

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

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1B



Official Tom Humphreys throws the coin during the opening coin toss of Hermiston's 42-15 win against Pendleton on October 27, 2017, in Pendleton. The Blue Mountain Football Officials Association has an extreme shortage of officials this season, forcing games to be moved to different days while some games may get canceled.

Officials stretched thin

OSAA facing extreme shortage of football officials, forcing schedule changes

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

The number of officials working OSAA football games in Eastern Oregon this year is critically low, so much so that games are having to be rescheduled to days other than the standard Friday night to accommodate for the smaller staff. And some might face cancellation altogether.

"It's at a point where I have enough to cover two of the eight Friday night games, and for the other six, I have to ask teams to move their games or ask the OSAA if they have any extra officials to send to us," said Blue Mountain Football Officials Association commissioner Michael Lieuallen.

So far this year, several schools have had to move Friday night games to Thursday nights just to adjust for the shortage in the number of officials. Pendleton, Irrigon and Stanfield did so this week, as Pendleton's season opener with La Grande and Irrigon's opener against Stanfield were both moved to Thursday.

A specific number is needed for each game. Football requires at least five officials in Class 6A-4A, and four for smaller classes. Baseball, softball and basketball require two. If that number can't be met, the game won't happen.

"If La Grande and Baker were both home on the same day, I couldn't cover anything else," said Northeast Oregon Basketball commissioner Dave Comfort in a press release. "At some point, this will affect the ability of schools to even schedule games."

Lieuallen says this shortage isn't just a statewide issue — where officials participation is down 18 percent over nine years, says Oregon Athletic Officials Association executive director Jack Follard — it's nationwide. According to a study conducted by the National Association of Sports Officials, over 70 percent of new referees and officiates quit their jobs within their first three years.

"Younger people don't like the idea of coaches and fans yelling at them. It comes down to sportsmanship," he said. "They can't take the abuse."

When a new official signs on for the season, they agree to a three-month deal. They then receive training and are paid \$40-\$60 per game, depending on the level.

Lieuallen says the Blue Mountain Football Officials Association — which

See OFFICIALS/2B

"Younger people don't like the idea of coaches and fans yelling at them ..."
— Michael Lieuallen, Blue Mountain Football Association commissioner

PREP FOOTBALL



Hermiston Bulldogs (0-0)



Pasco Bulldogs (0-0)

Friday, 7 p.m., at Kennison Field, Hermiston

Battle of the Bulldogs

Hermiston ready for WIAA debut with Pasco

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

When the Friday night lights shine over Kennison Field, they'll usher Hermiston into a new era with brand-new opponents and brand-new stakes.

Friday marks Hermiston's first game as a member of the WIAA and its Mid-Columbia Conference, when the defending OSAA Class 5A state champions host Pasco High School for a Bulldog versus Bulldog showdown at 7 p.m.

"The guys are excited to play, and the coaches are anxious," said Hermiston football coach David Faaeteete following Wednesday's practice. "We want to kick off the kids' senior year with a good start."

There's a lot at stake here, and it's not just to prove which school are the stronger Bulldogs. Even though Pasco is coming off of a 0-10 record last season, the school has three state championships to its name and a first-year head coach in alumnus Leon Wright-Jackson that should have the team more competitive. And Hermiston knows it needs to be ready for a fight.

"Pasco is full of energy. I know the coach very well, and their kids are excited about the game of football," Faaeteete said. "They're a tradition-rich school and one of the teams to beat this year."

Faaeteete says Hermiston has a lot to prove going into this season, being the

See BULLDOGS/2B

MARINERS BASEBALL

Lucchesi, long balls carry Padres to win over Mariners

It's Seattle's fifth loss in seven games

By BERNIE WILSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Hunter Renfroe homered and drove in four runs, Manuel Margot had a homer among his three hits and prized rookie Luis Urias had his first three hits for the San Diego Padres, who beat the Seattle Mariners 8-3 Wednesday for a two-game sweep.

The offensive outburst made a winner of rookie left-hander Joey Lucchesi (7-7), who stayed in the game after needing a few minutes to recover from Ryon Healy's comebacker that glanced off his glove and then his groin. Lucchesi fielded the ball and



threw to first for the out, and then went down in a heap. He was tended to by the training staff for a few minutes, threw a few warmup pitches and remained in, striking out the next two batters.

The big southpaw held the Mariners to one run and six hits in a career-high 6½ innings, matched his career-best with nine strikeouts and walked two.

The teams, deemed natural rivals by MLB, meet again in Seattle on Sept. 11-12.

The Mariners lost their third straight and for the fifth time in seven games.

"Disappointment might be an understatement," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "We just didn't play good baseball here at all. We didn't swing the bat particularly well. Obviously we struggled on the mound today early in the ball game. It is very frustrating."

Eric Hosmer also had three hits for the Padres, who worked over Mariners starter Erasmo Ramirez (1-3) for seven runs and nine hits in three innings.

San Diego took a 7-1 lead after three innings.

Hosmer had an RBI single and Renfroe a sacrifice fly in the first. Margot homered into the second deck in left field with one out in the second, his

seventh, and Renfroe drove a three-run home run into the balcony on the third level of the brick warehouse in the left-field corner. Urias was aboard on his first big league hit, a single to right, and Hosmer on a double to the left-center gap. San Diego loaded the bases on three straight singles and Lucchesi hit a sac fly for his first career RBI.

Urias, promoted Tuesday from Triple-A El Paso, hit a drive to right leading off the fourth that was initially ruled a home run. But the umps huddled and then went to video review, and it was ruled a foul ball. Urias then grounded out. Urias doubled leading off the sixth and singled in the eighth to finish 3 for 5. He went 0 for 3 with a walk in his debut Tuesday night.

Margot's third hit was an



San Diego Padres' Hunter Renfroe, right, celebrates with teammate Austin Hedges (18) after hitting a three-run home run in the third inning.

RBI double in the fifth.

Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz hit RBI singles and Kyle Seager had a run-scoring double for the Mariners.

UP NEXT
Mariners: LHP Wade LeB-

lanc (7-3, 3.92) is scheduled to start the opener of a four-game series Thursday night at Oakland, which is second in the AL West behind Houston. The Mariners remain in third place.

Sports shorts

U.S. great Clint Dempsey retires from soccer

SEATTLE (AP) — Former U.S. national team captain and Seattle Sounders striker Dempsey announced Wednesday that he's retiring at age 35 after 15 years of playing professionally, effective immediately. He was mostly a sub with the Sounders this summer, and that, combined with age and injury, prompted him to decide now was the time to walk away even with two months left in the MLS regular season.

Dempsey is tied with Landon Donovan as the greatest U.S. goal scorer, scoring 57 international goals in 141 appearances. He captained the U.S. in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil when the Americans reached the knockout stage before losing to Belgium in the round of 16.

Dempsey had a decorated career overseas in England, most notably with Fulham, before returning to MLS in 2013 with

the Sounders. He missed the second half of the 2016 season with a heart condition that put his career in jeopardy, but returned to Seattle the next season after being cleared by doctors. Dempsey was the MLS Comeback Player of the Year last season when he again became the leading scorer for the Sounders and reclaimed a place on the U.S. national team.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1937 — Joe Louis wins a 15-round unanimous decision over Tommy Farr at Yankee Stadium in the first defense of his heavyweight title.

1981 — Bill Shoemaker becomes the first jockey to win a \$1 million race when he rode John Henry to a nose victory over The Bart.

2001 — Ashley Martin becomes the first woman to play in a Division I football game, kicking three extra points without a miss.

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