

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Heppner faces a tough test in 3A Clatskanie

Ione/Arlington to take on Powder Valley at Hermiston's Kennison Field

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — You want to be the best, you have to play the best.

Heppner football coach Greg Grant gives his team the opportunity for success every season by finding the toughest non-league games he can find.

Friday, the Mustangs will host Clatskanie, which was voted the No. 2-ranked team in the Class 3A preseason poll.

“Our kids are excited to play a very,

very good team,” Grant said. “They return all of their line and have good skill kids.”

Heppner, which came in at No. 4 in the Class 2A poll, is happy to be facing the Tigers at home.

“It doesn't hurt,” Grant said. “It's nice to be in front of the home crowd. It's something we look forward to.”

Grant believes his team can hang with the Tigers if the Mustangs play their game.

“We want to make sure we don't lose the game,” Grant said. “We need to hang onto the ball, execute and do the little things. We need to cut down on mistakes.”

**Ione/Arlington vs.
Powder Valley**

It's a trip to the big town for the Car-

dinals, who play the Badgers at 4 p.m. at Hermiston's Kennison Field.

“I think we are ready,” Ione coach JJ Rosenberg said. “We are excited. We have come a long way since last year. It will be cool to see where we are at.”

Rosenberg said one of the things he likes about his team is how physical it is.

“They are a physical bunch of boys,” Rosenberg said. “Not something you come across often. They get after it.”

The Cardinals' game is the opener of the 8-man extravaganza at Kennison Field. Dufur vs. Adrian/Jordan Valley will follow.

The Rangers have won 33 consecutive games and the past four Class 1A state titles.

“They are two of the higher-ranked

teams in the poll,” Rosenberg said. “It will be fun to watch them play.”

Ione will host Dufur in a Big Sky League game Oct. 4.

The rest of the schedule

Echo, which lost its opening game when Harper did not field a team, will host Riverside at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The Cougars are a 6-man team, and Riverside a 2A team. They have agreed to play a game of 6-man football.

Friday's schedule also includes Mac-Hi hosting Madras, Weston-McEwen at Central Linn, Umatilla at Regis, and Pilot Rock will play at Enterprise at 2 p.m.

Thursday's lone game will feature Stanfield at Irrigon.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Dustyn Coughlin, left, Garrett Walchli, and Chase Bradshaw pose for a portrait on the football field at Hermiston High School in August.

Hermiston opens Mid-Columbia Conference season at Pasco

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Mid-Columbia Conference football teams try to avoid one another in the summer — they don't want to give too much away.

Try as they might, all nine teams ended up at the Eastern Washington University team camp.

It's not enough to get a full scouting report, but Pasco coach Leon Wright-Jackson saw enough of Hermiston to learn a couple of things.

“They are big and they are fast,” Wright-Jackson said.

Hermiston will open its season Friday against Pasco at Edgar Brown Stadium in the battle of the Bulldogs. Game time is 7 p.m.

“I think they are going to have good team speed, and they have good skill guys,” said Hermiston coach David

Faaeteete, whose team won last year's matchup 45-0. “It was cool to see that they are going to be hungry this year.”

Hermiston, which has to replace a bulk of its offense with the graduation of quarterback Andrew James and running back Wyatt Noland, will look to sophomore quarterback Chase Elliot, who will get protection up front from senior all-league linemen Chase Bradshaw and Dustyn Coughlin.

Senior Garrett Walchli has speed, and the Bulldogs will use that out of the backfield, at receiver and on defense.

“I think we have a solid core group of seniors who put in the work over the summer,” Faaeteete said. “We have size and speed. I'm excited to see them put it all together on Friday night.”

Wright-Jackson is in his second year at the helm at Pasco — his alma mater. He has done his best to instill a sense of family and pride in the program.

“I always felt Pasco had good team

chemistry,” Faaeteete said. “They are just missing pieces here and there. They compete and they are athletic.”

Pasco put in the work over the summer, getting in the weight room and attending camps.

“There were days we had 40 or 50 kids in the weight room,” Wright-Jackson said. “We did not have that last year. That's progress.”

Pasco will rely on second-year quarterback Armani Reyes to run the offense. He threw for more than 1,100 yards and eight touchdowns last year.

Reyes will have a trio of receivers to throw to, including Des Licon, Alex DeLeon and Traeton Mitchell, while Sergio Avina will carry the ball out of the backfield.

“It's awesome to see what Leon has done with his program in his second year,” Faaeteete said. “I think Pasco is on the up and up. They are going to catch some of us this year.”



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

Matteo Berrettini, of Italy, reacts after winning the fifth set tie break for victory against Gael Monfils, of France, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships Wednesday in New York.

Berrettini edges Monfils at U.S. Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — Matteo Berrettini describes his mental coach as a big help and a best friend. They've been speaking on the phone before and after every match during Berrettini's run to his first Grand Slam semifinal.

They had plenty to chat about when it came to this latest victory.

Berrettini, a 23-year-old from Rome, gave Italy a spot in the final four at the U.S. Open for the first time since 1977 in dramatic fashion, double-faulting away his initial match point and then needing four more to finally put away 13th-seeded Gael Monfils of France 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (5) after nearly four hours in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Wednesday.

“He told me, ‘I need to thank you, because I thought that everyone is born once and dies once. But during that match, I was born and died 15 or 16 times,’” Berrettini said about his conversation with the mental coach he's worked with for several years. “I collapsed and got back up. I collapsed and got back up. That match point. Those other chances. I was down then I came back. It's a great source of pride for me.”

In truth, the denouement was hardly a thing of beauty, with both men, clearly spent, fighting themselves and the tension of the moment as much as the guy on the other side of the net.

Monfils finished with 17 double-faults but managed to avoid any

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SPORTS SHORTS

Larger U.S. sports betting market races for (online) end zone

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — As the second NFL season following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling clearing the way for legal sports betting begins, the industry is growing larger and ever-more mobile.

The future of sports betting in the U.S. is online. More than 80 percent of sports bets placed in New Jersey,

the state that won the high court case last year, were made over the internet or on smartphones. The question of whether to allow mobile betting, and how to regulate it, has kept several states from entering the market or more fully expanding within it, as is the case in New York.

Chris Grove, a managing director with Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, says fully embracing online sports betting will be the biggest challenge for

land-based casinos this year.

“It's clear that consumers overwhelmingly prefer to bet on sports online,” he said. “Attempting to route consumers through the casino to access online apps will only limit the potential of legal sports betting and pump oxygen into the illegal market. Where would Amazon be if you had to go into a Kohl's to create your Amazon account before ordering anything?”

In this Sept. 4, 2019, file photo, Andy Lanni of Oceanview, N.J. checks the odds at the sports book in the Borgata casino in Atlantic City, N.J.
AP Photo/Wayne Parry, File

