

PREP FOOTBALL



Irrigon 30

Umatilla 28

Knights defeat Vikings

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Irrigon’s final league game was its first league win on Thursday night. And it might earn the team a spot in the playoffs. The Knights honored their seniors and defeated Umatilla in a nail-biting 30-28 victory at home to close the Special District 3 schedule. Payton Smith scored the first touchdown for Irrigon with a 33-yard run with 7:09 on the clock.

Umatilla made sure Irrigon lived up to the “Figh-tin’ Knights” nickname, going touchdown for touchdown through the game. Quarterback Andrew Earl and running back Trent Durfey proved to be the Vikings’ secret weapon and quickly responded by putting their team ahead 8-6 with a touchdown from Earl and a 2-point conversion from Durfey. But the first quarter was the only one to finish in the Vikings’ favor.

“Umatilla was ready for us,” Irrigon head coach Ken Thompson said. “They came out and ran that power formation, and took it to us the whole night.”

Irrigon opened the second quarter by reclaiming the lead — a pass from Keith Fleming to Lino Covarrubia for 60 yards and a touchdown. Wide receiver Ruben Moreno scored on the conversion to give the Knights a 14-8 lead.

The Vikings tied it up soon after when Durfey ran it into the end zone for a 14-14 tie.

Smith scored on the Knights’ next possession, and Durfey scored a touchdown and a 2-point conversion for the Vikings to end the half at a 22-22 tie.

Irrigon put its final eight points on the scoreboard in the third quarter with a 17-yard pass from Ryan Hussey to Fleming in the end zone, topped off with a 2-point conversion scored off a pass from Fleming to wide receiver Caleb Adams.

The fourth quarter almost saw a Umatilla comeback after Earl completed an 8-yard pass to Durfey in the end zone for another Vikings touchdown, but Irrigon’s defensive line stopped the 2-point conversion to give the Knights the victory.

“We started out slow, but came together in the second half and just kept rolling,” Fleming said after the win. “We fought hard till the end.”

Thompson says their Thursday night victory gave the Knights (4-5, 1-3) an “outside chance” at making the playoffs — No. 21 Pleasant Hill will have to upset No. 15 Harrisburg Friday night for that to happen.



Portland Trail Blazers’ Damian Lillard, center, drives to the basket between Orlando Magic’s Mohamed Bamba (5) and Jerian Grant (22) during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday in Orlando, Fla.

LILLARD MAGIC

Lillard scores 41 to lead Portland to 128-114 win over Magic

By BILL FAY
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Damian Lillard struggled in the first half then was back in All-Star form after halftime. Lillard scored 34 of his 41 points in the second half, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Orlando Magic 128-114 on Thursday night. CJ McCollum had 22 for the Trail Blazers and Jusuf Nurkic added 18 points and 10 rebounds. Lillard was just 2 for 8 in the first half, then hit 11 of 15 shots in the final two quarters, going 5 of

NBA



Blazers 128

Magic 114

8 from 3-point territory. He sat out the first four minutes of the final quarter and watched a 13-point lead shrink to 102-99. “It’s not really about filling up the stat sheet,” Lillard said. “There are opportunities to do it, but I think it is more about impacting the game. Even when I am not making shots, I focus on how can I still impact the game.” Lillard and McCollum then reentered with 7:54 left after Orlando cut

a 13-point deficit to just 102-99 on Aaron Gordon’s second 3-pointer of the quarter. The guards combined to score 22 of Portland’s final 26 points to seal the win. Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Terrence Ross had 21 points off the bench and Gordon and Evan Fournier had 17 apiece. The Magic shot 50 percent from the field and made 12 3-pointers, but never could find a way to stop Portland. “If you look at the offensive numbers, you ought to win this game,” Magic coach Steve Clifford said. “But the biggest thing tonight was our defense. It started with the first five minutes when we made mistake after mistake. We just weren’t good.” Lillard had 19 points in the third quarter, including 11 of the Blaz-

ers’ last 13. Magic guards D.J. Augustin and Jerian Grant chased him around the perimeter and into the lane, but never could catch him. He had three 3-pointers and five driving layups, before taking a break to start the fourth quarter. However, Portland couldn’t shake the Magic, who trailed 91-80 going to the fourth period. But after Orlando cut it to three, Lillard and McCollum combined for eight straight points and Portland was back in front 110-99. Backup center Zach Collins had 13 points in nine minutes to help the Blazers to a 58-48 halftime lead. He helped the Blazers overcome a slow start by Lillard (2 for 8) and McCollum (foul trouble). Ross kept the Magic within

See BLAZERS/2B

Watson throws 5 TDs as Texans beat Dolphins

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Deshaun Watson matched his career high with five touchdown passes to lead the Houston Texans to their fifth straight victory, 42-23 over the Miami Dolphins on Thursday night. The Texans (5-3) have left their 0-3 start behind with their longest single-season winning streak since reeling off six victories in a row in 2012. Watson threw touchdown passes of 13, 2, 73, 49 and 2 yards to give him 34 career scoring passes to move ahead of Dan Marino (32) for second-most in NFL history after 15 games.

NFL



Texans 42

Dolphins 23

Miami’s Brock Osweiler, who had one tough season in Houston after signing a \$72 million contract in 2016, threw for 241 yards with an interception in his third straight start in place of injured starter Ryan Tannehill. Kenyan Drake had a touchdown run and touchdown reception for the Dolphins (4-4). They lost for the second straight week.



Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) celebrates a touchdown against the Miami Dolphins during the first half of an NFL football game on Thursday in Houston.

AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith

Sports shorts



25 years after spurning NBA Jam, Jordan invests in esports

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A quarter century after being famously excluded from the cult favorite video game NBA Jam, Michael Jordan is investing in esports. Jordan on Thursday was announced as an investor with aXiomatic, a major esports ownership group whose properties include powerhouse franchise Team Liquid. The board at aXiomatic includes Ted Leonsis, owner of the NHL’s Washington Capitals and NBA’s Washington Wizards, and Peter Guber, co-owner of the NBA’s Golden State Warriors and MLB’s Los Angeles Dodgers. Jordan, owner of the NBA’s Charlotte Hornets, was notably not part of the 1993 hit NBA Jam after he opted out of the players association’s group license.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1990 — Evander Holyfield knocks out Buster Douglas in Las Vegas to become the undisputed heavyweight champion.

1998 — Jerry Rice sets an NFL record for receptions in consecutive games. Rice has caught passes in 184 straight games.

2017 — Houston’s George Springer hits a two-run drive in the 11th inning and the Astros win a thrilling home run derby, beating Los Angeles 7-6 to tie the World Series at one game apiece.

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