

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS | FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

B1

## Bucks rally past Redmond

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

Jacob Griffin admitted his legs still were shaking 10 minutes after his match on Thursday night.

The Pendleton freshman knew he had to win his 220-pound match against Redmond's Dillon Young if the Bucks were to have any chance of winning the match.

Griffin looked like a veteran on the mat, pinning Young in 50 seconds to pull Pendleton within 32-30 of the Panthers.

Travis McGee sealed the win for the Bucks with a 23-second pin of Ryan Kettle at 285 as Pendleton recorded a 36-32 Intermountain Conference victory at Warberg Court.

"He was huge compared to me," Griffin said of Young, who weighed in 15 pounds heavier. "I was so scared going into that match. I kept thinking I was going to lose, and then we would lose. I just believed in myself that I could do it. I felt right at home out there. He was a strong kid."

Griffin took Young down just 27 seconds into the match, turned him and got the pin.

"When I was circling, I thought if I don't do this now, I won't," Griffin said. "I got the pin, then Travis did too. I'm feeling pretty confident right now."

Pendleton coach Fred Phillips was proud of the way his young wrestlers performed.

"We had a freshman at 220 and our heavyweight is a first-year guy," Phillips said. "Our seniors didn't go out and get it done tonight, it was our freshmen and young kids, which was surprising."

See Bucks, Page B2



Above: Pendleton's Alex Rendon controls the leg of Redmond's John Downing in the 132-pound match in the Bucks' 36-32 win over the Panthers on Thursday in Pendleton.

Left: Pendleton's Matt Robertson pins Redmond's Michaelo DeGross in the 145-pound match in the Bucks' 36-32 win over the Panthers on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

## NFL PLAYOFFS Rematches highlight wild-card weekend

By BARRY WILNER  
AP Pro Football Writer

Some juicy rematches highlight wild-card weekend, in which, well, just about any of the eight teams advancing wouldn't be a surprise.

Seattle beat Dallas early this season, and Baltimore handled the Los Angeles Chargers late. The Colts and Texans split two games. Only the Eagles and Bears didn't face off.

"That was a different time of the season," says Seahawks defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr., who played for Dallas. "I think we both were at different places in our growth for the season. I think we're both two different teams right now."

"They're coming off of a win streak and the quarterback and the running back and the receiver and the whole offense is really clicking. It's really challenging for us to get this together, but it's going to be a really good game. They've been effective certainly on the run, they've been effective in the pocket and with his mobility. We have our work cut out for us."

All eight teams do in a round with nothing but toss-up games.

The action begins with the two AFC South teams meeting in Houston on Saturday afternoon. The scene shifts north and west in Texas to Dallas for the prime-timer between the Seahawks and Cowboys.

On Sunday, the Chargers come across the country to Baltimore, then defending champion Philadelphia is at Chicago.

Awaiting the results are top seeds Kansas City (AFC) and New Orleans (NFC), plus No. 2s New England (AFC) and the Los Angeles Rams (NFC).

### Indianapolis (10-6) at Houston (10-6)

Way back in the first half of the season, these were struggling squads. Houston lost its first three games before reeling off a nine-game winning streak to surge to the top of the division. Indianapolis was 1-5 and has lost just once since Oct. 14, when it fell to the Jets, of all people.

"It feels like we've been playing in the postseason for quite a while now and I don't

See Wild-card, Page B2

## Pulisic to join Chelsea as most expensive American player

DORTMUND, Germany (AP) — Christian Pulisic became the most expensive American soccer player in history after completing a transfer to English club Chelsea from Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday.

Chelsea paid \$73 million for the 20-year-old United States winger, who will be loaned back to Dortmund for the rest of this season.

The German club won't have to pay Chelsea for the loan.

The fee is easily the biggest paid for an American player, surpassing the reported \$22.5 million spent by German team Wolfsburg for John Brooks in 2017.

"It was always Christian's big dream to play in the Premier League," Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said. "That certainly has to do with his American origins, and so it wasn't possible for us to extend his contract."

The Hershey, Pennsylvania-native's contract with Dortmund was due to expire at the end of next season.

"It is a privilege to have signed for such a legendary club," Pulisic said of the London team that has won five Premier League titles since 2005. He thanked Dortmund for "finding a solution that was win-win for everyone."

Pulisic had long been linked with a move to a Premier League club, while Dortmund's league rival Bayern Munich was also reportedly interested.

Despite the price tag, the signing could be somewhat of a coup for Chelsea if it helps the club establish a larger American fan base.

"He's one of the great young talents in the world," former U.S.

See Pulisic, Page B2

### SPORTS SHORTS

## Army's Jeff Monken selected George Munger coach of the year



Army head coach  
Jeff Monken

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Army's Jeff Monken has been selected the George Munger coach of the year.

Monken earned the award by the Maxwell Football Club after guiding the Black Knights to an 11-2 record, the most victories in a season in academy history. Army also earned its first

national ranking in 22 years.

Army capped its breakthrough campaign with a 70-14 victory over Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl, which tied a Bowl Subdivision record for points in a bowl game. It was the Black Knights' ninth straight win.

The No. 22 Black Knights have had three straight win-

ning seasons. Before Monken replaced Rich Ellerson ahead of the 2014 season, Army had had only one winning season since 1996.

They've had three consecutive wins over rival Navy and captured the Commander In Chief's Trophy outright in consecutive years for the first time.