

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B



Riverside's Pena Johan, center, points to the crowd after scoring a goal in the first half of the Pirates' 3-2 win against Taft on Tuesday in Boardman.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Late surge sends Pirates to quarterfinals

Last-minute goal gives Riverside a playoff victory

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

In the battle for the district title, a last-minute goal kept Riverside in the running.

The No. 5-ranked Pirates hosted the No. 14 Taft Tigers in the first round of the 3A/2A/1A district playoffs on Tuesday, and while the two teams held each other in check for the bulk of the game, Riverside came back at the end for the win.

While Riverside proved stronger in the end, Taft came out of the gate swinging.

Eight minutes into the first half, Tigers forward Edson Fuentes fired a kick just out of Pirates keeper Jose Torres' reach, putting Taft ahead. Fuentes returned not two minutes later to extend the lead by scoring off an assist from midfielder William Calderon.

The Pirates responded with a goal after midfielder Ulyses Lopez drove the ball from center field and kicked it into the net at the 17-minute mark. The first half ended with the Tigers up 2-1.

The Pirates came into the second ready for a comeback.

PREP SOCCER



Riverside
3



Taft
2

Midfielder Johan Pena missed three shots before his team tied it up — Francisco Chavez scored off a pass from Jose Napoles at the 30 minute mark.

As the clock wound down and the sun set over Riverside's field, it looked like the game would move into overtime. But the Pirates continued to flaunt their swift footwork as Chavez wove in and out of Taft's defense, found an opening, and passed straight to center-mid Gerardo Lopez, who kicked it in for a goal with 1:27 left in the game.

The goal secured the win for the Pirates, who will now advance into the next playoff round when they travel 505 miles to Brookings Harbor for Saturday's quarterfinals match. Riverside has claimed the district title four years straight and is the defending Class 3A state champion.

"It was a relief," Lopez said

See PIRATES/2B



Riverside's Jose Napoles (21) heads the ball over Taft's Jose Flores in the Pirates' 3-2 win against the Tigers on Tuesday.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Prep football

Bucks dominate all-league honors

Patterson, Skinner and Davis all get top placement

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Pendleton coach Erik Davis said his team did pretty well when it came to honors on the 5A Special District 1 East all-conference team. He was being modest.

Davis was named Coach of the Year, while senior running back Aiden Patterson was named the Offensive Player of the Year, and senior lineman Beau Skinner Defensive Player of the Year.

"Going through the first eight games, we dominated those teams," Davis said. "The league coaches recognized they were special talents. I'm very proud of every one of them."

All told, the Bucks placed 11 players on the first team, taking 13 spots on offense and defense.

Senior lineman Everett Willard earned first-team honors on both sides of the ball (center and defensive tackle), while senior Blake Davis was named as a receiver and return specialist.

Also earning first-team honors for the Bucks were linebackers Kirk Liscom and Willie Camp, cornerback Ian Bannister, safety Shawn Yeager, offensive tackles Cetch Kelly and Travis McGee, and quarterback Trent Sorey.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound Patterson rushed for 913 yards and 13 touchdowns this season. He also earned honors as a second-team linebacker, where he had 96 tackles.

Skinner, a 6-2, 190-pound defensive end, had 90 tackles for the Bucks, along with a state best (5A) 30 tackles for loss, which includes quarterback sacks.

"He is a speed rush guy off the end," Davis said. "He is a good player."

The Bucks also had three named to the second team, and four to the honorable mention team.

Pendleton (8-1) will host Crescent Valley at 7 p.m. Friday at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. The Bucks have not won a playoff game since 2006.

For the complete 5A Special District All-Conference team, see the Scoreboard on Page 2B.

The Bucks placed 11 players on the first team, taking 13 spots on offense and defense



Patterson



Skinner



Davis



Willard



Willard

Lillard, Nurkic score 22 each as Blazers rout Rockets, 104-85

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Damian Lillard and Jusuf Nurkic scored 22 points each, and the Portland Trail Blazers never trailed in a 104-85 trouncing of the struggling Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Rockets dropped their fourth straight in their second game without James Harden, who is out with a hamstring injury, to fall to 1-5. After entering the season with eyes on a championship, the Rockets have rarely even been competitive, dropping their four home games by an average of more

than 17 points. Now they face a season-long five-game road trip where they'll likely be without Harden and fellow starter James Ennis (right hamstring) for at least the first game and possibly more. Portland led by double digits most of the night and was up by 23 entering the fourth

quarter. Houston got within 15 with about two minutes left, but that was it in front of a crowd which began steadily streaming out midway through the third quarter.

CJ McCollum added 19 points for the Trail Blazers, who improved to 5-2 with their second straight victory.

Sports shorts

Jaguars trade pass-rusher Fowler to Rams for 2 draft picks

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Dante Fowler is headed to an actual Super Bowl contender.

The slumping Jacksonville Jaguars traded the fourth-year pro and 2015 first-round pick to the undefeated Los Angeles Rams just before the NFL trading deadline Tuesday.

The move gives the Rams an even more formidable front, which already had Aaron Donald, Ndamukong Suh and Michael Brockers.

The Jaguars (3-5) received a third-round draft pick in 2019 and a fifth-rounder in 2020, decent compensation for a backup who would have become a free agent at the end of the season.

The rise of Yannick Ngakoue made Fowler expendable in Jacksonville. The team opted last year to not pick up the fifth-year option on his rookie deal. Fowler was the third overall selection in 2015.

Fowler has two sacks in seven games this season while playing limited snaps behind Ngakoue. Fowler was suspended for the regular-season opener because of an arrest in 2017.

Fowler and Ngakoue also were involved in a post-practice fight in training camp, which resulted in Fowler and cornerback Jalen Ramsey getting suspended from the team for a week.

He has been a model citizen since.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1950 — Earl Lloyd of the Washington Capitols becomes the first African-American to play in an NBA game. Washington loses 78-70 on the road to the Rochester Royals.

1969 — Lenny Wilkens gets his first NBA coaching victory when the Seattle SuperSonics beats Cincinnati Royals 129-121.

2015 — Triple Crown champion American Pharoah wins the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic by 6 1/2 lengths in his final race.

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