



PENDLETON

Bucks ready to break out

With numerous returners, Pendleton looking for first playoff win since 2002

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Following consecutive 3-6 seasons, things finally got back on track for the Pendleton Buckaroos in 2017.

The Buckaroos finished the season 5-5 and qualified for the Class 5A playoffs for the first time since 2014, where they competed well against the eventual state runner-up Churchill Lancers before the game slipped away in the



Staff photo by Eric Singer

Pendleton's Trent Sorey waits to run a drill during Thursday's practice at the Round-Up Pavilion in Pendleton. Sorey, a senior, begins the season as Pendleton's starting quarterback after serving as the back-up for the past two seasons.

"I just want to win some football games"

— Trent Sorey,
Pendleton starting quarterback

second half. A large part of Pendleton's success was from the production from its then-junior class; a talented 22-person group that head coach Erik Davis had been watching closely since the kids were in middle school.



Staff photo by Eric Singer

Pendleton head football coach Erik Davis, right, talks with seniors Cam Sandford, center, and Shawn Yeager, left, prior to Thursday's practice. Smoke from wildfires in the Northwest forced the Buckaroos to move practice indoors to the Pendleton Round-Up Pavilion.

The class produced 11 all-district selections, and two of those kids, linebacker Kirk Liscom and punter Gabe Umbarger, also earned all-state mentions. And with all 22 kids back for their senior seasons and only a handful of seniors to replace, Davis is feeling excited about what his team can do this fall.

"Being that my son (Blake) is a senior, I've known these kids for a long time," Davis said at practice on Thursday. "I've watched them compete in everything from Little League to wrestling to basketball, and I've been looking forward to this year for a long time. I just knew this was a special group, and they haven't disappointed right now in practice."

The biggest change this fall will be at the quarterback position, as two-year starter Nick Bower, who threw for more than 2,000 yards and 20 touchdowns last

season, graduated in the spring. The next man up at the position will be senior Trent Sorey, who served as Bower's primary backup for the past two seasons.

Sorey, also a standout calf roper on the Intermountain High School Rodeo team and National High School Finals Rodeo qualifier, is a prototypical dual-threat quarterback with superb scrambling skills to go with a strong right throwing arm that's capable of making clutch throws. Behind Sorey, junior Cooper Roberts appears to be solidifying himself as Sorey's primary backup, and Davis described Roberts as the best pure passer on the team.

"Right now Trent's our guy," Davis said. "He's just one heck of a competitor and he's just a leader, a natural leader. He's good with his feet, he scrambles as well as I've seen and he's got a good arm."

The 6-foot-tall Sorey says he's excited to finally get his chance to lead the Buckaroos, but is focused on trying not to do too much.

"I just want to win some football games," Sorey said. "And just lead the team, make plays when they're needed and have fun."

Protecting Sorey is what Davis believes is one of the best, if not the best, offensive lines he has had in his seven years in Pendleton. Everett Williard was an all-conference center in 2017, while Travis McCoy at left tackle and Cetch Kelly at right tackle settled in as stalwarts last season.

"We go as they go, to be honest with you," Davis said. "Everett's one of our leaders and he's a stud, Cetch and Travis have that experience. We're as good up

See BUCKS/3B

HERMISTON

A local revolution

Hermiston Revolution soccer wins big in Spokane tournament

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Hermiston Revolution finished the summer off strong last weekend.

The local youth soccer program, led by commissioner Erick Juarez, traveled to Spokane, Washington, for the Les Schwab Northwest Cup tournament, in which their U-13 boys' team went undefeated, taking home the title.

The league also consists of three other teams: U-14 boys, U-12 girls, and U-15 girls, who are placed onto their respective teams by age, and all had impressive runs over the weekend as well.

The U-14 boys won their first three games of the tournament, but ultimately lost to the Tri-Cities FC



Photo courtesy of Erick Juarez

Hermiston Revolution's U-13 boys soccer team poses with the championship trophy after winning the Les Schwab Northwest Cup in Spokane, Washington, over the weekend.

on Sunday afternoon, ending in a score of 2-1.

The U-12 girls tied their first game against the Spokane Shadows and won their following three games, earning them second place

in their division. The U-15 girls had a rough start to their weekend, but won their final match against the Sandpoint Strikers with a score

See SOCCER/3B

College football

Cougars enter season drawing strength from Hilinski's memory

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Washington State receiver Robert Lewis is going into this season still mourning Tyler Hilinski but also drawing strength from his memory.

Hilinski was expected to lead the Cougars this year but the young quarterback killed himself in January. Thoughts of him have stayed with the team over the intervening months. "We love Tyler," Lewis said. "He's always going to be with us."

In the months before his death, Hilinski had been regarded as the presumptive starter replacing Luke Falk, the Cougars'

record-setting quarterback who graduated last year and is now with the Tennessee Titans.

So Washington State went into the fall with questions on the field as well as heavy hearts.

"He would want us to go out and play as hard as we can for him," Lewis said.

Three players are now competing for the starter's spot, led by graduate transfer Gardner Minshew, a part-time starter the past two seasons at East Carolina. Also in the mix are juniors Trey Tinsley and Anthony Gordon, neither of whom has thrown a pass in an FBS game.

Coach Mike Leach said Min-

See WSU/3B



Sports shorts

NASCAR driver Kasey Kahne retiring

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Kasey Kahne announced Thursday that he will retire from full-time racing in NASCAR and plans to focus on the sprint car team he owns.

Kahne said in a Twitter post that he is at ease with the decision after 15 years racing in NASCAR. Kahne, from Enumclaw, Washington, made it to NASCAR via sprint car racing and his Kasey Kahne Racing team competes in the World of Outlaws series.

Snedeker shoots 59 at Wyndham Championship

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Brandt Snedeker shot an 11-under 59 on Thursday at the Wyndham Championship, falling one shot shy of matching the PGA Tour record.

He made a 20-foot putt on his final hole to become the 10th player in tour history to break 60. Jim Furyk set the record with a 58 in the final round of the Travelers Championship in 2016. "I better be smiling," Snedeker said. "I don't do this every day."

Snedeker began his round at par-70

Sedgefield Country Club with a bogey at No. 10, and he took off from there. He played the front nine in 27, including an eagle 2 on the par-4 sixth hole when he holed out from 176 yards.

This is the third consecutive year the PGA Tour has had a sub-60 round. Snedeker is the first to shoot 59 since Adam Hadwin in the third round of the 2017 Careerbuilder Challenge.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1933 — Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees plays his 1,308th straight game to break Everett Scott's record of 1,307.

2015 — The National Labor Relations Board dismisses a historic ruling that Northwestern University football players are school employees who are entitled to form what would be the nation's first union of college athletes.

2016 — Jamaica's Elaine Thompson completes the first 100-200 women's Olympic double since 1988.

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