

PREP SOCCER

Hermiston boys win opener



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Che Cadenas dribbles the ball ahead of Hanford's Jarod Marshel in the Bulldogs' 2-1 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Alexis Leal breaks tie in second half to clinch first MCC win

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

The Hermiston boys like to keep their audience in suspense. On Tuesday night, the soccer team made their Mid-Columbia Conference debut at home against the Hanford Falcons. Hanford took an early lead, but Hermiston came back to tie it up just before halftime, and finally pulled away with a 2-1 victory. "We started off sloppy," said sophomore midfielder Alexis Leal. "We came in with big heads. I think we expected to send it every time. We were playing long ball." Those expectations weren't unjustified — the Falcons were without a single win all the way through the preseason (0-6). Meanwhile, the Bulldogs were going in with a 1-4 overall record.

But the Falcons got off to a hot start when freshman midfielder Ethan Henning kicked a goal in not 8 minutes into the game. They would hold the 1-0 advantage for 24 minutes until Bulldog junior midfielder Coleman Solano assisted sophomore forward Moises Lopez for a goal to knot the score. "We came out strong for those first couple of minutes," said Hermiston coach Rich Harshberger, "but then we went back on our heels. That's how they (Hanford) got their goal." With the score tied at 1-1 at the half, Harshberger knew something had to change. "We came in thinking we would send it. We weren't playing our usual system," he said. "That was the main message at the half — we don't play long ball. That's not who we are. That's not an option. The boys really responded to that, and stepped it up in the second half." At 18:39 in the second half, senior midfielder Emilio Leal



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Moises Lopez attempts to steal the ball from Hanford's Evan Smith in the Bulldogs' 2-1 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston.

drove the ball down the field, gearing up to put a goal in, but soon found himself cornered by a Hanford defender. He eyed an opening and passed the ball to Alexis Leal, who kicked in an easy goal to push the

Bulldogs out front. "If we were going to win this game, we couldn't just hang our heads and give in early," Alexis Leal said. "We needed to come

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PREP BASEBALL

Bend rallies past Bucks in fifth inning comeback

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

It was a game of few runs until Bend finally got the bats going. At Hood River Valley, the Bucks and the Lava Bears kept things close until Bend fired away with a four-run fifth inning to take down Pendleton 6-3 in a non-league game. "At times, we executed and did a good job," said coach TJ Hague-wood. "But there were other times where we got ourselves into situations that we couldn't wiggle our way out of." Bend took an early 1-0 lead at the top of the first, and two scoreless innings ensued until the Bucks ran in two at the bottom of the fourth for a short-lived advantage. But the Lava Bears were quick to respond in their next at-bat — junior AJ Lovejoy slammed a home run that drove in three. Pendleton would only manage one more run for the remainder of the game. Lovejoy was Bend's star player of the day, batting just 1 for 3, but scoring one run and three RBIs. Sophomore Kaleb Karpstein hit 2 for 4 with a run and an RBI, and senior Cooper Simmonds was 2 for 3 at the plate with a run. Junior Cooper Roberts led the Bucks on offense, batting 2 for 3 with two RBIs. Senior Quinn Doherty followed, going 1 for 4 with an RBI. Junior Tanner Sweek struck out four Lava Bears, but walked four, and allowed two hits and one run over four innings on the mound. "Tanner threw the ball well to start the game," Haguewood said. "We got some solid pitching from him today." Senior Chris Large pitched during innings five and six, and allowed five hits and five runs. Sophomore Ty Beers finished off the game with a strikeout and just one run given up. The Bucks (3-4) travel to Southridge for a doubleheader on Friday. First pitch is at 4 p.m. Haguewood expects a good game. "Southridge is in the top of their division every year," he said. "We always like to get them on our schedule. It's good to face that competition in the preseason."

Alliance of American Football ends first season prematurely

By BERNIE WILSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Alliance of American Football has ended its first season prematurely and told most employees that they will be terminated as of Wednesday. Employees were notified of the decision in a letter from the AAF board on Tuesday afternoon. The board essentially is majority owner Tom Dundon, who also owns the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, gave no reason for ending the inaugural season, only that the decision was made "after careful consideration." It also said a small staff would remain to seek new investment capital and "restructure our business. Should those efforts prove

successful, we look forward to working with many of you on season two." The abrupt end to the latest spring league after just eight weeks stunned co-founder Bill Polian, the former NFL executive who built a Super Bowl winner with Indianapolis. "I'm extremely disappointed," Polian said. "On the one hand it was kind of our wildest fantasies come true. It all came true and now it's all come crashing down." Asked why the league was shutting down, Polian said he's heard "only that it's about the money. That's all." The league had teams in Orlando, Atlanta, San Diego, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Birmingham and Memphis. Memphis quarterback Johnny

Manziel tweeted: "Just the reality of this unfortunate situation.. great concept, good football on the field and fun for fans to watch. Just not enough money to go around which has been the main problem with 'other' leagues for a long time." The letter said employees would be paid through Wednesday. The AAF seemed to have a better chance of surviving than other alternative leagues, such as the USFL and the World League, because of the people and philosophies involved. Polian and co-founder Charlie Ebersol, a television and film producer, envisioned it as a development league for the NFL with several rule tweaks designed to speed up play and make it safer. There were no kickoffs or PATs. Teams had to go for a two-point

conversion after touchdowns. "We were headed to a tremendous run of success, beginning with Saturday's game leading into the Final Four on CBS," Polian told the AP. "Our league on the field has prospered and grown. The football's gotten better, and that's a tremendous tribute to the coaches and players and GMs and front office staff and all the other people who have done a phenomenal job." While it clearly wasn't NFL-caliber football, it was entertaining and helped fill the post-Super Bowl void. Among the league's coaches were Steve Spurrier, Dennis Erickson, Mike Martz and Mike Riley. The AAF aspired to be a league for players with NFL hopes, but it could not reach agreement with the NFLPA to use players at the end of NFL rosters.



AP Photo/Peter Joneleit, File

In this March 17, 2019, file photo, San Diego Fleet tight end Gavin Escobar makes a catch.

SPORTS SHORTS

Mick Schumacher makes test debut for Ferrari

SAKHIR, Bahrain (AP) — More than 12 years after Formula One great Michael Schumacher drove his last race for Ferrari, his son showed he might be ready to carry on the family legacy. Mick Schumacher drove in his first F1 test for Ferrari on Tuesday and set the second fastest time. Shortly before the end of the afternoon session in Bahrain, the 20-year-old Schumacher posted a

time of 1 minute, 29.976 seconds. That was briefly the fastest time of the day before it was surpassed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who was 0.597 seconds faster. Schumacher completed 56 laps, with only Verstappen and defending champion Lewis Hamilton doing more. The performance is likely to generate even more excitement about the prospect of seeing a Schumacher driving in Ferrari's famed red car again.

Five of his father's record seven F1 titles were won with Ferrari from 2000-04. His 50-year-old father also holds the record for F1 wins with 91. Despite the focus, the younger Schumacher appeared calm and was smiling when he arrived at the Ferrari garage and drove onto the track for the first time, watched by his mother, Corinna.



AP Photo/Hassan Ammar, File