

Hermiston to battle Southridge

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Southridge Suns know they are the underdog come Friday when they take on the Hermiston Bulldogs in Mid-Columbia Conference action at Kennison Field.

There's no way to sugarcoat it, according to Suns coach Aaron Sonnichsen.

"They are going to be very good," Sonnichsen said. "They are a physical team, and they are going to hit you every play. We have been preaching toughness, but it's another thing to go out and do it."

PREP FOOTBALL



Hermiston Bulldogs
(3-1)

Southridge Suns
(0-4)

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

Suns. "What we have seen on film, is they play hard and they don't quit. Every week, we try to improve and not look ahead. We need to improve on our fundamentals, we need to block better, tackle better and catch the ball. We are averaging five to six drops a game."

The high-octane offense and stingy defense of Hermiston likely will pose problems for the Suns, who still are looking for their first MCC win.

Hermiston loves to run the ball. Senior Wyatt Noland has a league best 689 yards rushing and nine touchdowns, while



Hermiston's Wyatt Noland rushes the ball as Walla Walla's Josiah Wik attempts to bring him down in the Bulldogs' 42-7 win against the Blue Devils on Friday, Sept. 21, in Walla Walla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

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"It's awesome ... It is a real blessing"

— Bill Templeton, Kennewick coach

FEAST WITH FOES

Hermiston boosters feed their opponents after home games

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The one thing Oregon teams might miss about playing a football game at Hermiston High School is the post-game meal served by the Linebacker Club.

One man's loss is another's gain, as the Mid-Columbia Conference football teams have gladly belied up to the table and devoured the meal offered.

"It's awesome," Kennewick coach Bill Templeton said. "It is a real blessing. It's really just a great

gesture. It's very gracious of them."

Pasco and Kennewick have been the only teams to partake in the post-game meal, so far. Southridge will be at Kennison Field on Friday, and pulled pork sandwiches with various side dishes are on the menu.

"We feed the whole visiting football team after the game," Linebacker Club member Dennis Barnett said. "Everyone is surprised we do this. In the old IMC, the teams were three or four hours away from home. We have been doing this for five or seven years."

And just because Hermiston moved to a different league, doesn't mean things will change.

See FEAST/2B



Staff photo by Annie Fowler

Kennison Field press box hostess Thelma Mendiola prepares street tacos for coaches, media and workers during the Sept. 14 game against Kennewick. The school has fed workers and visitors for five years.

Bucks make Round-Up Stadium return, face Milwaukie

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Coming off four consecutive wins to start the season and carrying the No. 1 ranking in the Oregon School Activities Association, the Pendleton Bucks are bringing high expectations back home.

The Bucks are hosting the Milwaukie Academy of the Arts, a school that sits just south of Portland and currently stands with a 1-3 overall record and has been outscored 90-46 on the season.

"They like to fly and run with the ball," said Bucks coach Erik Davis of Friday's opponents. "We have to stiffen up our defense and play assignment football."

Despite their winning streak, Davis still sees room for improvement. The Bucks have spent the past week fine-tuning all the little imperfections they encountered during their last game at Scappoose, including turnovers. The

Bucks turned the ball over four times on the road last week.

"It's a constant battle to make things perfect. We want crisp routes and techniques on Friday," Davis said.

Last week, Pendleton proved they can play under pressure. Not only did they top the Special District 1 leaders in the west, but last week's game was featured on Portland's KGW-TV as the Game of the Week in its Friday night football coverage.

And with Milwaukie's record piling in comparison to the Bucks, things are looking good for Friday night. But Davis has been readying his team for any possible outcome.

"We like to prepare like any team we face is a playoff team" he said. "We're going to start running into better and better teams going forward."

Bucks quarterback Trent Sorey has been having an excellent sea-

PREP FOOTBALL



Pendleton Buckaroos
(4-0)

Milwaukie Bucks
(1-3)

Friday, 7 p.m., at Round-Up Stadium, Pendleton

son both on and off the football field — last week alone, he rushed for three touchdowns and passed for another one.

And on Friday, he'll make his return to Round-Up stadium, this time as a football player. Sorey just recently hung up his lasso from team roping at the Round-Up earlier this month, and will lead his football team back into the arena. He said he's ready to go "full football" once again on Friday night.



EO file photo

Pendleton quarterback Trent Sorey fakes the handoff to Aiden Patterson in the Bucks' 46-0 win against Hood River on Sept. 7.

"It was tough to balance both sports, but the coaches and I worked it out. The whole team came out and watched me com-

pete" in rodeo, Sorey said. "But now the roping's slowed down. When it comes to football, it's time to play football."

Sports shorts



BRYCE HARPER'S WASHINGTON FAREWELL?

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 3½ hours before the start of what many expect to be his last game at Nationals Park as a member of the Washington Nationals, Bryce Harper stood at his locker and let his eyes linger on that familiar white jersey with the cursive red "W" on the front and his last name on the back.

Then Harper, who can become a free agent at season's end, put on his full uniform, right down to the stirrups — the only player ready that far ahead of Washington's 9-3 victory in its home finale against

the Miami Marlins, which was stopped Wednesday after seven innings because of rain.

The storm arrived, naturally, as Harper stood in the on-deck circle while the last out of the seventh was recorded.

"I knew I wanted to get here and put the 'uni' on right away, and just cherish that moment, if it's going to be the last time or not," the outfielder said beforehand. "I can't really stand here and say it's going to be 'farewell' or anything like that, because nobody knows. Nobody knows what this

offseason holds."

He was greeted by fans' signs, standing ovations and chants of "Let's go, Harper!" for each at-bat while going 0 for 4 with a pair of strikeouts.

If this was, indeed, a "goodbye" to Harper, consider it also a "welcome" to someone the Nationals could count on to replace his outfield production, 21-year-old rookie Victor Robles. He delivered the first four-hit game of his nascent career, including a three-run homer and a two-run double, and stole a base, to boot.