

FOOTBALL: Heppner hosting Rookie Tackle jamboree on Sept. 8

Continued from 1B

• Rule changes: There are no three-point stances for either offensive or defensive line positions. Instead, players at those positions will start in upright, two-point stances, which will decrease the chances for blows to the head coming out of the three-point stances.

OSAA Assistant Executive Director Brad Garrett, who sits on USA Football's Board of Directors, said in an interview that he believes Rookie Tackle could be a good way to help participation in football at the high

school level increase again. According to the National Federation of High School Athletics Association surveys, participation in 11-man football at the high school level in Oregon has decreased each of the last four years, from 13,212 players in 2013 to 12,185 in 2016.

"For me it's all about the future of the game," Garrett said, who has been around football as a player, coach and executive for 40 years. "If someone didn't step in an affect change, I'm not sure of what the future held. Our goal should be to retain

more players and minimize the risk, and this (Rookie Tackle) does that."

While the OSAA can't instruct individual youth leagues to implement Rookie Tackle, Garrett said that the OSAA would like to see the structure in all leagues like Heppner will have this fall with flag football, Rookie Tackle and then to tackle football starting in seventh grade.

"Coach Grant is a leader that is taking charge, which is what we like to see," Garrett said. "My pitch is to reach out to the high school coaches and open their eyes

to the subject. If the OSAA will get anything done, we know it will be through leadership and we'll find it with the head football coaches to make a difference."

Heppner is hosting a Rookie Tackle Jamboree on September 8 with John Day and Stanfield youth programs already committed to playing, and he said Boardman is also interested. Pendleton Youth Football president Ron Smith said that he and people involved with PYF have looked into Rookie Tackle, but it's not something that they have discussed as a board as of

yet. "It's definitely worth a look," Smith said. "We're noticing a decline in our numbers over the last few years, some kids just moving away, some kids playing other sports and others because of the concussions fear. ... It's definitely on the table, maybe in the next two years."

Smith added that the City of Pendleton Parks and Recreation started a pee wee flag football program for grades 1-4 this summer, and that PYF hopes to team up with that program to increase participation.

Grant admitted that it won't be an easy implementation, especially when it comes to trying to prove to parents that have either played tackle football or already had kids go through tackle at the youth level that Rookie Tackle isn't some sort of step backwards.

"Instead of 11 on 11, it'll just be 8 on 8 or something, with kids playing different positions," Grant said. "It should be fun."

Contact Eric at esinger@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-039. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

MARINERS: King Felix returns from DL

Continued from 1B

since blowing a save but getting the win for the American League in the All-Star Game, pitched a scoreless ninth for his league-leading 37th save.

ROSTER SHUFFLE

Seattle called up first baseman Daniel Vogelbach and outfielder John Andreoli from Triple-A Tacoma and outrighted pitcher Mike Morin. The name missing from Seattle's roster moves was catcher Mike Zunino, who was thought to be ready to come off the disabled list following the All-Star break after missing time with a bone bruise in his left ankle. Manager Scott Servais said Zunino is expected to play at least a couple of games this weekend at Tacoma before he's likely to be recalled.

The addition of two position players is likely to be a short-term move with Seattle bringing Felix Hernandez off the DL to start Saturday.

TRAINER'S ROOM:

Mariners: Left-handed starter James Paxton will throw a bullpen session on Saturday and is on track to return to the rotation against San Francisco early next week. Paxton went on the disabled list on July 13 with lower back stiffness. He said he threw a little during the All-Star break, but the bullpen will tell if he's ready to go next week.

UP NEXT:

White Sox: RHP Dylan Covey (3-5) takes the hill Saturday in the second game of the three-game set at Safeco Field. Covey is 0-4 with an 11.70 ERA and six home runs allowed over his last five starts.

Mariners: Hernandez (8-7) returns from a DL stint with lower back stiffness. He has allowed three or fewer runs in each of his last five starts.

Mariners extend contract of manager Scott Servais

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners will have some continuity in the managerial chair for a change.

Seattle signed Scott Servais to a multiyear contract extension Friday as the club opened the second half of the season in position to potentially end the longest current play-off drought in the four major pro sports.

The extension was a reward after Servais led Seattle to a 58-39 record prior to the All-Star break and a hold on the second wild-card spot in the American League. Seattle hasn't been to the postseason since 2001.

"I'm still learning and I look forward to learning," Servais said. "It's about our players and how we prepare and how do we beat the opponent. You constantly are trying to get better at this. I'd like to say I have it all figured out; far from it. And I don't see myself ever being that way."

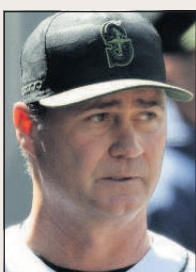
Servais is 222-199 since arriving in Seattle in 2016, the first managerial job of his career. Seattle went 87-75 in Servais' first season, before dipping to 78-84 last year as Seattle was mired in injury issues. Servais, 51, previously worked in the front offices of the Los

Angeles Angels and Texas Rangers.

What's notable about the Servais extension is the rare continuity it will create in Seattle. Assuming nothing unexpected forces a change, Servais will be just the third manager in the club's history to begin a fourth season in charge of the Mariners. Darrell Johnson, the team's first-ever manager in 1977, was let go midway through his fourth season in 1980. Lou Piniella was Seattle's manager from 1993-2002.

Since Piniella left after the 2002 season, Seattle had eight different managers or interim managers over the following 13 seasons. Only one — Eric Wedge — completed three full seasons in charge of the club.

"If I had to pick one single-most important thing in any organization, that's it. It's that synergy, that connection, the communication between the general manager and manager," Dipoto said. "Any other relationships in the organization can be solved or you might be able to build a bridge between them, but if the manager and general manager don't see things on a similar plane or have the ability to debate and arrive at a conclusion that works for everybody, you'll never win."



Servais

LEGION: Rosales 3-for-3, 3 RBI

Continued from 1B

Baker squeezes by Hermiston with late score

LA GRANDE — For the second straight day, Hermiston's Legion baseball team lost in a close manner, falling 6-5 to Baker on Friday.

Hermiston () scored once in the first on Alexis Rosales's RBI double to left that scored Ethin Randolph for a 1-0 lead at the time. After Baker took a 3-1 lead in the second, Hermiston rallied to the lead in the third.

Rustin Edmiston got the scoring started with a RBI single to left that scored Kelson Robertson, and then Ethin Randolph hit a RBI triple to tie it and Rosales hit his second double of the game to score Randolph for a 4-3 Hermiston lead.

Baker jumped back into the lead in the fourth, but Hermiston got even in fifth when Edmiston scored on a fielder's choice. A sacrifice fly in the bottom of the sixth scored the winning run for Baker to make it a 6-5 game.

Rosales was a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate with three RBI to lead Hermiston, while Randolph was 2-for-3 and scored twice. Tyson Stocker also had two hits, and Edmiston was 1-for-1 with two runs.

Edmiston also pitched all six innings, striking out eight and allowing seven hits and six runs.

Hermiston plays La Grande on Saturday at 11 a.m.

	HRM	103010	0	-	R	H	E
BAK	120201	X	-	6	7	1	

NEW 2018 TACOMA **\$299** /MO
SR5 DBL CAB V6 4X4
On Approved Credit

stk# 18H821. New 2018 Toyota Tacoma. MSRP \$35,563. \$1,000 Toyota Financial Service Rebate. 36month/12k miles per year lease = \$299/mo. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end. On approved credit. Net cap cost: \$35,504.88. Plus tax, title and \$75 doc fee. No security deposit required. Offer expires 7/31/18.

NEW 2018 CAMRY SE **\$296** /MO
On Approved Credit

stk# 18H682. New 2018 Toyota Camry se. MSRP \$26,774. \$500 Toyota Financial Service Rebate. 12k miles per year lease with \$0 cash down = \$296/mo. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end. On approved credit. Net cap cost: \$25,081. Plus tax, title and \$75 doc fee. No security deposit required. Offer expires 7/31/18.

ALL NEW 2018 RAV4 AND RAV4 HYBRIDS IN STOCK!

\$3,500 REBATES

Includes \$1,000 TFS Customer Cash plus \$2,500 Cash Back directly from Toyota Motor Sales On approved credit. Plus tax, title and \$75 doc fee. Offer expires 7/31/18.

We Care About What You're Driving!

541.567.6461 | 1.800.522.2308

1550 N. 1st Street
Hermiston, OR 97838

toyotaofhermiston.com |

SERVICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7 am - 5:30 pm SAT 8 am - 5 pm SALES HOURS: MON-SAT 8:30 am - 7 pm SUN 10 am - 5 pm