

Dawgs to take on league-leading Chiawana

Hermiston is coming off a 37-7 victory over Southridge

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — There’s no way to sugar-coat it — Hermiston will have its hands full Friday night when Chiawana visits Kennison Field.

The Riverhawks, ranked No. 9 in this week’s Class 4A poll, are 4-0 in Mid-Columbia Conference play, and 4-1 overall after a 21-20 loss to

top-ranked Union two weeks ago.

“We can’t focus on what they do,” Bulldogs coach David Faaeteete said. “We have to be focused on us being prepared for Friday night. They play good team football, their defense swarms, and they don’t play selfish. You can see their competitive spirit on film. That’s fun to watch.”

The Bulldogs (1-4 MCC) are coming off a 37-7 win over Southridge last week — a game that saw the defense take over and force turnovers.

“The game plan is to stop the run and rally to the pass,” Faaeteete said. “Offensively, we have to utilize the size of our line. If we show up and do what we did the last game, we have our chances. At the end of the day, everyone has to show up Friday night.” If there is one thing Chiawana coach Steve Graff has noticed about Hermiston, it’s the offensive line, anchored by seniors Chase Bradshaw and Dustyn Coughlin.

“They have guys over 300 pounds,” Graff said.

“They’re as big as me, but taller. Their running back is also a big kid who runs the ball hard, and their quarterback gets the ball out quick.

We will have to corral them.”

The Riverhawks have gotten a lot of milage out of senior running back Gabe Schilz, who has run for 591 yards and 13 touchdowns.

“He has done a good job,” Graff said of Schilz. “We like to run and throw. Our offensive line is still a work in progress, and they make some mistakes, but Gabe makes them look good.”

When they turn to the passing game, Chiawana sophomore quarterback JP Zamora has a fleet of speedsters to throw to, including seniors Dion Lee and Cameron Breier, one of the top 400 runners

in the state.

It’s on defense where the Riverhawks have done the most damage. They have given up just 48 points in five games — 21 of which were to Union.

Aiden Mason leads the Riverhawks with four interceptions, and they also have a handful of wrestlers who provide grit and a no-quit mentality, including senior line-backer Riley Cissne.

“That’s where we have been pretty good,” Graff said. “We have some good kids with some speed and that helps. Riley runs the show out there.”

Inside each of us is a SPARTAN

Richard Boyer of Pendleton finishes 7th in World Championship

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

NORTH LAKE TAHOE — Richard Boyer has always been competitive. He competed in football, basketball and track at Long Creek High School, and was selected to play in the 1982 East-West Shrine Game.

Then life happens — work and family — and the next thing you know, you are in your mid-50s.

The 55-year-old Pendleton man rediscovered his competitive nature 3 years ago, when his high school buddy, Doug Girdner of La Grande, encouraged him to train for a Spartan race.

“I love it,” Boyer said. “When I started out, I hadn’t done monkey bars for 30 years, or climbed a rope. We made a training deal in the shop. I carry a 5-pound pail of rocks up and down the road. The neighbors must think I’m nuts.”

Boyer’s hard work has paid off. He recently placed seventh in the 55-59 age group at the Spartan World Championship in North Lake Tahoe. He finished the 13.8-mile, 37-obstacle course in 4 hours, 24 minutes and 56 seconds.

“Seventh in the world — I’m happy with that,” Boyer said. “In the 55-59 age group, there were guys who beat me who were 54 (entry is based on birthday). I ran with some real youngsters out there.”

Not for the weak

Spartan races combine running (Boyer prefers the term power hike) and a number of obstacles that a competitor must accomplish. If you cannot complete an obstacle, you are taxed with burpees.

The spear throw is the trademark obstacle that embodies the Spartan ethos and spirit, but other obstacles can change from event to event.

At the World Championships, Boyer was challenged with carrying two 80-pound sandbags around the half-pipe (about one-quarter mile), swimming in a cold lake, crossing monkey bars, climbing ropes and crawling under barbed wire, just to name a few.



Richard Boyer, of Pendleton, carries a log as part of his Spartan Race workout on Wednesday at his southwest Pendleton home.

“There was moaning and groaning carrying those sandbags,” Boyer said. “When we had to swim, we had to put our clothes in a bag and take them with us. My hands were so cold that I couldn’t get my bag sealed and everything got wet. We were at 9,200 feet at the top of the course. It was minus-17 degrees. It was 32 at the bottom, and the

wind was blowing. I went to boot camp in Kentucky in December. This was worse.”

Boyer’s favorite obstacle along the route is the rope climb.

“I struggled with that in my first race,” Boyer said. “I’ve gotten better at it and I

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Rockets put perfect record on line against Union

Pilot Rock’s Tyasin Burns has run for 1,254 yards and 12 touchdowns

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Tyasin Burns has made a name for himself as a basketball player at Nixyaawii High School, helping the Golden Eagles to a Class 1A state title in March.



But before basketball season gets underway, the 5-foot-10, 160-pound junior is putting his talents to good use on the football field for Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii, where he has rushed for 1,254 yards and 12 touchdowns in four games.

“You get him out in the open one-on-one, he is pretty shifty,” Rockets coach Mike Baleztena said. “The way he sees the field is pretty awesome. (Linemen) Willie Sigo and Kade Koberstein give him room to run. He needs to buy them a sandwich, or something.”

Burns’ efforts have the Rockets sitting pretty atop the Blue Mountain Conference at 3-0, along with four-time defending state champion Dufur (3-2 overall).

The Rockets (4-0, 3-0 BMC), ranked No. 9 in the Class 1A poll, will put their perfect record on the line Friday when they host Union (2-2, 1-1) in a BMC showdown.

“They play good,” Baleztena said of the Bobcats. “They have a pretty decent team, and they are fast. They lost to Dufur by four, and they (Dufur) are a good team.”

Pilot Rock has outscored its opponents 220-48 this season, with Burns and quarterback Tanner Corwin leading the way. Corwin set a school record with five passing touchdowns in a win over Ione/Arlington the second week of the season.

Against Ione, Burns had season-high 343 yards rushing and 250 yards receiving, with a combined six touchdowns.

“Fullback Caden Thornton makes some awesome blocks for Tyasin to get around him,” Baleztena said.

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SPORTS SHORTS

NBA postpones Nets-Lakers media sessions in Shanghai

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA has postponed Wednesday’s scheduled media sessions in Shanghai for the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers, and it remains unclear if the teams will play in China this week as scheduled.

The teams were practicing in Shanghai on Wednesday, where

at least two other NBA events in advance of the start of the China games were called off as part of the ongoing rift that started after Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey posted a tweet last week that showed support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

“Given the fluidity of the situation, today’s media availability has been postponed,” the league said.

An NBA Cares event that was to benefit Special Olympics was called off, as was a “fan night” celebration which was to be highlighted by the league announcing plans to refurbish some outdoor courts in Shanghai. And workers in multiple spots around the city were tearing down large outdoor promotional advertisements for Thursday’s Lakers-Nets game.



Workers dismantle signage for an NBA fan event scheduled to be held on Wednesday night at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China, on Tuesday. AP Photo