

Prep football

East wins in Shrine Game comeback

By GERRY STEELE
Baker City Herald

The East scored two touchdowns in the final 7:34 of the fourth quarter Saturday night to earn a 20-8 come-from-behind win over the West in the 66th-annual East-West Shrine All-Star Football Game at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

The win, the East's fourth straight, improves the East's overall lead in the series to 33-30-3. The game is a fundraiser for the Portland Shriners Hospital for Children.

Trailing 8-6 in the fourth quarter, the East rallied on a 57-yard, 8-play drive.

The big play was a 34-yard pass from Ontario's Mike Mejia to Jacob Justensen of Sherman, setting the East up with a first down at the West 7.

Three running plays later, Stayton's Jerry Daniels gave the East

the lead for good on a 1-yard sweep to the left. Mejia connected with Ben Dunn of Cascade Christian for the two-point conversion and a 14-8 East lead.

Approximately three minutes later, Glide's Cyller Cunningham scored on a 1-yard run to cap the scoring.

The East scored on its first possession in the first quarter when Cascade Christian's Holden Schaan connected with Daniels on a 9-yard swing pass with 5:04 left in the period.

The score remained 6-0 East until 10:49 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Then, the West mounted its only sustained drive leading to a 44-yard touchdown pass from St. Paul's Holden Smith to Brandon Piette of Regis.

On the play, the left-handed Smith rolled to his left and found Piette breaking toward the end zone at the East 5. Piette caught the ball

over his shoulder and beat an East defender to the end zone.

The rest of the game saw the teams combine for seven turnovers and 17 penalties for 155 yards.

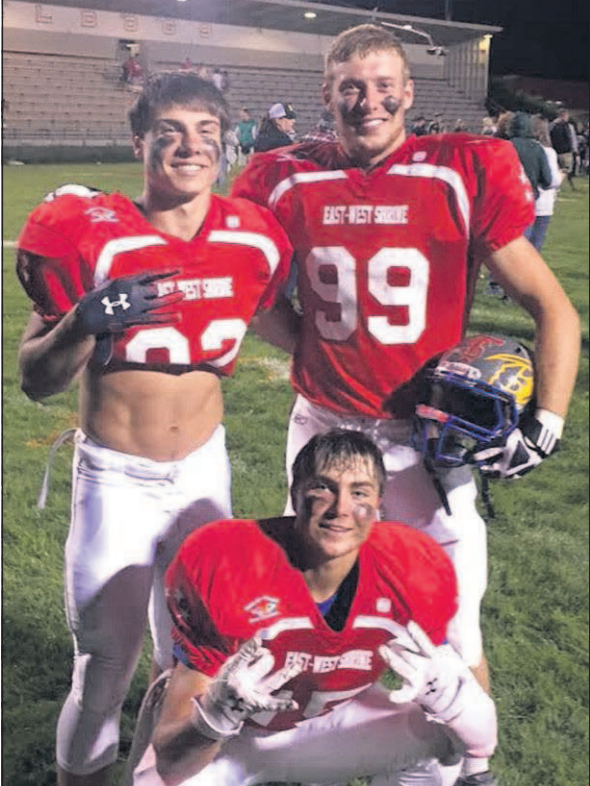
The game was delayed for about half an hour due to a thunderstorm that passed through the Baker City area at about 7:30 p.m.

The storm hit just at the end of the first quarter, sending the teams to their respective locker rooms.

Play resumed shortly after 8 p.m. During the delay a bright rainbow could be seen stretching from South Baker over Baker High School toward Virtue Flat.

Daniels led East running backs with 42 yards on 8 carries. Schaan finished 9-of-13 passing for 100 yards. Dunn caught five passes for 55 yards.

Dru Cook of Scio led the West squad with 41 yards on six carries. Smith was 7-of-16 passing for 99 yards. Wyatt Riedel of Estacada caught three passes for 34 yards.



Wyatt Steagall (99) from Heppner, Brett Speed (82) from Weston-McEwen and Chris Weinke (15) from Pilot Rock pose for a photo after the East-West Shrine Game on Saturday in Baker City. The trio played for the East team, which won in comeback fashion.

Photo contributed by John Steagall

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Oregon's Vernon Adams Jr. signals to his teammates during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Arizona State Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, in Tempe, Ariz. Oregon defeated Arizona State 61-55 in triple overtime. In 2017 scoring was down in college football, a drop of about a point and a half per game per team to 28.8.

AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Slow down!

Fast-football craze epitomized in Oregon's glory years shows signs of fading in 2017

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

The result of the play is a first down and the offense rushes to the line of scrimmage and sets up, linemen in their three-point stances, receivers out wide. The quarterback directs traffic, barks out something or other, maybe claps his hands, and then ... he stops and looks to the sideline for a play to be signaled.

Hurry-up offense? More like hurry-up-and-wait.

The fast-paced, no-huddle offenses made fashionable by Chip Kelly, Rich Rodriguez and most of the Big 12, fueling a scoring frenzy in college football

for more than a decade, are becoming less prevalent.

Last season scoring was down in college football, a drop of about a point and a half per game per team to 28.8, and the lowest mark since 2011 (28.3). But a deeper look into the numbers shows that defensive coordinators don't have much to celebrate. Offenses are still performing at a high level. They were, generally, just operating more slowly in 2017. And there is reason to believe this is the new normal as the allure of playing fast dissipates.

"I think that what's happened is you have a group of us that are playing ultra-fast and some people that tried to get into it that really don't understand it, they're playing slower," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said this spring.

FBS teams averaged 69.9 plays per game in 2017, down from 71.6 the season before and the fewest since 2011. Eighty-

three of 129 FBS teams last season ran fewer plays per game than in 2016. Seven teams averaged at least 80 plays per game last year, half as many as in 2016 and the fewest since 2011. There were 31 teams that ran fewer plays per game last season than in 2016, but saw their average time of possession increase.

Championship Analytics Inc., a company that provides dozens of FBS schools a weekly advanced metrics breakdown of their upcoming game, uses drives per game to measure pace. Responding to a request from The Associated Press, CAI's research showed drives per game have been decreasing in FBS for the last three seasons. In 2014, FBS games averaged 25.12 drives per game. Last season that dropped to 24.39. Points per drive, however, have remained relatively steady. In

See SLOW/2B

M's rebound after lost lead to win in 12th

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ryon Healy had a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the 12th inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Texas Rangers 4-3 on Monday night after blowing an early three-run lead.

Mitch Haniger scored from second base when Healy hit a hard grounder through the left side of the infield. Haniger had doubled into the left field corner off Eddie Butler (2-2) a pitch after Jean Segura was thrown out trying to steal second base.

Sam Tuivailala (4-3), the seventh Seattle pitcher, had a perfect 11th for his first decision in four appearances since getting acquired July 27 in a trade from St. Louis. Edwin Diaz pitched the 12th for his majors-best 42nd save in 45 chances despite allowing a pair of singles.

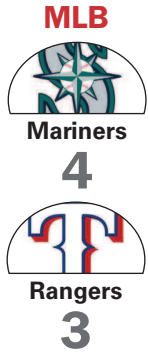
Mike Zunino homered for the Mariners, who have won back-to-back games since a season-worst five-game losing streak.

The Rangers trailed 3-0 before six consecutive batters reach base in the seventh against starter Wade LeBlanc and three relievers.

LeBlanc was done after Elvis Andrus' one-out single that extended his hitting streak to 17 games, his career best and the longest active streak in the majors. Adam Warren then walked a batter, allowed an RBI double to Jurickson Profar and hit Robinson Chirinos on his hand on a full-count pitch to load the bases. Mariners manager Scott Servais argued the pitch hit the knob of the bat, but the call stood after a 2-minute replay review.

Zach Duke walked Joey Gallo, the only batter he faced, with the bases loaded to force in a run before Alex Colome allowed an RBI single to Isiah Kiner-Falefa for a 3-3 tie.

After Healy led off the sixth with a double and scored on Cameron Maybin's single, Seattle loaded the bases with no



See MARINERS/2B

Sports shorts

NASCAR chairman France takes leave after DWI, drug arrest

(AP) — NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France announced on Monday he was taking an indefinite leave of absence following his arrest in the Hamptons on charges of driving while intoxicated and criminal possession of oxycodone.

France was seen blowing through a stop sign in Sag Harbor on Sunday and later had a blood-alcohol content that was more than twice the legal limit for driving, smelled of booze and slurred his words, police said.

UNC: 13 players suspended for selling school-issued shoes



CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Less than a year after emerging from a long run of NCAA issues, North Carolina is dealing with rule violations again — this time for football players selling team-issued shoes.

The school announced Monday that 13 players will miss games serving suspensions for the secondary NCAA violations, which will leave the

Tar Heels shorthanded during much of the season's opening month. While secondary violations are generally considered less severe, the penalties in this case will result in several players being forced to sit out at least a third of the regular-season schedule.

In all, nine players will miss four games, two will sit two games and two others will miss one contest.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1907 — Walter Johnson wins the first of his 417 victories leading the Washington Senators to a 7-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

2007 — San Francisco's Barry Bonds hits home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record. Noticeably absent are commissioner Bud Selig and Aaron.

2016 — Ichiro Suzuki triples off the wall for his 3,000th hit in the major leagues, becoming the 30th player to reach the milestone as the Marlins beat the Rockies 10-7.

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