

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Prep Football Playoffs

Dawgs ready for tough fight




La Salle's Tae Brooks runs the ball trailed by Keaton Mikami in the Bulldogs' 47-21 win against La Salle on Friday, Nov. 3, at Kennison Field in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris


No. 3 Hermiston hosts No. 6 South Albany in 5A quarterfinals

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

5A Quarterfinals



**S. Albany
Rebels
(6-4)**



**Hermiston
Bulldogs
(8-2)**

• Friday, 7 p.m.
• at Kennison Field

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs were coming off a not-so-hot week of practice to open Round 1 of the 5A playoffs. But after a sluggish start, the Bulldogs (8-2) responded in only a way they could and defeated La Salle Prep 47-12 to move onto the quarterfinals.

Last week, the mantra was win one to host one more. This week, as Hermiston welcomes South Albany for

its first quarterfinal home game, there's a new saying. "We keep telling our kids that we are one of eight," head coach David Faaeteete said. "After this week, we have a chance to be one of

four." Faaeteete and quarterback Andrew James both admitted that before entering last week's game, the Bulldogs didn't have their greatest week of practice. That's not the case as they enter Week 11.

"They were way more dialed in on Monday's practice than they were last week," Faaeteete said Tuesday. "Last week was maybe an emotional roller coaster, after the big Pendleton win and going into their

first playoff game, but now they have settled down quite a bit."


The plan going into the week is the same as it has been all season. Hermiston will look to establish the play action pass by setting up the ground game early, and fans can count on seeing play-makers continuing to make big plays as the Bulldogs will work on finding whoever the open receiver is. As of late, that's been more than just senior Dayshawn Neal.

See DAWGS/2B


Mustangs ready for rematch with Buckaroos

Heppner, St. Paul to meet in 2A quarterfinals

2A Quarterfinals



**#8 Heppner
Mustangs
(6-3)**



**#1 St. Paul
Buckaroos
(9-0)**

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

• Sat., 1 p.m.
• at Newberg High School

Under head coach Greg Grant, the Heppner Mustangs have developed a winning consistency over the last two-plus decades that is matched by only a few schools in the state.

The Mustangs are in the OSAA state playoffs for the 20th consecutive season and after a first round win over Neah-Kah-Nie on Saturday, the Mustangs are back in the quarterfinals for the sixth consecutive season. Though earning a trip to the state semifinals for the fifth straight time will be a tough task this weekend for the No. 8 seed Mustangs.

Heppner travels to Newberg High School on Saturday afternoon to take on the No. 1 seed St. Paul Buckaroos, a rematch between two teams that met during Week 1 of the regular season. St. Paul won that meeting 40-0, though the Mustangs know they are a different team than the one that took the field that night.

"We're a lot better than we were back then," Heppner senior Wyatt Steagall said after Saturday's first round game. "We've made a lot of changes and I think it's going to be one heck of a game to be honest."

But the Buckaroos surely have improved from that meeting as well, and come into Saturday looking every bit the part of the No. 1 team in 2A. St. Paul, in its fourth season since moving up from Class 1A, is a perfect 9-0 on the season and won the Tri-River Conference. It had five regular season wins over playoff teams, including Heppner, No. 2 Monroe (42-12), No. 5 Santiam (38-12), No. 10 Kennedy (54-14) and No. 13 Central Linn (62-27).

The Buckaroos also defeated No. 16 Lost River 46-13 in the first round last week.

Grant said on Saturday that his Mustangs are looking forward to getting another shot at the Buckaroos.

"Oh yeah we're excited to play anybody this time of year," he said. "We know how good they are, don't mistake it. They're very well-coached and a tough team and we're just going to go play as hard as we can and see what happens."

The Mustangs are a much different team than the one that was outgained 370-120 by the Buckaroos to start 2017. That was a


See MUSTANGS/2B

NFL


Seahawks seem to love the desert, look for another win there

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

Thursday Night Football



**Seattle
Seahawks
(5-3)**



**Arizona
Cardinals
(4-4)**

• Thurs., 5:25 p.m., NBC
• at U. of Phoenix Stadium

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The Seattle Seahawks must love the desert.

They've beaten coach Bruce Arians' Cardinals three of the past four times they've played there. The exception was last season's excruciating 6-6 tie, a Sunday night game when Arizona and Seattle both missed chip-shot field goals that would have won the game in overtime.

"It was old-time football," Arizona coach Bruce Arians said. "I've never been in a game with 97 snaps on offense and you only score six points."

It's the latest matchup between NFC West foes where home field doesn't seem to mean much. The Cardinals have won in three of its past four trips to Seattle, but the Seahawks have dominated in Arizona.

The Seahawks (5-3) will be favored again when they face the Cardinals (4-4) on

Thursday night, with Seattle's tough defensive front aiming to stop Adrian Peterson, who literally is carrying the offensive load since coming to the Cardinals.

With quarterback Carson Palmer out with a broken arm, Arizona is leaning on Peterson even more.

Thursday night's game comes just four days after the 32-year-old running back carried a career-high 37 times for 159 yards in the Cardinals' 20-10 victory at San Francisco.

"I'm feeling good," Peterson said on Wednesday. "My body's feeling fresh. I'm ready to roll. I'm sure they are as sore as us, so it's going to be a battle of will." The Seahawks are coming



In this Sunday, Nov. 5, file photo, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) scrambles away from Washington Redskins defensive end Stacy McGee (92) in the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle. AP Photo/Stephen Brashear

off a home loss to Washington.

"We took a step back last week," coach Pete Carroll said. "We didn't play like we wanted to, but over the last month or so, we've been playing pretty good football. We're moving in the right direction."

Seattle not only has to play on short rest, but must travel to play the game.

"If you're going to play on Thursday night," Arians said, "home is a huge advantage."

The Cardinals, whose wins have come against teams that are a combined 5-21, will need all the advan-

tages they can muster.

The Seahawks had several players miss practice in the short week due to injuries. Most will probably play, but running back Eddie Lacy (groin) and defensive end Marcus Smith (concussion) are out, and safety Earl Thomas (heel) is listed as doubtful.

Here are some things to consider when Seattle faces Arizona:

KICKING WOES: The teams got rid of the kickers who missed those field goals in last season's 6-6 tie — Seattle's Stephen Hauschka and Arizona's Chandler Catanzaro — and figured they had upgraded.

But Blair Walsh missed three field goals in Sunday's loss to the Redskins. And 42-year-old Phil Dawson, one of the most consistent kickers in recent years, has missed six for Arizona, equaling his misses for the previous two seasons combined.

Four of Dawson's misfires have come from 40 yards and

in. **RUNNING RAWLS:** With Lacy out, the Seahawks will rely on Thomas Rawls as their primary ball carrier.

Rawls rushed for a season-high 39 yards last week against Washington. It's far from an impressive total, but it came on nine carries and the 4.3 yards per carry were a drastic improvement for Seattle's run game.

FLAG FEST: Carroll was bothered this week after Seattle was penalized 16 times against Washington, one off the franchise record in a game. It was the second time in three weeks the Seahawks threatened the team mark after having 15 in a victory over the New York Giants.

Ten of the penalties came on offense, with all five starting offensive linemen picking up at least one. It was a major lack of discipline by the Seahawks, and while Seattle has never been the cleanest team under Carroll, this level of sloppiness is not sustainable.

Sports shorts

Packers waive TE Bennett

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers have waived Martellus Bennett, bringing the tight end's short tenure at Lambeau Field to a surprising end.

General manager Ted Thompson announced the move on Wednesday after practice.

The Packers cited a "failure to disclose a physical condition" for making the move. Bennett was added to the injury report after the bye last week with a shoulder injury. He did not play in the 30-17 loss on Monday to the Detroit Lions. Bennett also posted on Instagram during the bye week a message that indicated he was thinking about retirement.

Bennett signed with the Packers as an unrestricted free agent last offseason and started seven games. He had 24 catches for 233 yards.



Bennett

"There are actually some road course races that I might be interested in running. We've actually discussed it in-house here, but we don't have anything near worth announcing by any means."

— Tony Stewart

The three-time NASCAR champion expressed interest in getting back in a stock car Wednesday as he introduced Aric Almirola as the newest driver at Stewart-Haas Racing.

Celtics beat Lakers 107-96 for 10th consecutive victory

BOSTON (AP) — Aron Baynes matched his career high with 21 points, Kyrie Irving scored 19 and the Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers 107-96 on Wednesday for their 10th straight victory.

Baynes also had eight rebounds and three assists, and Boston improved to 10-2 even as Al Horford sat out after being placed in concussion protocol earlier in the day. The Celtics also lost rookie forward Jayson Tatum late in the second quarter, when he went to the locker room with a sore right ankle.

Boston led by 20 in the second quarter before letting the lead shrink to two in the third. Los Angeles then struggled down the stretch, shooting 5 of 18 from the field with six turnovers in the final period.

Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 18 points apiece.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1912 The lateral pass is used as an offensive weapon for the first time by Worcester Tech coach William F. Carney.

1996 Evander Holyfield pounds Mike Tyson into submission at 37 seconds of the 11th round to win the WBA heavyweight title in Las Vegas. Holyfield becomes the second man to hold a piece of the heavyweight title three times.

2014 Landon Donovan scores three goals and sets up Robbie Keane's goal, propelling the LA Galaxy into the Western Conference finals with a 5-0 victory over Real Salt Lake.

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