

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Heppner's Stewart wins Big 4 Rodeo award

Stewart won the Pendleton Round-Up team roping title last week

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

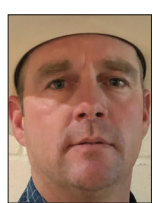
HEPPNER — The first thing Jason Stewart did, when he found out he won the Big 4 Rodeo Association's "Best in the Northwest" title, was text his good buddy Trevor Brazile.

"I thanked him for not coming to the other rodeos," Stewart said.

"This was a big surprise. I knew I was potentially in the running, but I never looked at the standings. When I won the Walla Walla steer roping title, I knew I had a chance."

The award is given to the cowboy who accumulates the most points while competing at all of the Big 4 rodeo — Kennewick's Horse Heaven Round-Up, Walla Walla Frontier Days, the Lewiston Round-Up and the Pendleton Round-Up.

Stewart, 43, who competed in



Stewart

team roping and steer roping at all four rodeos, won the tightly contested race for the first time.

"Have you seen the names on there?" Stewart said of the past winners. "I can't believe my name is on there with theirs."

Brazile has won the award six times, Tuff Hedeman won in 1987, Dee Pickett in 1979, and the great Jim Shoulders in 1957.

Stewart's winnings between the four rodeos was \$11,864. He also will receive a custom-made saddle designed for the winner by Stoney Saddlery of Wickenburg, Arizona.

Stewart, who backed off from rodeoing full time when he and his wife Sybil started a family,

has pretty much stayed within the Columbia River Circuit, where he is third in the all-around standings, second among the headers, and is third in the steer roping.

Before sons Jett, Tripp and Truu came along, Stewart made two trips to the NFR in team roping. He headed for Kyle Lockett in 1998, and for Bucky Campbell in 2000.

He also won the steer roping title at the Pendleton Round-Up in 2003. Last week, he won the team roping at the Pendleton Round-Up with Calgary Smith.

"I feel very fortunate at my age to win," Stewart said of the team roping title. "Pendleton is my favorite rodeo. You win Pendleton or Chey-

enne, your name goes down in history. It's the coolest thing. It's pretty surreal. I'd almost forgot what it felt like — funny how it comes back."

Stewart, who won nine high school titles growing up in Washington, also won the second go-round in team roping at the College National Finals Rodeo with Brazile in 1998. They set the arena record in Rapid City, S.D., with a time of 4 seconds.

"I was at Blue Mountain and he was at West Texas A&M University," Stewart said. "We were both rodeoing full time, but we both had made the college finals. He didn't have a partner and neither did I. Our coaches made some calls and found out we could rope together."

FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



Zaanan Bane, of Pendleton, sprints into the end zone for a touchdown during Friday's league game against the Putnam Kingsmen.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Hermiston wide receiver Garrett Walchli (5) wrangles in a pass to run for a touchdown in the second half. The Kennewick Lions defeated the Hermiston Bulldogs 28-17 at Neil F. Lampson Stadium in Kennewick on Friday night.

Lions fend off Dawgs in MCC showdown

Hermiston falls to 0-3 in Mid-Columbia Conference play with the loss

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

KENNEWICK — The Hermiston Bulldogs still are looking for their groove. Once they find it, they could be dangerous.

The Bulldogs kept pace with Kennewick for three quarters on Friday night, but the Lions hung 14 points on the board in the fourth quarter to hold on for a 28-17 Mid-Columbia Conference victory at Lampson Stadium.

"You can't win if you don't take care of the little things," Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said. "If you don't sweat the small details, they come back to get you. We had missed assignments and missed opportunities. We just dropped the ball."

It was a key 3A game for both teams, but the Dawgs (0-3) did not make it easy on the Lions (2-1).

"They play hard," Kennewick coach Randy Affholter said. "I thought we controlled the ball and handled the run game,

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BUCKS TRAMPLE KINGSMEN

Pendleton rises to 2-1 overall, Putnam falls to 1-2

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — To stop Putnam, Zaanan Bane took to the ground.

The junior running back carried for 124 of Pendleton's 310 yards on Friday night,

and was responsible for the Bucks' first two touchdowns on the way to its 62-21 victory over the visiting Kingsmen.

"He's been working hard," Pendleton head coach Erik Davis said. "He plays well on both sides of the ball. He came into his own tonight."

Putnam, who struggled to control the ball in the first half, was no match for Bane's team-up with quarterback Cooper Roberts, carrying his first-quarter handoff for 46 yards to the 1-yard line for a first-and-goal. Bane completed the carry on the next play to

put the Bucks on the board.

He would notch another touchdown near the four-minute mark on a 47-yard carry. Key tackles from linebacker Kyle Liscom, and a stop from defensive back Kason Broncheau kept the Kingsmen scoreless in the first quarter.

"When the front line is clicking like it was," Bane said, "there's nothing you can't do."

Roberts would attempt a deep pass to

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SPORTS SHORTS

After social media complaints, Brady makes nice with refs

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — A day after complaining on social media that there were too many penalties in the game he was watching on TV, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady tried to make nice with the NFL referees.

"I'm very pro-ref," Brady said in the New England locker room on Friday.

Brady was tweeting a differ-

ent story on Thursday night, when Tennessee and Jacksonville were flagged 15 times in the first half, starting on the very first play from scrimmage. After Titans linebacker Kamalei Correa was called for roughing the passer in the second quarter, Brady posted on Twitter: "Too many penalties. Just let us play!!!!"

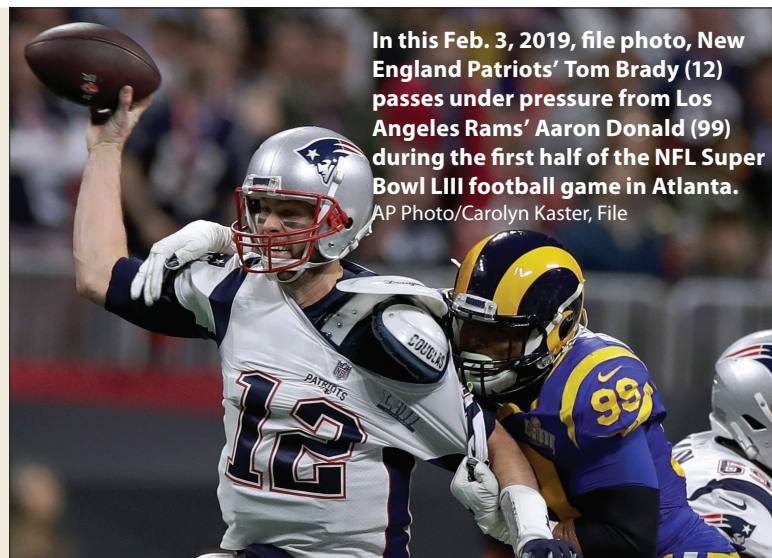
A few minutes later, he added in a tweet that has been liked 122,300 times by Friday afternoon: "I'm turning off this game I can't watch

these ridiculous penalties anymore." Even broadcaster Troy Aikman seemed to agree with Brady.

Asked about it on Friday, Brady maintained he wasn't criticizing the officials.

"The refs always do a good job. I never complain to the refs," he told reporters crowding around his locker. "You guys ever hear me complain to the refs?"

Yes.
We.
Do.



In this Feb. 3, 2019, file photo, New England Patriots' Tom Brady (12) passes under pressure from Los Angeles Rams' Aaron Donald (99) during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl LIII football game in Atlanta. AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File