

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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1B

Hermiston heads to Walla Walla

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Walla Walla coach Eric Hisaw has a plan to beat Hermiston on Friday night.

“We are going to try and play with 13 guys,” Hisaw joked. “If so, we will take care of things.”

Not sure Hisaw will get away with that plan Friday at Borleske Stadium, or any other night, but it will take a solid game by the Blue Devils (1-2) to knock off the Bulldogs (2-1) in their Mid-Columbia Conference tilt.

“They are very physical,” Hisaw said. “They are impressive on film. There is no easy out in this league.”

Hermiston coach David Faaeteete has his own concerns about the Blue Devils.

“I think they are well-coached,” Faaeteete said. “Their size alone is a challenge. They play physical and they don’t quit. Kudos to their coach and the work they have put in.”

That size Faaeteete talks about is that of Wa-Hi senior lineman Patrick Utschinski, who verbally committed to Washington State last week.

“When you are 6-foot-7 and 280 pounds, you attract attention,” Hisaw said. “He is playing well and he works hard to get

See DAWGS/2B

PREP FOOTBALL



Hermiston Bulldogs
(2-1)



Walla Walla Blue Devils
(1-2)

Friday, 7 p.m.
at Walla Walla



Pendleton Buckaroos
(3-0)



Scappoose Indians
(3-0)

Friday, 7 p.m.
at Scappoose

District leaders face off Friday

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

This Friday, Pendleton will face their western counterparts in Scappoose.

The Bucks lead the Special District 1 in the east, while Scappoose leads it in the west. Both teams are 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the league. Only one of them will remain undefeated after Friday night.

“They’re a good football team,” said Bucks coach Erik Davis. “With any pool you look at, you’re gonna see us right next to each other. But you can’t control the way the ball bounces — it could go either way.”

See BUCKS/2B

Pendleton has won each of their three games this season with a substantial lead. The opened the year with a 38-12 win against La Grande, followed by shutting out Hood River Valley 46-0. Last week, they crushed Putnam 56-14, rushing for 340 yards as a team, with quarterbacks Trent Sorey and Cooper Roberts throwing a combined 10-13 for 120 yards.

But the big win came at a price.

Starting receiver Cam Sandford took a nasty fall after a Putnam tackle, breaking his ankle. He’ll be out for six to eight

TRI-CITY HOCKEY

AMERICANS HAVE NEW LOOK



Contributed photos

Beck Warm will return at goalie this season for the Americans and will share time in the net with rookie Talyn Boyko.

Season gets under way with first-year coach

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Every year, the Tri-City Americans begin the season with the loss of key players and new faces looking to make their mark.

While that still holds true, the losses cut a bit deeper this season.

The Americans, under first-year coach Kelly Buckberger, lost top scorers Morgan Geekie and Jordan Topping from last season. Top defensemen Juuso Valimäki and Dylan Coghlan are gone, and forward Michael Rasmussen’s return from the Detroit Red Wings is unknown, if he comes back at all.

“We thought training camp went really well,” Buckberger said. “We evaluated our younger players, and our older players showed their leadership. We saw some really good things in our exhibition games. The first week, there are nerves, and the new guys (are) twice as nervous as anyone else. They are more comfortable, they are learning the system and they are improving every day.”

The Americans open the regular season Saturday, hosting U.S. Division rival Spokane.

In the midst of uncertainty are veteran forwards Nolan Yaremko and

See TRI-CITY/3B



Veteran forward Nolan Yaremko will be a co-captain for the Tri-City Americans this season and is one of the squad’s top returning scorers.

Sports shorts

Blazers unveil jersey sponsorship

The Portland Trail Blazers have announced a multi-year jersey sponsorship deal with Performance Health, an Illinois-based company that manufactures products for the rehabilitation and sports medicine markets.

A logo for the company’s product Biofreeze will be featured on the left shoulder of Portland’s uniform. With the deal, the Blazers become the 24th NBA team to include a corporate sponsor on its jerseys.



Vigil honors slain Iowa State golfer

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Teammates and others who knew an Iowa State University student-athlete who was killed this week while playing golf near the campus shared stories about her and lit candles in her memory.

The vigil Wednesday evening to remember 22-year-old Celia Barquin Arozamena drew a large crowd north of the Campanile, a bell tower on the Ames campus. Several speakers, including women’s golf coach Christie Martens, talked about the star golfer from Spain.

Barquin, an engineering student, was the Big 12 women’s golf champion this year.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1924 — Grover Cleveland Alexander wins his 300th game as the Chicago Cubs defeat the New York Giants 7-3 in 12 innings.

1973 — Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in straight sets to win the Battle of the Sexes and the \$100,000 winner-take-all purse at Houston’s Astrodome.

1987 — Chicago’s Walter Payton breaks Jim Brown’s NFL record with his 107th rushing touchdown as the Bears beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20-3.

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