

## Signing: Hermiston's Madi Wilson signs to run track at EWU

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a time of 14.98 seconds. She was fifth in the 300 hurdles (46.70), the 4x100 relay was second (49.05), and the 4x400 team was sixth (4:07.70).

After three years of going to state at historic Hayward Field in Eugene, Wilson said she will miss going there.

"It's amazing," she said. "The atmosphere, the feeling of the track, the smell of the grass and track together."

There won't be any tears shed in the Columbia River Conference, where Wilson won the district title in the 100 hurdles the past three years, the 300 hurdles the past two years, and the 4x400 relay team the past three years. The 4x100 relay team won last year.

To top it off, all of the runners on both relay teams return.

"We will get a whole

lot more competition in the Washington league," she said. "I was always running by myself. It will be nice to have the competition. It's a fresh start, and I'll see what I'm made of."

Her biggest competitor in the Mid-Columbia Conference will be Hanford's Nyenuchi Okemgbo.

"She is a great athlete," Wilson said. "I ran against her (in the 100 hurdles) at the Davis Invite last year. She blew me away. It was cool to compete against her."

At that meet, Okemgbo ran a 15.14, while Wilson turned in a 15.53 and finished second.

"I can't wait for the people in Washington to see her and what she and the relay teams can do," Strot said. "We have competed against a few kids at the Kiwanis Invite, but not in a meet that determines regionals and state. It will be hard to get kids to state."

## Injuries: Seahawks may need a major shuffle

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the Chiefs it would be second-year safety Delano Hill stepping in. Hill played 52 snaps last week against San Francisco.

Seattle is equally unsettled at right guard and potentially with its depth in the backfield.

The Seahawks placed guard Jordan Simmons on injured reserve Tuesday due to a knee injury suffered in the loss to San Francisco and it's uncertain whether D.J. Fluker's injured hamstring will be healthy enough for him to return this week.

The injuries have left Seattle possibly needing a major shuffle on an offensive line that has helped create the top rushing offense in the NFL.

Ethan Pocic struggled last week when he stepped in for Simmons. Seattle has used George Fant as an extra offensive lineman for significant snaps throughout the season and his ability to play tackle could allow some shuffling among the starters in the short-term until Fluker can return.

"Let's wait and see on that one. We'll wait and see how this goes," Carroll said. "Jordan, he needs likely to get some work done on his knee to get him back so he's out. There are some decisions that we're making. Let's see how the week goes."

Seattle signed running back Bo Scarbrough off the Jacksonville practice squad to take Sim-

mons' roster spot and that's partly due to depth concerns at running back. Seattle played last week without rookie first-round pick Rashaad Penny due to a knee injury and Carroll said there was enough wear on starter Chris Carson and backup Mike Davis that they needed the extra depth in case Penny isn't back this week.

"It's uncertain if he can get back. We don't know that," Carroll said. "He's really determined to try and make it back and Friday is the day he can try to go for it and show that he can run and go for it."

Amid all the injury news, the Seahawks believe veteran linebacker K.J. Wright will be back after missing the past five games. Wright hasn't played since Week 10 after aggravating a knee problem that first popped up in the preseason and required surgery.

Wright said when he returned in Week 8 against Detroit that he took on too much and that eventually led to a setback. When he returns this time, he said he's going to be smarter about his play count and ramp up toward being ready for a full load when the postseason arrives — assuming Seattle gets there.

"We're going to be smarter this time. We've got a good game plan going," Wright said. "Ease it in these last two games, make the play-offs and kick it off from there."

## Blazers: Lillard had 22 points in third quarter

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on six Portland turnovers. Portland closed the gap and tied it at 17 on Meyers Leonard's 3-pointer before the end of the first quarter. Evan Turner's pullup jumper gave Portland a 19-18 lead early in the second, and Grizzlies weren't able to retake the lead until Jaren Jackson's driving layup made it 35-34.

Conley made consecutive 3-pointers and the Grizzlies led 52-47 at the half. He led all scorers with 15 points.

After a slow start in the first half, Lillard hit four 3-pointers in the third quarter. Meyers Leonard's 3-pointer put Portland in front 74-67.

The Blazers were coming off a 131-127 victory on the road against the

Clippers. Lillard had 22 points in the third quarter and Portland snapped a six-game losing streak on the road.

**Tip-ins**  
Grizzlies: Bickerstaff said the Grizzlies missed Dillon Brooks, who missed his 20th game because of a right knee injury. Brooks, who played for the Oregon Ducks, is in his second NBA season. "We miss the tenacity that he plays with. The toughness. A never-given-in attitude," Bickerstaff said before the game.

Trail Blazers: It was Lillard's 500th regular-season game. He was just 2 of 7 from the field in the first half. ... Every Blazer who played scored.

**Up next**  
Trail Blazers: Portland hosts Utah on Friday.

# Ohio rolls over San Diego State

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Nathan Rourke ran for two touchdowns and threw for another score, leading Ohio to a 27-0 victory over San Diego State in the drizzly Frisco Bowl on Wednesday night.

A.J. Ouellette rushed for 164 yards and the Bobcats (9-4) finished with 215 on the ground, the most the Aztecs (7-6) allowed all season with the fourth-best run defense in FBS.

Ohio finished with six wins in seven games and won a second straight bowl game under Frank Solich. He became the oldest head coach in FBS at 74 before bowl season when 79-year-old Bill Snyder retired at Kansas State.

San Diego State was shut out in a bowl for the first time since its first postseason appearance — a 53-0 loss to Hardin-Simmons in the 1948 Harbor Bowl at long-since-demolished Balboa Stadium in San Diego.

The Aztecs had 44 of their 287 yards on one run by Juwan Washington while losing a fourth straight game in a season for the first time in eight years under coach Rocky Long.

San Diego State's first meeting with Ohio was its first loss in 15 games against Mid-American Conference teams. The 27-point margin ended a streak of 10 straight games decided by single digits for the Aztecs, which the school said was the longest such streak since at least 1980.

Light rain that fell throughout the first half didn't seem to bother Rourke. The junior fooled the entire San Diego State defense with a fake hand-



AP Photo/Richard W. Rodriguez

Ohio running back A.J. Ouellette (45) leaps over San Diego State cornerback Darren Hall (23) in the first half of the Frisco Bowl NCAA college football game on Wednesday in Frisco, Texas.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL



off to Ouellette and ran untouched 9 yards around left end to cap a 15-play drive for a 10-0 lead in the second quarter.

Rourke's other scoring run was from 11 yards before halftime, and he threw a 35-yard TD to a wide-open Andrew Meyer near the goal line on a flea-flicker from Ouellette in the fourth quarter. Rourke was 10 of 22 for 206 yards passing with 44 yards rushing.

Washington had 129 yards rushing. Ryan Agnew threw for 126 yards, many of them with the game out of reach late, after replacing Aztecs starter Christian Chapman in the first half.

### The takeaway

San Diego State: Long is one of five current coaches to lead his team to a bowl in each of his first eight seasons. The Aztecs, who have been to nine straight bowls, are 3-5 in the postseason under Long with consecutive losses in the Dallas area. Army was a 42-35 winner in last year's Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth.

Ohio: The Bobcats have a 1-1 postseason record in Texas, getting even 56 years after losing to West Texas State 15-14 in the school's first bowl appear-

ance in the 1962 Sun Bowl in El Paso. The school's only other game in Texas was in nearby Denton, a 31-30 double-overtime win against North Texas in 2009.

### Up next

San Diego State: Stand-out LB Kyahva Tezino is eligible to enter the NFL draft, so his decision will go a long toward determining the Aztecs' hopes of getting back to 10 wins after a two-year streak ended. San Diego State opens at home against Weber State on Aug. 31.

Ohio: Solich's 15th season should be the third as a starter for Rourke, who is losing his top running back in Ouellette and three of his offensive linemen. The Bobcats open at home against Rhode Island on Aug. 31.

## Saints back on top of AP Pro32 poll

By SIMMI BUTTAR  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints are feeling quite at home on top of the NFL.

The Saints enter the final two weeks of the regular season with the best record in the league at 12-2. They finish the regular season with two games in the Superdome and are a win away from clinching home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

And the Saints are back on top of the latest AP Pro32 poll.

The Saints received 11 of the 12 first-place votes for 382 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Saints moved up a spot a day after holding off Carolina 12-9 on Monday night.

"On a night when Drew Brees didn't have his magic touch, it was a rapidly improving defense that carried the Saints to a huge win over Carolina that keeps them in the lead for all-important home-field advantage in the NFC playoffs," said Newsday's Bob Glauber.

The next two positions belong to the AFC West. The Los Angeles Chargers received the other first-place vote and jumped two spots to No. 2 following their thrilling 29-28 win over the Kansas Chiefs on Thursday night. Philip Rivers threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns, including a winning 2-point conversion in the final seconds.

"Nobody is having more fun playing football than



AP Photo/Mike McCarn

New Orleans Saints' Alvin Kamara (41) runs past Carolina Panthers' Kawann Short (99) in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., on Monday.

37-year-old Philip Rivers, who has inserted himself squarely in the MVP conversation," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida. The Chiefs fell two places to No. 3.

The NFC North champion Chicago Bears gained two spots to No. 4 after they earned their first playoff appearance in eight years with a win over Green Bay.

"The Chargers and Bears are playing better than any of the other contenders at the moment," said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk.

The Los Angeles Rams dropped two spots to No. 5 after losing to the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night. The Houston Texans

gained a place to No. 6 after rallying past the New York Jets. The Texans (10-4) are the No. 2 seed in the AFC and are at the Eagles on Sunday as they try to avoid playing on wild-card weekend next month.

The New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers followed in the poll. The Patriots fell two spots to No. 7 after losing 17-10 on Sunday at Pittsburgh, which moved up two spots to No. 8.

"Finally beat (Tom) Brady," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said of the Steelers earning their first victory over the Patriots since 2011.

New England is the No. 3 seed in the AFC, but closes with home games against

Buffalo and the Jets.

"Without a first-round bye, Patriots won't be reaching a third straight Super Bowl," said Alex Marvez of SiriusXM.

Pittsburgh has a half-game lead over Baltimore in the AFC North, but faces a challenge as the Steelers meet the Saints on Sunday.

The Indianapolis Colts, in the hunt for a wild-card spot in the AFC, also gained two places to No. 9.

And the Seattle Seahawks rounded out the top 10 as they fell two spots after their overtime loss at San Francisco. The Seahawks host the Chiefs on Sunday night as they look to close in on a playoff spot.

### LOCAL SLATE

**Thursday, Dec. 20**  
**Boys Basketball**  
Kiona-Benton (WA) at Riverside, 5:30 p.m.  
Sherman at Echo, 6 p.m.  
Wallowa at Echo, 7:30 p.m.  
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Basketball**  
Kiona-Benton (WA) at Riverside, 4 p.m.  
Wallowa at Echo, 4:30 p.m.  
Sherman at lone, 6 p.m.  
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.  
St. Helens at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 21**  
**Boys Basketball**

Klickitat (WA) at Helix, 3:30 p.m.  
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.  
Grant Union at Heppner, 6 p.m.  
Mac-Hi at Cascade, 7 p.m.  
Dufur at Echo, 7:30 p.m.  
Yakima Tribal School at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.  
Hermiston at Hanford, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Basketball**  
Trout Lake (WA), Long Creek/Ukiah at Helix, 2 p.m.  
Mac-Hi at Cascade, 5:30 p.m.  
Hermiston at Hanford, 5:45 p.m.  
Dufur at Echo, 6 p.m.  
Yakima Tribal School at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.

Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.  
Grant Union at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.  
**Boys Wrestling**  
Hermiston at Best of the West Invite  
**Girls Wrestling**  
Hermiston at Columbia Burbank Invite, 10 a.m.  
**Saturday, Dec. 22**  
**Boys Basketball**  
Helix Holiday Tourney, 3:30 p.m.  
Pilot Rock at Grant Union, 4 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 4 p.m.  
Weston-McEwen at Enterprise, 4 p.m.  
Riverview (WA) at Umatilla, 4:30 p.m.  
lone at Dufur, 5:30 p.m.

Mac-Hi at Cascade Holiday Classic, 7 p.m.  
Sunnyside at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Basketball**  
Helix Holiday Tourney, 2 p.m.  
Echo at Joseph, 2:30 p.m.  
Riverview (WA) at Umatilla, 3 p.m.  
lone at Dufur, 4 p.m.  
Pilot Rock at Grant Union, 5:30 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.  
Sunnyside at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m.  
Mac-Hi at Cascade Holiday Classic  
Weston-McEwen at Enterprise, 5:30 p.m.  
**Girls Wrestling**  
Hermiston at Sunnyside Tournament, 9 a.m.