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1B



Pendleton quarterback Trent Sorey rushes the ball while being pursued by La Salle's Riley Peterson in the Bucks' Oct. 5 win against La Salle in Pendleton.

EO file photo

Buckaroos seek new territory

Pendleton sets sights on playoff run

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The last time Pendleton won a state football playoff game, Bucks quarterback Trent Sorey was in the first grade. The year was 2006.

Sorey, and a senior-laden Pendleton team, would like to put an end to the drought Friday night when they host Crescent Valley at 7 p.m. at the Round-Up Grounds.

"Absolutely," Sorey said. "This class, we have been together since the seventh grade. We thought we could be something special if we worked for it. We'd like to leave a legacy. We are a class that can do that. We pride ourselves on being that class."

Pendleton coach Erik Davis has no doubt his players can get the job done.

"Their goals are very lofty," Davis said. "I have never questioned their ability to reach them. They have always talked about this day. This is uncharted territory for Pendleton. They want to be state champions."

The Bucks (8-1) are coming off a 53-7 loss to Wilsonville last week in a 5A Special District 1 crossover game. That loss ended an eight-game win streak.

Davis said practice Tuesday afternoon was not up to par, and that things

PREP FOOTBALL



Pendleton Buckaroos (8-1)



Crescent Valley Raiders (6-3)

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

would have to improve if they hope to beat Crescent Valley.

"Coming out of Tuesday, I'm not feeling good about things," Davis said. "It just didn't have the feel it needed to. Coaches are always hyper-critical. We will see what happens Friday at 7 p.m."

Sorey agreed that practice was a bit off.

"It was a slow day," he said. "Some guys were out sick and we weren't up to speed. It's playoff time and practices need to be perfect if we want to win. We need to fix it and get after it."

The Raiders (6-3) are coming in off a 20-0 win over McKay. Their offense has managed just 25 points a game, but their defense has held opponents to an average of 16 points a game.

"We have to be able to run the football," said Davis, whose team averages 46 points a game. "They are big and their defensive line is big and physical. But we also have to be able

to throw the ball in the playoffs. You can't be one-dimensional. If we don't become a balanced offense, we won't make a deep run."

Leading the offense is running back Aiden Patterson, the Offensive Player of the Year in the East division of Special District 1. Patterson has run for more than 900 yards and 14 touchdowns this season.

Shawn Yeager, who shares time in the backfield, has rolled up 480 yards and seven touchdowns.

Sorey, who has thrown for more than 1,000 yards and 11 touchdowns, also likes to make things happen with his feet. He has taken off for more than 400 yards and scored eight touchdowns.

"I think our run games is working so well that it opens up the pass," Sorey said. "With the hogs we have on the O-line, and our (running) backs, we just keep running the ball."

Crescent Valley has a diverse offense with quarterback Sawyer Cleveland and tight end/running back Cam Sanders.

The 6-foot-5, 185-pound Cleveland does not hesitate to throw the ball, and has a variety of receivers on the other end.

Sanders (6-4, 228) is the wild card. In one game he ran for 183 yards, while in another caught two touchdown passes.

"They like to control the clock and run the ball," Davis said. "They have some good athletes. If they put it all together, they can be hard to stop."

Hermiston to wrap up season against Central Valley

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Bulldogs will wrap up their football season Friday, hosting Central Valley in a Mid-Columbia Conference-Greater Spokane League crossover game at Kennison Field.

"In the state of Oregon, there is no consolation prize if you don't make it to state," Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said. "This is something we have to get used to."

The Bulldogs (6-3) have a powerful offense led by running back Wyatt Noland (1,451 yards, 21 touchdowns) and quarterback Andrew James, who has thrown for 1,273 yards and 14 touchdowns, and ran for 641 and 11 touchdowns.

James is a little banged up, and Faaeteete said they are taking it day by day as to whether he will play Friday.

But as strong as their offense has been, the Bull-

PREP FOOTBALL



Hermiston Bulldogs (6-3)



Central Valley Bears (5-4)

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

dogs have struggled defensively as of late. They are allowing opponents 303 yards offense per game. In a loss to Kamiakin last week, they gave up 275 yards and four touchdowns to Braves running back Tuna Altahir.

"If you can't stop the run, it's hard to get the offense on the field and move the ball," Faaeteete said.

The Bears (5-4), who finished third at the 4A state level last year, finished 2-3 in GSL play this fall.

CV is led by 6-foot-5, 220-pound quarterback Matt Gab-

bert, who threw for 227 yards against Lewis and Clark and 175 against Mt. Spokane.

Hunter Chodorowski has been a threat out of the backfield. He ran for 175 and three touchdowns against Mt. Spokane, and for 137 yards against Ferris. Zack Jongeward also has been effective, rolling up 197 yards against Lewis and Clark, and 116 against Ferris.

"They are a pretty good football team," Faaeteete said. "They play hard and they are physical. We are going to have our hands full. They are physical at running back and they have a good line."

Hermiston finished its first season in the Mid-Columbia Conference, and had many highlights, including a win over defending 4A state champion Richland. The Bulldogs beat four of the five 4A schools on their schedule, but losses to fellow 3A schools Kennewick and Kamiakin kept them out of

the playoffs.

"It's different," Faaeteete said. "It's a hybrid conference with 4A and 3A teams. We didn't take care of business against Kennewick and Kamiakin. If we were a 4A team, we'd be in the playoffs."

Noland was the MCC's leading rusher and led the league in scoring with 140 points — 54 points better than Hanford's Jared Devine.

Jordan Ramirez was the league's leading receiver with 37 catches for 491 yards. As a team, Hermiston had the second-best offense with an average of 394.9 yards per game.

Though the season was new, exciting and strange all at the same time, Faaeteete said he can see the positives.

"It's a good league with great competition," he said. "The games are more fun and exciting, and we get more fans at home and on the road. We just need to get better to win the MCC."

Prep girls soccer

Riverside wins in overtime

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Riverside battled through two scoreless halves, injuries, and overtime to secure a first round win in the OSAA state championships.

The Pirates and visiting Western Christian Pioneers held each other scoreless through the entire match until a goal in the second overtime period gave Riverside the victory.

But the low score wasn't because of a lack of effort. Midfielders Layla Castillo had eight shots-on-goal, Neftali Pacheco had four, and Brendy Avalos had three to lead the team. Pacheco and forward Samantha Rea were both assisted off the field by head coach Carlos Velasco after colliding with Western Christian players in attempts to regain possession.

The first of two, 10-minute overtime periods saw the Pioneers nearly claim the lead. After starting in their possession, forward Bianca Avalos put the ball in the net just as an offsides penalty was called on the team, negating the score.

In the second period, freshman defender Jasmín Lopez seized the opportunity that the Pioneers couldn't. Lopez finally gave her team the lead, scoring off a pass from midfielder Marisol Pacheco to end the game 1-0.

Lopez was moved from her usual position as a defender to forward during the last several minutes of the second half. Coach Velasco said it was a gamble, but it ultimately paid off for the Pirates.

"She's a very good forward," he said. "She's a fast girl. It was an intense game. (Western Christian is) a really good team with great players. We just kept battling until we scored."

The Pirates will now move forward into the quarterfinals on Saturday, when they'll travel to Medford to face No. 2-ranked St. Mary's. St. Mary's is one of the 3A/2A/1A's toughest teams, having recorded one loss this year — their nonleague season opener against Catlin Gabel. On Wednesday, they shut out Douglas 5-0.

NORTH VALLEY 9, MAC-HI 0 — Mac-Hi went all out against No. 4-ranked North Valley during their round one 4A district playoffs match in Grants Pass on Wednesday. But it turned out to be a rough night for the Pioneers.

Mac-Hi ultimately went home scoreless, and goalie Daisy Alvarez was sent to the emergency room after suffering whiplash from a fall while trying to defend the ball. At press time, coach Martin Martinez and the team were still waiting to hear back on her recovery. The injury ended the game 15 minutes early.

"We got three shots in during the first five minutes, and one of them even hit the pole," Martinez said. "We tried our best and pressured the ball, but North Valley is a great team. Once their first goal got in, they just kept coming."



Staff photo by Brett Kane

Riverside's Neftali Pacheco slides in to steal possession of the ball from Western Christian's Leah Quesada in Boardman on Tuesday.

Prep volleyball preview

TigerScots return to state tourney

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Weston-McEwen has been a fixture at the 2A state volleyball tournament for years, having qualified 15 of the past 16 years.

The TigerScots are back in the 2A bracket this season after missing out last year, breaking a 14-year string of appearances. They will open play at 1:15 p.m. Friday against Portland Christian at Ridgeview High School in Redmond.

"The seniors are very excited," W-M coach Shawn White said. "It was difficult for them last year when that streak ended. This year, there is a lot of redemption. They have been very motivated to get back."

W-M (24-6) is ranked No. 5 heading into state,

See VOLLEYBALL/2B