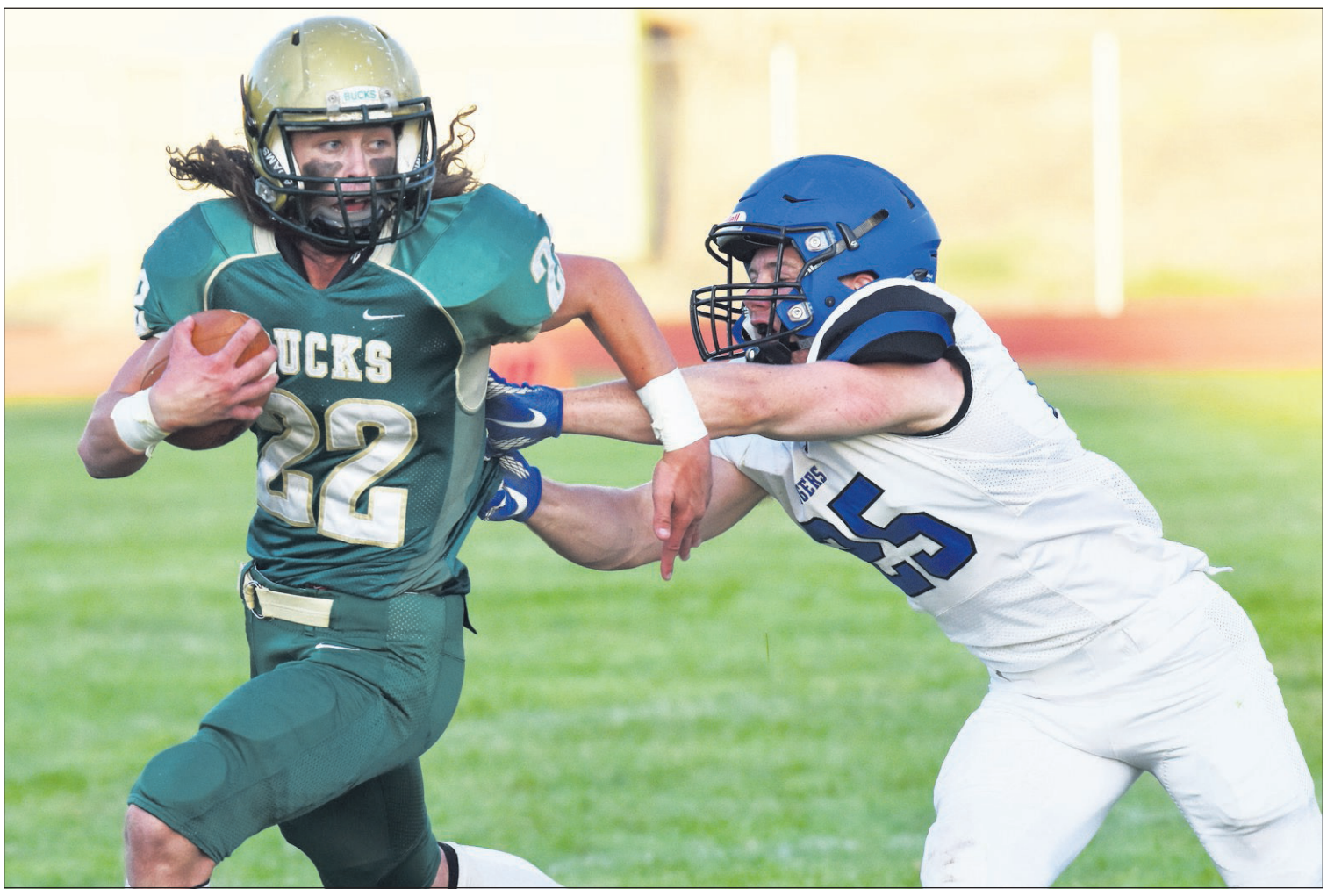
EAST OREGONIAN
SPORTS

MARINERS BEAT A'S 2B

PENDLETON



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Shawn Yeager rushes the ball as Nathan Reed attempts a tackle in the Bucks' 38-12 win against the Tigers on Thursday in Pendleton.

Bucks take care of business

Pendleton dominates La Grande, starts season with win

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PREP FOOTBALL

Pendleton	La Grande
38	12

PENDLETON — Pendleton head coach Erik Davis knew his defensive front seven had the potential for a special season in 2018, as all four starting linebackers and four defensive linemen returned to the unit.

Mixed with some perfect playcalling from defensive coordinator Fred Phillips on Thursday night in the season opener at home against La Grande, the front seven showed Davis — and the Pendleton fans — just how special they could be.

The group blitzed through and overpowered La Grande's offensive line from start to finish and made life tough for Tigers quarterback Parker Robinson, as the group sacked Robinson 10 times, recorded a safety and held La Grande to minus-96 rushing yards to lead the Buckaroos to a 38-12 victory over the Tigers at Pendleton High School.

"You saw our defense just fly," Davis said. "They're fast, they're tenacious we knew that going in that they were a special group. Coach Phillips talked throughout the week about bringing that pressure, because we've always been that bend-don't-break defense. But with these kids and how fast they are and how hard they work, we knew putting pressure on a team like La Grande, that's young up front, was going to create a real mismatch there and I think our kids just really bought into being that in-your-face defense. I'm proud of the group."

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Everett Willard sacks La Grande quarterback Parker Robinson in the Bucks' 38-12 win against the Tigers.

The Buckaroos' offense was nearly as dominant. Led by an experienced offensive line, Pendleton plowed its way to 446 total yards, 259 of which came on the ground. Senior quarter-

See BUCKS/3B

Prep roundup

TigerScots roll over Knights

East Oregonian

The Weston-McEwen volleyball team kept its hot start to the 2018 season going on Thursday evening as it shut out Irrigon 3-0 in a non-league match.

The TigerScots (7-0) won 25-20, 25-19 and 25-20 on Thursday, meaning the TigerScots have dropped only two sets in the 20 they've played so far this season. Hailey Weaver had 10 kills and seven blocks for the TigerScots,while Keree Graves had 16 digs and Bryce Thul had 10 aces. Haley White led the Knights (2-2) with nine kills and Brianna Rice had three.

"We played a great team today and we learned a lot about ourself," Irrigon coach Vanessa Pacheco said. "We will use today as a growing opportunity."

STANFIELD WINS TWICE

The Stanfield volleyball team opened its 2018 season with a pair of victories on Thursday in Helix, defeating the host Grizzlies 3-0 and then taking down Mac-Hi 3-1.

Against Helix, Stanfield won 25-23, 25-22, 25-22. Stanfield stats were unavailable by press time, but Helix was led by Arianna Krol with 12 kills and Lexie Mize had 23 assists.

Then against Mac-Hi, Stanfield won 25-20, 25-18, 23-25 and 25-16.

"Really pleased with the team's progress after three weeks," Stanfield coach Blaine Ganvoa said. "Girls are working hard on staying focused on the process it takes to improve with every touch and it was nice to see it pay off for them with two wins."

Helix wrapped up the tri-match with a 3-0 win over Mac-Hi (1-3), winning 25-18, 25-22, 25-16. Kyla Harper led the Grizzlies (3-2) with 12 kills and Krol had eight. Annie Wood had 18 digs.

RODEO

EUGENE RODEO — The fall rodeo schedule for the Intermountain High School Rodeo team began on August 24-26 with two performances in Eugene, and several local athletes turned in standout performances.

In Rodeo No. 1, Heppner senior Jacee Currin had the best performance of the team, winning breakaway roping with a time of 3.0 seconds and then finishing

See ROUNDUP/3B

Knights slay Tigers to open the season

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PREP FOOTBALL

Irrigon	Stanfield
34	8

STANFIELD — The Irrigon Knights opened the 2018 football season by dominating the Stanfield Tigers in a 34-8 non-conference win.

Stanfield struggled throughout the night offensively, scoring their first and only touchdown of the night late in the fourth quarter.

Irrigon was slow to start as well, getting on the board when Payton Smith ran the ball in for a touchdown with 1:58 left in the first quarter. Things started picking up in the second quarter when Ruben Moreno scored Irrigon's second touchdown, and Roberto Ayala caught a touchdown pass followed by a rushing touchdown by Jaben Boyer to give the Knights a 28-0 halftime lead.

Much of the third quarter was spent around the 50-yard line, with both teams keeping each other at bay until Irrigon's Keith Flemming rushed the ball to the 32-yard line. On the next play, Smith carried the ball to the 18 yard line before senior running back Luis Covarrubia scored Irrigon's final touchdown of the night, making the score 34-0.

With just 1:06 left in the fourth quarter, Stanfield's Anthony Keeney finally put his team on the scoreboard with a rushing touchdown.

"We've got a lot of work to do," said Stanfield head coach Davie Salas. "We need more practicing. Our first-year players are still learning the speed of a varsity game. We did well in the second half – that'll give us confidence for next week."

Irrigon left the game impressed with their team's victory – especially considering that they were working with an all-new coaching staff.

"The kids did really well," said Irrigon coach Ken Thompson. "Irrigon hasn't had a ton of success in football. We want to establish a culture of hard-working football players here. We're in a tough league, and we're taking things week-to-week, but we'd like to make the playoffs this year."

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Lino Covarrubia (12), of Irrigon, puts out a hand to ward off Stanfield's Hugo Hernandez during Thursday's game at the Horyna Sports Complex.

Sports shorts

Manuel shines, Raiders topple Seahawks 30-19

SEATTLE (AP) — E.J. Manuel made a strong bid to be Oakland's backup quarterback, throwing for 255 yards and three touchdowns, and the Raiders closed out the preseason with a 30-19 win over the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday night.

Manuel completed 18 of 22 passes in the competition with Connor Cook to be Derek Carr's backup. He hit Keon Hatcher on both of his touchdowns in the first half and added a 45-yard TD to Saeed Blacknall in the third quarter.

Arbitrator sends Kaepernick's grievance against NFL to trial

PHILADELPHIA — An arbitrator is sending Colin Kaepernick's grievance with the NFL to trial, denying the league's request to throw out the quarterback's claims that owners conspired to keep him out of the league because of his protests of social injustice.

Kaepernick's lawyer Mark Geragos tweeted a picture Thursday of a ruling by arbitrator Stephen B. Burbank.

The former 49ers quarterback argues that owners have colluded to keep him off any NFL roster since he hit free agency in 2017.

Kaepernick began a wave of protests by NFL players two seasons ago, kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1950 — Brooklyn's Gil Hodges ties a major league record by hitting Boston Brave pitching for four homers in the Dodgers' 19-3 rout. Hodges also added a single for 17 total bases.

1977 — John McEnroe plays his first U.S. Open match and receives his first Open code of conduct penalty in a 6-1, 6-3 first-round win over fellow 18-year-old Eliot Teltscher.

1979 — Sixteen-year-old Tracy Austin defeats 14-year-old Andrea Jaeger, 6-2, 6-2, in the second round of the U.S.

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