

AP Photo/John Froschauer, File

In this Sept. 23, 2018, file photo, Seattle Seahawks free safety Earl Thomas, left, reaches for a pass he intercepted that was intended for Dallas Cowboys tight end Blake Jarwin, right, as Seahawks' Bobby Wagner, center, looks on during the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle.

Wild-card: Rematches highlight weekend

Continued from Page B1

think anybody's approach will change in this locker room," Andrew Luck says. "If you've played five, six, seven years in this league, you've overcome something. So there are a lot of folks who have overcome a lot."

The Colts don't let any defenders get to their quarterback, a stunning turnaround. Last season, which Luck missed with a right shoulder injury, Indy allowed 56 sacks, most in the league. In 2018 with Luck: 18, an NFL low.

Indy also has two sensational rookies in linebacker Darius Leonard, who had 163 tackles, and guard Quenton Nelson.

Neither team allowed a 100-yard rusher in 2018. Texans DE J.J. Watt, who along with Luck is a leading contender for Comeback Player of the Year, had an AFC-leading 16 sacks, 25 quarterback hits, 18 tackles for losses and forced a career-high seven fumbles, which tied for most in the NFL.

"To be able to get back to the top level of the game and know that I still have things to improve on and things that I want to get even better at, it's exciting," Watt says.

Seattle (10-6) at **Dallas (10-6)**

The Seahawks' 24-13 win vs. the Cowboys got them back on track on their way to an unexpected playoff berth in a rebuilding year. Seattle's the first team with a 1,000-yard rusher (Chris Carson) and three men with at least 300 yards on the ground since the 2001 Steelers, and led the NFL in rushing. The Seahawks also led the NFL with a plus-15 turnover margin; their 11 giveaways tied for third fewest

in league history. But Dallas, which has lost three straight to Seattle, with one touchdown scored in total, was 7-1 at home this season. It also will run the ball first with Ezekiel Elliott.

"I just think over the course of the early part of the season, we learned a lot," coach Jason Garrett says. "We learned a lot of things from the experiences we're having and I think we've grown. Guys have played more, they've played more together, and I think we've benefited from that."

Los Angeles Chargers (12-4) at Baltimore (10-6)

Two weeks ago, the visiting Ravens beat LA and moved atop the AFC North, which they then clinched last Sunday. Now comes a redux, and the Chargers will have top running back Melvin Gordon back, a real boost.

They will need a balanced offense, with Gordon's running complementing the passing of Philip Rivers, and a defense that can solve the

speed and moves of Baltimore's Lamar Jackson. Since Jackson replaced an injured Joe Flacco at quarterback, the Ravens are 6-1. Jackson and fellow rookie Gus Edwards give them a formidable running game to go with the No. 1-ranked defense in yards.

"They just never let you get comfortable as an offense," Rivers says. "It's always something trying to keep you off-balance. "It's going to be back and forth. There will be times where we pick everything up just right and do everything just right. There will be other times where we're going to have to, again, manage all those things that they do so well."

Philadelphia (9-7) at **Chicago (12-4)**

Thirty years ago, they played the "Fog Bowl" at the old Soldier Field. There isn't a whole lot of clarity about this matchup,

The Bears, paced by a strong version of the Monsters of the Midway, have been the better team all year. But they are generally playoff newbies, and they face perhaps the most resilient team in the league.

Philly has been ravaged by injuries, yet here it is, making big plays on both sides of the ball thanks greatly to the veterans who had such a big role in its roll to the title a year ago: Nick Foles, Zack Ertz, Lane Johnson, Fletcher Malcolm Jenkins. The Eagles still have to produce on the field, but their credentials are valid.

"I know how our team has really fought this last month of the season, last six weeks," coach Doug Pederson says. "And it does give you a little comfort knowing that we've kind of went through this grind and we're here now and we have to continue to grind and continue to

"But I don't think it's any easier. It's a different team again. Different set of circumstances. We have to travel. If we're fortunate to win, we have to be on the road again. It feels different, but the excitement is the same."

There's no shortage of excitement in Chicago, either. Under firstyear coach Matt Nagy, the Bears have moved from last place in the usually difficult NFC North to the

"I would say last year when we were playing good football, even though we had struggles within the team and struggles would be, you know, everything else was going haywire around us," DT Akiem Hicks says, "but we were able to pull together and keep fighting. And there was no quit, and you saw that this year when we got into last minutes of the game and still fighting and coming up with those wins. You could tell that guys have that fight in them."

THE SEAHAWKS' 24-13 WIN VS. THE COWBOYS GOT THEM BACK ON TRACK

PREP ROUNDUP

Umatilla boys claim day one of tourney

By BRETT KANE East Oregonian

The Umatilla boys are now enjoying a nine-game streak after turning away Blanchet Catholic 51-40 at the Crusader Classic New Year's Invitational in Salem on Thursday morning.

"For traveling all last night, staying in a motel, and playing an early morning game, we did pretty good," said coach Scott Bow.

Umatilla was up by just one point at the end of the first quarter before posting 17 points over Blanchet's eight in the second quarter for a 29-19 halftime lead.

The Vikings stumbled in the third and were outscored

13-9, but came back in the fourth to claim the win.

Senior guard Sebastian Garcia sank 15 points for the Vikings, and junior guard Andrew Earl had 13.

Umatilla (10-1) will play Western Christian on Friday in the tournament's second round. They'll start the Eastern Oregon League with a home game against Irrigon (6-7) on Tuesday.

"We've played a lot of good teams in these nonleague games," Bow said. "I'm ready to see us take on our league."

Girls

The Umatilla girls fell to 2-9 after Santiam handed them a 35-19 loss at round one of the Crusader Classic

New Year's Invitational on Thursday.

The Wolverines tore away early, taking a 9-2 lead at the end of the first quarter, leaving Umatilla unable to catch

"I thought we did really well," said Vikings coach McKenzie Davis. "We got some great looks at the net. but when it came down to it, they (Santiam) made the shots, and we didn't."

Umatilla put up seven points against Santiam's eight in the second quarter for a 17-9 Wolverine lead at the half. The Vikings could only manage 10 points in the second half.

Senior guard Charlene Alvarez posted five points to lead Umatilla. Senior post Alexandra Ford and freshman post Taylor Durfey had four each.

Two more Invitational games remain for Umatilla before they return home to begin Eastern Oregon League play. They host Irrigon (9-3) on Tuesday evening.

"We're pretty prepared for the league," Davis said.
"I'm looking forward to seeing how the girls stack up against these teams. Right now, there's not as much pressure because we're in the preseason. I know people have kind of low expectations for us, so I'd like to see us show up, play some good basketball, and turn

some heads."

Bucks: Teams trade lead several times

Continued from Page B1

McGee outweighed his opponent 283-219. The initial takedown was quick, and Kettle offered little resistance.

"I felt it when everyone was cheering for Jacob," McGee said. "The blood was flowing. You want to go out and compete for that.'

McGee also admitted he was a little uneasy going into his bout with the match on the line.

"I was a little scared, but it was go time," McGee said. "Once I got the first couple of seconds of the match out of the way, I was Though Griffen and

McGee had must-win matches, so did Aiden Henderson at 195. With the



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Jacob Griffin turns Redmond's Dillon Young in the 220-pound match of the Bucks' 36-32 win over the Panthers on Thursday in Pendleton. Griffin pinned Young in 50 seconds.

Bucks trailing 32-21, Pendleton needed to win its final three matches without giving up a point.

Henderson earned a 5-0 decision over Gabe Cauldell

sought-after

to set the table.

"We competed hard," Phillips said. "We had a third-string kid (Josh Whaley) at 160, and our 113 pounder (Kellen Hanson)

Pulisic, who can

play on either wing

or behind the striker,

has been overshad-

owed somewhat at

Dortmund this sea-

son due to the emer-

gence of English

Jadon

was wrestling a state runner-up. We get pinned in those two matches, we lose the match."

The Bucks and Panthers traded the lead several times until Redmond won every match from 160 to 182 to take a 32-21 advantage.

"We definitely didn't wrestle to our potential," Panthers coach Rob Spear said. "They stumbled. It wasn't the outcome we wanted."

Collin Primus (106), Gabe Browning (120), Alex Rendon (132) and Matt Robertson (145) also won matches for Pendleton.

The Bucks will compete in the Bend Invitational on Saturday, while Redmond will be at the Rollie Lane Invitational on Friday and Saturday in Nampa, Idaho.

Pulisic: Joins Chelsea as most expensive American player

Continued from Page B1

defender Alexi Lalas wrote on Twitter. "He just happens to be American ... which makes him even more valuable. All brands want to continue to mine the fertile U.S. market, having Pulisic doesn't hurt."

It is the most high-profile move secured by an American outfield player, with goalkeepers Tim Howard having previously played for Manchester United and Brad Friedel for Liverpool.

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said the club has signed "one of Europe's young players." "At just 20, we

most

believe he has the potential to become an important Chelsea player for many years to come," she said.

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri said he was unaware the club was signing Pulisic until a day before it was announced.

"I was asked about him a month ago," said Sarri, speaking after Chelsea's 0-0 draw with Southampton late Wednesday, "and my opinion was positive."



Sancho. Sancho was signed from Manchester City for \$10 million in the offseason of 2017 and has already scored six Bundesliga goals and set up nine more this season.

youngster

Pulisic has made only 11 league appearances (one goal, two assists) and only five of those were as a

In a message posted on his Twitter account, Pulisic urged Dortmund fans to "not doubt my passion, determination and my 110 percent commitment to the team right until the last ball is kicked this season."

Dortmund leads the German league by six points heading into the second half of the season and is through to the last 16 of the Champions League, where it will face Tottenham.

Chelsea is fourth in the Premier League, 11 points behind first-place Liverpool after 20 games.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

Friday, Jan. 4 Boys Basketball

Pilot Rock at Union, 6 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 6 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Ione, 7:30 p.m. Echo at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m. Joseph at Helix, 7:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m Riverside at Nyssa, 7:30 p.m. Irrigon at Vale, 7:30 p.m Richland at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m. Umatilla at Salem Academy Tourney Girls Basketball

Richland at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at lone, 6 p.m. Echo at Mitchell/Spray, 6 p.m. Joseph at Helix, 6 p.m. Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m. Irrigon at Vale, 6 p.m. Pilot Rock at Union, 7:30 p.m

Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m. **Boys Wrestling** Hermiston at Gut Check Invite (Seattle)

Saturday, Jan. 5 Boys Basketball Mac-Hi at Baker, 3 p.m.

Stanfield at Knappa, 3:30 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m. Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m. Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m. Ione at Echo, 5:30 p.m. Helix at Elgin, 5:30 p.m. Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m. Hermiston at Kamiakin, 7:30 p.m. Girls Basketball Stanfield at Knappa, 2 p.m Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m. Ione at Echo, 4 p.m.

Helix at Elgin, 4 p.m. Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m. Baker at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m. Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 5:30 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. Hermiston at Kamiakin, 5:45 p.m. **Boys Wrestling** Hermiston at Gut Check Invite (Seattle)

2018-19 BOWL GLANCE College Football Championship

Monday, Jan. 7 Santa Clara, Calif. Clemson (14-0) vs. Alabama (14-0), 5 East-West Shrine Classic Saturday, Jan. 19

At St. Petersburg, Fla.

At Pasadena, Calif

East vs. West, 12 p.m. (NFLN)

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl

American vs. National, TBA (NFLN) **Senior Bowl** Saturday, Jan. 26 At Mobile, Ala.

North vs. South, 11:30 a.m. (NFLN) **NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE** Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 5 Indianapolis at Houston, 1:35 p.m. (ESPN) Seattle at Dallas, 5:15 p.m. (FOX) Sunday, Jan. 6

L.A. Chargers at Baltimore, 10:05 a.m. (CBS)

Philadelphia at Chicago, 1:40 p.m. (NBC) **Divisional Playoffs** Saturday, Jan. 12

Baltimore/Los Angeles Chargers/Indianapolis at Kansas City, 4:35 p.m. (NBC) Chicago/Dallas/Seattle at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m. (FOX) Sunday, Jan. 13 Houston/Baltimore/Los Angeles Char-

gers at New England, 10:05 a.m. (CBS) Dallas/Seattle/Philadelphia at New Orleans, 1:40 p.m. (FOX) **NBA**

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Pct GB Toronto 28 12 .700 21/2 14 Philadelphia 25 .641 15 22 .595 **Boston** 41/2 Brooklyn 21 .462 91/2 29 .237 18 W L Pct GB Southeast Miami 18 18 .500 __ ½ 19 Charlotte 18 .486 20 .459 Orlando 11/2 23 Washington 15 .395 Atlanta 26 .297 71/2 W Pct GB Milwaukee 26 10 .722 Indiana 25 12 19 .676 11/2 17 .472 Detroit 10 28 17 Chicago .263 Cleveland .211 WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest W Pct GB Houston 21 15 .583 1/2 San Antonio 22 17 .564 19 Memphis 18 .486 31/2

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New Jersey

Dallas

Denver

Portland

Minnesota

Utah

New Orleans

Northwest

Oklahoma City

Pacific GB Pct Golden State 25 13 .658 31/2 L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers 21 17 .553 .500 Sacramento 19 19 Phoenix 30 .231 161/2

Thursday's Games San Antonio 125, Toronto 107 Denver 117, Sacramento 113 Friday's Games Utah at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m. Brooklyn at Memphis, 5 p.m. Dallas at Boston, 5 p.m.

Indiana at Chicago, 5 p.m. Orlando at Minnesota, 5 p.m. Washington at Miami, 5 p.m. Atlanta at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 6 p.m. New York at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m. Oklahoma City at Portland, 7:30 p.m. Saturday's Games Charlotte at Denver, 2 p.m

Utah at Detroit, 4 p.m. Dallas at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m. New Orleans at Cleveland, 5 p.m. Memphis at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m. Toronto at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m. Golden State at Sacramento, 7 p.m Houston at Portland, 7 p.m. Sunday's Games

Brooklyn at Chicago, 12:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 12:30 p.m. Orlando at L.A. Clippers, 12:30 p.m. Miami at Atlanta, 3 p.m. Washington at Oklahoma City, 4 p.m Indiana at Toronto, 4:30 p.m. Charlotte at Phoenix, 5 p.m.

39 15 17 7 37 117 132

Philadelphia 40 15 20 5 35 114 145

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.< Thursday's Games Minnesota 4, Toronto 3

Los Angeles 41 16 22 3 35 92 121

Carolina 5, Philadelphia 3 Buffalo 4, Florida 3 Boston 6, Calgary 4 N.Y. Islanders 3, Chicago 2, OT Montreal 2, Vancouver 0 St. Louis 5, Washington 2 Friday's Games

Winnipeg at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. Nashville at Detroit, 4:30 p.m. Columbus at Carolina, 4:30 p.m. Washington at Dallas, 5 p.m. New Jersey at Arizona, 6 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 6 p.m. Vegas at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games Calgary at Philadelphia, 10 a.m. Minnesota at Ottawa, 10 a.m. Columbus at Florida, 4 p.m. Vancouver at Toronto, 4 p.m. Nashville at Montreal, 4 p.m. Buffalo at Boston, 4 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis, 5 p.m. Edmonton at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay at San Jose, 8 p.m Sunday's Games Carolina at Ottawa, 10 a.m. N.Y. Rangers at Arizona, 1 p.m. New Jersey at Vegas, 1 p.m. Washington at Detroit, 2 p.m. Dallas at Winnipeg, 2 p.m. Edmonton at Anaheim, 5 p.m.

Chicago at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.