

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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PENDLETON



Pendleton's Denisa Senkerikova (8) jockeys for position with Hermiston's Hannah Thompson in the Bucks' 3-0 loss to the Bulldogs on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's shining star

Exchange student from Czech Republic dazzled on the pitch, voted CRC Player of the Year and 5A first team all-state

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The 2017 season was another tough one for the Pendleton girls soccer team.

The Buckaroos put together a 1-10-2 overall record, went 0-6 in the Columbia River Conference, and were outscored 53-15 as the school continues to develop and build up its program.

However, there were a few bright spots to watch on the field, one of those being a small, blonde forward wearing the No. 8 on her jersey — a girl by the name of Denisa Senkerikova.

A junior foreign exchange student from Czech Republic, Senkerikova dazzled her way around opponents this season, as she led the Buckaroos in goals and assists.

"It was fun," Senkerikova said in an interview, describing her season in

the United States. "New girls, and new team and I just like playing soccer."

Senkerikova, 17, hails from the town of Uhersky Brod in the southeastern Czech Republic, with a population similar to Pendleton's. She has an older sister, Dominika, who was also an exchange student at Lone Community Charter School in 2011, when she starred on the Cardinals' volleyball team that went 23-0 to win the Class 1A state championship. Now Dominika plays volleyball at Division-II school Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. Those experiences in the US shared to her by her sister only made Denisa want to study in the US as well.

Senkerikova has played soccer since she was very young, following in the footsteps of her grandfather and her father, Pavel, who played before her and taught her the art of the game. In the Czech Republic, there are not

See STAR/2B



Denisa Senkerikova poses with her various all-Columbia River Conference and Oregon Class 5A all-state awards recently in Pendleton. Senkerikova, 17, is a foreign exchange student from the Czech Republic.

Photo courtesy of Charity Boyer

NFL

Zeke's return a major test for struggling Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Seattle's Michael Bennett was clearly paying attention when news started circulating of the workouts Ezekiel Elliott was doing to stay in shape during his suspension.

"He definitely going to have fresh legs," Bennett said on Thursday. "I've seen the pictures. He looks like he's been working out every single day on the beach. I know he's ready to go out there and run."

Healthy, motivated and still with playoff aspirations, Elliott will make his return on Sunday against the Seahawks, and the timing could not be worse for

Week 16



Seattle Seahawks
(8-6)



Dallas Cowboys
(8-6)

• Sunday, 1:05 p.m. (TV: FOX)
• at AT&T Stadium, Arlington, TX

Seattle.

They are battered by injuries on defense, fatigued from a long season that has seen their defensive line wear down and have no room for error needing wins in their final two games to have any playoff hopes.

Those factors don't even take into account some fundamental problems

that have plagued the Seahawks the past two weeks and allowed the Jaguars and Rams to run wild.

"We made some misses in some reads and some things that could be a lot sharper, and it just leads to the easy yardage for them," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "Good running backs take advantage of that."

While Leonard Fournette and Todd Gurley are outstanding running backs that took advantage of their opportunities against Seattle, a healthy, rested Elliott is not what the Seahawks wanted to see with their season on the line.

The Seahawks problems first surfaced in the second half against Jacksonville after Bobby Wagner and

See SEAHAWKS/2B



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear, File

In this Aug. 25, 2016, file photo, Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) rushes against the Seattle Seahawks in a preseason game in Seattle. The Seahawks play against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. The winning team is still in the NFC wild-card race. The loser isn't.

Sports shorts

LeBron, Cavs win 12th straight at home

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 34 points, Kevin Love added 27 and the Cleveland Cavaliers won their 12th straight home game, 115-112 over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night as injured point guard Isaiah Thomas moved even closer to his return.

James had 11 points in the fourth quarter and dropped a pair of free throws with 11.1 seconds left as the Cavs won for the 19th time in 21 games and ended Chicago's seven-game winning streak.

With Cleveland's Jae Crowder guarding him closely, Chicago's Denzel Valentine was short with a tying 3-pointer in the final second.

Dwyane Wade had three steals and two blocks in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which improved to 3-0 against the Bulls this season.



James

No. 10 Oregon defeats No. 19 Texas A&M again, 84-62

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Maitte Cazorla scored 26 points, Sabrina Ionescu added 25, and No. 10 Oregon beat No. 19 Texas A&M 84-62 on Thursday in the Duel in the Desert.

It was the second time the teams played this season. The Ducks won at Texas A&M, 83-68, on Nov. 16 in the Preseason Women's NIT.

Ruthy Hebard had 10 points and eight rebounds for the Ducks, who played their third straight SEC opponent after losing at No. 5 Mississippi State and beating Mississippi.

Oregon (10-2) came into the tournament ranked third in the nation in offense, averaging 89.6 points. The Ducks, who ranked sixth in the NCAA in field goal shooting at 51.5 percent, made 27 of 50 shots (54 percent), including 12 of 24 from 3-point range.

Danni Williams led the Aggies with 22 points.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1894 — The United States Golf Association is founded, becoming the governing body for the game in the country.

1996 — Brett Hull becomes the 24th player in NHL history to score 500 goals, with a hat trick in the St. Louis Blues' 7-4 win over the Los Angeles Kings.

2003 — Brett Favre passes for 399 yards and four touchdowns a day after his father dies, moving into second place in NFL history for career TD passes while leading the Green Bay Packers to a 41-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders. Favre passes Fran Tarkenton on the NFL's career list with his 343rd career TD throw.

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