

Prep football preview

Rockets face Antelopes in first round of 1A playoffs

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

It might not seem fair that Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii has to face Adrian/Jordan Valley in the first round of the 1A state football playoffs.

The teams played just last week in a 1A Special District 3 crossover game, a 52-14 victory by the Antelopes.

“It’s a weird twist of fate,” Rockets coach Mike Baleztena said. “It just happens to be the way the rankings work. We were eighth, then we lost to Adrian, and Imbler upset Crane. That’s

the way it goes.”

Friday’s first-round game will be played at noon at Adrian High School.

Baleztena said the Rockets (6-2) came out flat-footed last week against the Antelopes (6-3).

“The wheels fell off the bus and we were stuck in the mud,” he said. “We had eight turnovers, missed catches, missed handoffs, our punter missed two snaps and we had a touch-down called back. We also had a dropped pass two steps from the end zone. We absolutely did not play our normal game.”

Unless the bus fails to

get over the mountain, Baleztena said Friday’s game will have a different look.

“This time, I think we will be a much more disciplined team,” he said. “I expect a much better game.”

The Rockets, who have lost their past two games, have had a productive offense this season, scoring an average of 37 points a game.

Junior Logan Weinke, last year’s quarterback, has moved to wide receiver, where he has been on the receiving end of 600 yards and 13 touchdowns. He

also has run for four touchdowns and six 2-point conversions.

“He wanted to be quarterback again, but he is an exceptional receiver,” Baleztena said. “His speed is phenomenal and he runs the routes well.”

Sophomore Tanner Corwin took over at quarterback for the Rockets. He has thrown for more than 1,000 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also has run for four touchdowns.

Sophomore running back Tyasin Burns has been a workhorse this season. He has run for more than 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns.

He also has 239 receiving yards and six 2-point conversions.

2A playoffs: Kennedy at Heppner

The Mustangs rule the roost in the Blue Mountain Conference, now it’s time to see if their dominance rolls over into the state playoffs.

Heppner (7-2) will host the Kennedy Trojans (7-2) at 7 p.m. Friday night.

“Kennedy is a very good team,” Heppner coach Greg Grant said. “Probably way better than their ranking (10th) indicates. They lost to the top two teams in the state (Santiam and Sheri-

dan), in my opinion.”

The No. 7 Mustangs enter the game on a seven-game win streak after opening the season with losses to 3A Clatskanie and Santiam, which is in the opposite side of the bracket from Heppner.

The Trojans have won their past five games, the past two by a combined score of 109-6.

“We will have a good challenge on our hands Friday,” Grant said. “We are looking forward to it. Our kids are excited and I think our community is excited. It’s always nice to have a home playoff game.”

VOLLEYBALL: ‘We have a very tough draw on our half of the bracket’

Continued from 1B

while the Royals (21-3) are ranked No. 4.

The TigerScots handed PC one of its three losses at the Heppner Tournament on Sept. 1, but this is the first time they have met at state in several years.

“They are a team we have seen many times, but not for a while,” White said. “We lost a couple of finals to them in 2007-08, and we have played them a few other times. They went up to 3A for a while and they just came back down this year. This current team has not played them at state.”

W-M finished second at the Blue Mountain Conference district tournament to Grant Union, then swept Regis in the first round of state last weekend to advance.

“Regis was a good team,” White said. “The state is quite deep. We played easily the best we have played all year. We only had 17 unforced errors for the match, and

we were very aggressive.”

While the TigerScots have middle Tyree Burke back to full strength after an ankle injury, outside hitter Bryce Thul strained her hamstring against Regis.

“We are trying to get her healthy for Friday,” White said.

If W-M gets past the Royals, it likely will face top-ranked Kennedy in the semifinals. Kennedy faces Glide in its first match.

“We have a very tough draw on our half of the bracket,” White said.

But, playing in a league with defending state champion Grant Union, Heppner and Union has helped the TigerScots prepare for whatever comes their way.

“That is a benefit for us,” White said. “Day in and day out, we play good teams in our league. The rest of the state doesn’t realize how good the teams out here are. Eastern Oregon does really well in state volleyball.”

Local slate				
Thursday, Nov. 1				
Volleyball				
Hermiston vs. North Central at Southridge High School, 5 p.m.				
Friday, Nov. 2				
Football				
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii at Adrian/Jordan Valley, noon				
Kennedy at Heppner, 7 p.m.				
Crescent City at Pendleton, 7 p.m.				
Central Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.				
2A State Volleyball				
Weston-McEwen vs. Portland Christian at Ridgeview High School, Redmond, 1:15 p.m.				
Saturday, Nov. 3				
State Cross-Country				
Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Heppner boys at Lane Community College, Eugene				
2A State Volleyball				
Weston-McEwen vs. TBD at Ridgeview High School, Redmond				
Basketball				
National Basketball Association				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	6	1	.857	—
Boston	4	2	.667	1½
Philadelphia	4	3	.571	2
Brooklyn	2	5	.286	4
New York	2	5	.286	4
Seaside Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	3	3	.500	—
Charlotte	3	4	.429	½
Orlando	2	4	.333	1
Atlanta	2	4	.333	1
Washington	1	5	.167	2
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	7	1	.875	—
Detroit	4	1	.800	2
Indiana	4	3	.571	3
Chicago	2	5	.286	5
Cleveland	0	6	.000	6½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	4	2	.667	—
New Orleans	4	2	.667	—
Memphis	3	2	.600	½
Dallas	2	5	.286	2½
Houston	1	4	.200	2½
Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	5	1	.833	—
Portland	4	2	.667	1
Utah	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	3	4	.429	2½
Oklahoma City	1	4	.200	3½
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	7	1	.875	—
L.A. Clippers	4	2	.667	2
Sacramento	4	3	.571	2½
L.A. Lakers	2	5	.286	4½
Phoenix	1	5	.167	5



New Orleans Pelicans guard E'Twaun Moore, bottom center, dribbles between Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Kevon Looney, from left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday.

Monday's Games		Tuesday's Games		Wednesday's Games	
Philadelphia 113, Atlanta 92		Charlotte 125, Miami 113		Brooklyn 120, Detroit 119, OT	
Portland 103, Indiana 93		Cleveland 136, Atlanta 114		Denver 108, Chicago 107, OT	
New York 115, Brooklyn 96		Sacramento 107, Orlando 99		Indiana 107, New York 101	
Sacramento 123, Miami 113		Boston 108, Detroit 105		Minnesota 128, Utah 125	
Golden State 149, Chicago 124		Toronto 129, Philadelphia 112		L.A. Lakers 114, Dallas 113	
Milwaukee 124, Toronto 109		Memphis 107, Washington 96		Golden State 131, New Orleans 121	
Minnesota 124, L.A. Lakers 120		Oklahoma City 128, L.A. Clippers 110		San Antonio 120, Phoenix 90	
San Antonio 113, Dallas 108, OT					

PIGSKIN PICKERS

Week 9	Zachary Orem	Jeff Snell	Ron Gibbs	Clint Shoemaker	Taylor Smith	Mike Appleton	Annie Fowler	Eric Singer	Jodi Bloomberg	Frank Taylor
Overall:	58-22	58-22	58-22	56-24	55-25	53-27	54-26	52-28	48-32	47-23
Last week:	6-4	6-4	7-3	6-4	6-4	7-3	8-2	7-3	5-5	5-5
Pilot Rock at Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Adrian	Pilot Rock	Adrian
Kennedy at Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Heppner	Kennedy
Cresc. Vall. at Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Crescent Valley	Pendleton	Crescent Valley	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton	Pendleton
Cent. Vall. at Hermiston	Hermiston	Hermiston	Central Valley	Hermiston	Hermiston	Central Valley	Hermiston	Hermiston	Hermiston	Hermiston
West Virginia at Texas	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	Texas	Texas	Texas	West Virginia	Texas	Texas	Texas
UCLA at Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	UCLA	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	UCLA
USC at Oregon State	Oregon State	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	Oregon State	USC
Steelers at Ravens	Steelers	Ravens	Steelers	Ravens	Steelers	Ravens	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Ravens
Chargers at Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Chargers	Seahawks	Chargers	Seahawks	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers	Chargers
Rams at Saints	Rams	Saints	Saints	Rams	Saints	Saints	Rams	Saints	Rams	Rams

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