

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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1B



Pendleton running back Aiden Patterson rushes the ball in the Bucks' 62-14 win against La Salle Prep on Oct. 12 in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Bucks ready to run

Patterson has more than 1,000 yards, scored 17 touchdowns; Yeager has 502 and 8

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

When Pendleton struggled to move the ball offensively in the first half against Scappoose in the quarterfinals, the Bucks went back to their bread and butter.

That would be their run game. Pendleton opened the second half with running back Aiden Patterson doing what he does best. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior ran for 40 yards on five carries, and the Bucks ended the drive with Patterson catching a 6-yard touchdown pass from Cooper Roberts. Just all in a day's work for Patterson, who also ran for two touchdowns on the night. "We were trying to switch things up against Scappoose and catch them off guard," Patterson said.

"I take advantage of the opportunities I get." The Bucks (10-1) will need Patterson and fellow senior running back Shawn Yeager (6-1, 170) to be at the top of their game Saturday when they take on Thurston (8-3) in the Class 5A state semifinals at Hillsboro Stadium. Game time is 5:30 p.m. "We are blessed to have two backs that are healthy," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "They will be instrumental to our success. Aiden and Shawn, they root for each other. When you have that camaraderie, it's nice." Patterson leads the team in rushing with 1,097 yards on 105 carries and 17 touchdowns, while Yeager has 61 carries for 502 yards and eight touchdowns. "Our coaches have nicknames for us," Patterson said. "I'm 'Take it to the House' and

5A SEMIFINALS



Pendleton
Buckaroos
(10-1, 6-0)



Thurston
Colts
(8-3, 5-0)

Saturday, 5:30 p.m., at Hillsboro Stadium, Hillsboro

Shawn is 'Ground & Pound.' We put the hurt on defenses." With Thurston having a sizable defensive line, Patterson will rely on his offensive line to give him time and open holes. "I'm beyond thankful for the hard work the big guys put in," Patterson said of Travis McGee, Duncan Hughbanks, Everett Willard, Connor Cary and Cetch Kelly. "They are tough." Patterson's appreciation of the linemen goes back to fourth grade when he played Grid Kids. "I was an 80-pound offensive lineman," Patterson said of his time with Team Black. "Shawn played on another team and he was a running back. He was a lot bigger than me back then. He was like 100 pounds."

See BUCKS/2B

"We are blessed to have two backs that are healthy"

— Erik Davis, Pendleton coach

Wolves beat Blazers for 3rd straight win since Butler trade

By ANDRES YBARRA
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins scored 23 points, Derrick Rose had 17 and the Minnesota Timberwolves kept cruising without Jimmy Butler by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 114-96 on Friday night. Robert Covington and Karl-Anthony Towns each had 14 points for the Wolves, who are 7-1 at home and 3-0 since trading the disgruntled Butler to Philadelphia on Monday. The home crowd buzzed on a Prince-themed night with former Minnesota All-Star Kevin Garnett sitting courtside in one of the team's special purple-and-black alternate jerseys. The Wolves kept them cheering with uncharacteristically

NBA



Minnesota
114



Portland
96

solid defense, sending Portland to its second straight loss with a season low in points. Meanwhile, the Timberwolves' lineup had a balanced night, with all five starters scoring in double figures. CJ McCollum had 18 points and Damian Lillard added 16 for Portland, which never led. The Blazers got within six in the third quarter before Minnesota closed the



AP Photo/Jim Mone

Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns, center, shoots over Portland Trail Blazers' CJ McCollum, left, in an NBA game on Friday.

period on a 21-11 run by attacking the basket. It was a stark difference from the last time the teams met nearly two weeks ago, when the Blazers held

Minnesota to 81 points — the lowest point total in the NBA this season. The Wolves were without Butler, Jeff Teague and Rose for that game.

Sports shorts



Justin Tucker repeats as AP's best kicker

(AP) — Justin Tucker stunned everyone with a miss. The Baltimore Ravens' two-time All-Pro kicker is so good that nobody could believe it when he sliced a game-tying extra point wide right in a 24-23 loss to the Saints last month. It was Tucker's first career miss after nailing 222 straight. Despite the shank, Tucker was voted the top player in the league at his position for the second straight year by a panel of 10 football writers for The Associated Press. "With the best numbers in NFL history

despite kicking in the Northeast and outdoors, is there any question Tucker tops this list?" said New York-based writer Barry Wilner. Tucker, the most accurate kicker in league history at 90.1 percent, received 92 points in a 10-points-to-one-point system with six of 10 first-place votes. The next three were the same as last year's rankings. New England's Stephen Gostkowski, Greg Zuerlein of the Los Angeles Rams and Indianapolis' Adam Vinatieri finished in that order.

BMCC athletics

BMCC knocked out of NWAC tourney

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Blue Mountain was eliminated after day two of the Northwest Athletic Conference tournament in a loser-out match against the Lower Columbia Red Devils. The Timberwolves (25-10, 11-5) fell into the consolation bracket after a five-set loss to Chemeketa on Thursday. They climbed back into the tournament after topping Skagit Valley in three, but couldn't keep it going in Friday's best-of-three match. Outside hitter Mariah Moulton kicked things off with a kill to put Blue Mountain ahead first, but Lower Columbia's offense was stronger.

The Red Devils committed nine attack errors and two on serving in the first set, to help give the Timberwolves a 13-5 lead. The Red Devils played catch-up to pull within 24-23, but Blue Mountain middle blocker Faith McQueen put the set away on the next play. It wasn't long before Devils got it together. Lower Columbia took a 2-point lead early in set two, and although the Timberwolves managed to tie them up twice, they couldn't keep up the pace. At one point in the set, McQueen caught a ball in the eye and missed the rest of the match.

"At this point in the season, it was a struggle to rebound after losing one of our strongest offensive players," Blue Mountain coach Jessica Humphreys said. The injury softened the Timberwolves up enough for the Red Devils to take the set 25-22.

Ashlynn Cantwell, Megan Miller and Macey Wright opened set three strong to give the Red Devils a 5-point lead. Timberwolves outside hitters Sydney Neuman and Moulton held firm offensively to even the score at 13-13, but an attack error from Neuman and block from Miller sealed the match, 15-13. "The team played well," Humphreys said. "Although the NWAC didn't see our best game, I have to commend their effort. Despite all that added adversity, they came together and fought back. They played aggressively, and to win. Those were our biggest goals for this tournament." Neuman had eight kills and Moulton seven, and libero Reinena Schenbeck-Chang recorded 16 digs to lead Blue Mountain.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1968 — The "Heidi" television special starts on time and cuts off the NBC broadcast of the Oakland-New York Jets game in the final minutes, leaving viewers in the dark and unaware that the Raiders score two touchdowns in the last minute for a 43-32 comeback victory. 2014 — Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton agrees to terms with the team on a \$325 million, 13-year contract.

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