Second leg
Eastern Conference
Sunday, Nov. 5: New York at Toronto, Noon
Sunday, Nov. 5: Columbus at New York City FC, 2 p.m.
Western Conference
Thursday, Nov. 2: Seattle 2, Vancouver 0
Sunday, Nov. 5: Houston at Portland, 4:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	13	10	2	1	21	53	36
Toronto	13	8	5	0	16	50	44
Ottawa	12	5	2	5	15	44	41
Boston	11	5	3	3	13	32	34
Detroit	13	6	6	1	13	37	38
Florida	11	4	6	1	9	40	44
Montreal	12	4	7	1	9	31	45
Buffalo	13	4	7	2	10	34	48
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	11	9	2	0	18	42	31
Pittsburgh	14	8	5	1	17	39	52
Columbus	12	8	4	0	16	37	30
N.Y. Islanders	13	7	5	1	15	48	42
Philadelphia	13	6	6	1	13	41	38
Washington	13	6	6	1	13	40	44
Carolina	11	4	5	2	10	31	35
N.Y. Rangers	13	4	7	2	10	40	47

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	13	10	2	1	21	44	30
Winnipeg	12	7	3	2	16	38	34
Dallas	13	7	6	0	14	36	37
Chicago	13	6	5	2	14	41	34
Colorado	12	7	5	0	14	39	37
Nashville	12	5	5	2	12	28	35
Minnesota	10	4	4	2	10	31	30
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	12	9	2	1	19	40	24
Vegas	12	8	4	0	16	42	33
San Jose	12	7	5	0	14	34	29
Vancouver	12	6	4	2	14	31	29
Anaheim	12	6	5	1	13	36	36
Calgary	12	6	6	0	12	28	33
Edmonton	11	3	7	1	7	24	36
Arizona	14	1	12	1	3	37	61

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

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Thursday's Games
Boston 2, Vegas 1
Washington 4, N.Y. Islanders 3
N.Y. Rangers 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT
Columbus 7, Florida 3
Ottawa 3, Detroit 1
Minnesota 6, Montreal 3
Philadelphia 2, St. Louis 0
Winnipeg 5, Dallas 2
Colorado 5, Carolina 3
Calgary 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT
Buffalo 5, Arizona 4
Toronto at Los Angeles
Friday's Games
New Jersey at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	2	.750	—
Toronto	4	3	.571	1½
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	2
New York	3	4	.429	2½
Brooklyn	3	5	.375	3
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	6	2	.750	—
Charlotte	5	3	.625	1
Washington	4	3	.571	1½
Miami	3	4	.429	2½
Atlanta	1	7	.125	5
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	5	3	.625	—
Detroit	5	3	.625	—
Milwaukee	4	4	.500	1
Cleveland	3	5	.375	2
Chicago	1	5	.167	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	6	3	.667	—
Memphis	5	3	.625	½
San Antonio	4	4	.500	1½
New Orleans	3	5	.375	2½
Dallas	1	8	.111	5
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	5	3	.625	—
Utah	5	3	.625	—
Portland	5	4	.556	½
Oklahoma City	4	3	.571	½
Denver	4	4	.500	1
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	5	2	.714	—
Golden State	6	3	.667	½
Phoenix	4	4	.500	1½
L.A. Lakers	3	5	.375	2½
Sacramento	1	7	.125	4½

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Thursday's Games
Golden State 112, San Antonio 92
Portland 113, L.A. Lakers 110
Friday's Games
Chicago at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Cleveland at Washington, 4 p.m.
Indiana at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Milwaukee at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Houston at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Charlotte at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Miami at Denver, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Utah, 6 p.m.
Boston at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Auto Racing

NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series
Playoff Points Standings
Through Oct. 29
1. Martin Truex Jr., 4117; 2. Kyle Busch, 4100; 3. Brad Keselowski, 4079; 4. Kevin Harvick, 4035; 5. Jimmie Johnson, 4050; 6. Ryan Blaney, 4047; 7. Denny Hamlin, 4045; 8. Chase Elliott, 4027.
Upcoming Schedule
Sunday — AAA Texas 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, 11 a.m. (TV: NBCSN)

Golf

Shriners Hospital for Children Open
Thursday
At TPC Summerlin
Las Vegas
Purse: $6.8 million
Yardage: 7,255; Par: 71 (35-36)
First Round Leaderboard

Whee Kim	32-33—65	-6
J.J. Spaun	32-34—66	-5
Ryan Blaum	34-32—66	-5
John Huh	31-35—66	-5
Alex Cejka	32-34—66	-5
Daniel Summerhays	34-33—67	-4
Peter Malnati	34-33—67	-4