

Pendleton Buckaroos to face winless Milwaukie on Friday

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

MILWAUKIE — After two back-to-back games at home, the Pendleton High School football team is ready to get back on the road.

On Friday, the Bucks (3-1, 2-0 IMC) head to Milwaukie for a 5A Special District 1 contest. Pendleton is coming in with a three-game streak, including two consecutive wins at home, the last of which — a 32-14 win over Scappoose — imbued the team with a sense of renewal.

“Scappoose was one of the bigger wins we’ve had as a program in quite some time,” Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. “I truly believe

we were underdogs going into it. Last year, we were the favorites, but this year, Scappoose is pretty well known. We were the pregame underdogs. Our kids’ inexperience faded away.”

The Indians weren’t the only familiar faces the Bucks have reunited with this season, and it won’t be the last — the Mustangs, who will host on Friday, fell to the Bucks 56-0 last year. But coach Davis isn’t letting last year’s experience seep into this year’s playbook.

“We’ve moved forward from looking back as a team,” he said. “That’s been part of our process with this young group. It’s not fair to them. We’re really just focusing on this year and what’s ahead.”

For those who wish to reminisce,

this Friday, it will have been almost a year to the day since the Mustangs have won a game. Milwaukie’s last victory was on Oct. 5, 2018, when they took down Benson 61-19.

Furthermore, the Mustangs haven’t had a playoff berth since 2005, where they lost 46-14 to North Medford in the first round. Milwaukie’s last playoff win came in 1991, where they defeated none other than the Pendleton Buckaroos 12-7 in the first round of the 4A state playoffs.

Milwaukie is 0-4 this season, and failed to score during last Friday’s 50-0 matchup with Parkrose.

“We want to make sure the kids don’t have a letdown week,” Davis said. “Coming off a big, emotional win, it can be easy to overlook an

0-4 team. In high school football, you can never overlook anybody.”

Meanwhile, the Bucks haven’t dropped a game since the season opener at La Grande, and Davis noted that the team is coming into its own.

“We’re definitely more balanced than we’ve been in the past,” he said. “We’ve had some success up front running the football.”

The Bucks have relied on its running abilities to put games away in recent weeks. The offense has combined for an average of 250 rushing yards each game for the past three games, and ran over 300 against Putnam two weeks ago.

“It makes it a lot easier on me when you’re able to just call a run play and be productive with it,”

Davis said. “Any time you can run over 200 yards in a game, you’re doing OK.”

The Bucks have spent the past week polishing what’s worked well for them. Fans can expect to see plenty of cleats on the ground come Friday night in Milwaukie, but Davis also hopes to see the ball get some air.

“We definitely want to throw the football and see if we can’t establish a passing game as well,” he said. “We’ve had great practices this week. The kids are moving around well and having a good time. They’re loose and ready to go. We’re gonna go out with a good game.”

Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. at Milwaukie.

Lassoing a childhood dream

Calgary Smith of Adams finally gets his name on Pendleton’s champions wall

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Calgary Smith grew up in the shadow of the Pendleton Round-Up on a ranch just outside the small town of Adams.

His family attended the Round-Up on a yearly basis, and the young cowboy would often take snapshots of the champions wall, telling anyone who would listen that his name would one day be up there.

“I didn’t think it would be this early,” said Smith, who won the team roping title with Jason Stewart of Heppner three weeks ago.

Smith, 20, and Stewart turned in a time of 4.8 seconds in the finals, and finished the week with a Round-Up record time of 17.1 on three head to win the title.

It was an emotional day for Smith, who recently lost his grandfather, Charles Cain. He broke down in his father Chad’s arms after his victory lap.

“It could not have worked out better than it did,” Smith said. “Running out and going over the rails was quite amazing. I’ll never forget that. I lost my hat — that was embarrassing. They give you your 5 minutes of fame, then move onto the next event.”

While his childhood dream came true, the Pendleton title also was special for another reason — it was the first time Smith and Stewart placed first at a PRCA rodeo. They had a few seconds and thirds.

“I have been riding on my PRCA permit for three years,” Smith said. “I told Jason we needed to win at least one pro rodeo this year. He said, ‘Let’s win Pendleton.’”

Stewart remembers the conversation.

“We had not won a pro rodeo,” Stewart said. “A couple of kids his age had won. I told him we’d win Pendleton, and he said, ‘Yeah, sure.’ And we did. His family was there, his grandparents — the emotions are just so overwhelming. It’s the biggest rodeo on our area, and he’d been going since he was a little boy.

“I know the meaning of it. You win Pendleton or Cheyenne, your name goes down in history. To do that at 20 is pretty special. I’d almost forgot what it felt like.”

It was the second Pendleton title for Stewart, who won the steer roping title in 2003.

An unlikely pair

Smith, a 2017 graduate of Pendleton High School, was a three-time national high school champion in team roping as

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Arellano, Stanfield look to run over W-M

Tigers and TigerScots are both 2-1 heading into BMC opener

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — Blue Mountain Conference play opens Friday, and the hot game of the night is Weston-McEwen at Stanfield.

Both teams are 2-1 overall, and both have stingy defenses, but it’s Stanfield that has its offense working on overdrive.

Led by junior running back Enrique Arellano, the Tigers are averaging 33 points a game.

“He is durable,” Stanfield coach Davie Salas said of Arellano. “He takes a fair amount of hits, but he’s not afraid of a hit, or giving one. When you have that ability and go full speed, you have to credit the front five, who are busting their tails off for him.”

Arellano is a load to bring down at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds. He has run for 532 yards and 10 touchdowns, and has one receiving touchdown to add to his stats.

“I have to credit my linemen,” Arellano said. “I could not have gotten those yards without them. Second, my adrenaline drives me and how bad I want to win for my team. I like running over people. It’s fun.”

Arellano started his football career as a lineman in grade school, but he soon found himself in the backfield.

“In middle school, they moved me to fullback,” he said. “I never thought I’d be a running back, but here I am.”

The Tigers also use Arellano at middle linebacker, but sparingly.

“We try to give him his rest on defense,” Salas said. “The way we use him, we have to rest him. He’s a hard-working kid — he’s tough.”

AJ Keeney also gets some work in the backfield. Arellano is happy to share touches with the 6-2, 210-pound sophomore.

“He’s a boy in a man’s body,” Arellano said. “When he runs, he destroys them. It’s even scarier when he’s mad.”

Though Salas likes his team’s chances Friday, he knows the TigerScots are a formidable team.

“They are well-coached, they have good athletes on the perimeter and they like to move the ball around,” Salas said. “Their quarterback throws the ball well. They are a dangerous team.”

W-M is a coming off a 20-0 loss to Culver last week, a game in which turnovers stalled drives and led to points for the Bulldogs.

“We had some costly turnovers,”

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