

PREP FOOTBALL

Dawgs to face Kamiakin without their coach

Faaeteete was suspended one game after being ejected from last week’s game

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs will be a man short when they take on the Kamiakin Braves on Friday night.

Dawgs coach David Faaeteete was suspended one game, in accordance with WIAA rules, after being ejected with 4:47 remaining in the third quarter of last week’s game against Hanford.

He disputed a ruling on a fumble by Trevor Wagner.

“There’s nothing I can do about the ejection,” Faaeteete said. “I should never have lost my cool to get the second flag. I have to set a better example for the kids. We have a contingency plan. Nothing

changes what our kids will do.”

Friday’s game at Lampson Stadium in Kennewick will be played at 5 p.m., followed by the Southridge-Kennewick game at 8 p.m.

“It’s a tough schedule to make when they share a stadium,” Faaeteete said. “I feel bad for the parents who have to get off early or miss part of the game.”

Hermiston is coming off a 50-28 loss to Hanford — a game that saw senior Garrett Walchli catch four touchdown passes, and quarterback Sam Schwirse throw for 303 yards.

Schwirse has the best completion rating in the league (minimum 1,000 yards) at 73.1%.

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan, File
Hermiston coach David Faaeteete, shown during an Aug. 21, 2019, practice, will miss Friday’s game against Kamiakin after being ejected from last week’s game against Hanford.

Bucks to host Scappoose rematch to replace week nine Benson game

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — At the beginning of the season, the Pendleton Buckaroos found themselves without a week nine opponent.

The Portland-based Benson Techmen, who the Bucks were slated to face at the end of the regular season, canceled their program for the year due to lack of participation, leaving Pendleton with an open spot in its schedule.

“They didn’t have the numbers to safely participate in a varsity schedule,” Pendleton head coach Erik Davis said of Ben-

son. “That could mean a couple of things. Either they truly didn’t have enough players, or they just had too many freshmen and sophomores in their lineup. They chose to drop their program in the hopes that they can get more kids over the offseason. It worked out well for us. It allowed us to heal up a little.”

And after weeks of trying to get that spot filled, Pendleton has officially found their replacement in a familiar face:

Scappoose.

The Bucks will host the Indians for the second time this season in a

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Rocket Man

Pilot Rock/
Nixyaawii’s
Tyasin Burns
runs for school
and family in
record-setting
season



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii running back Tyasin Burns poses for a portrait on Monday afternoon in Pendleton.

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Tyasin Burns burst onto the local sports scene as a standout basketball player at Nixyaawii High School his sophomore year.

The Golden Eagles won the Class 1A state championship, with Burns having a big hand in their success.

While Nixyaawii awaits the start of basketball season, Burns is tearing up the competition on the football field for the Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii Rockets (6-1).

“It’s really fun,” the notably quiet Burns said. “I’m trying to score every play. That is my goal.”

The 5-foot-11, 150-pound junior has pretty much done that. He has 2,083 yards rushing and 27 total touchdowns this season going in Friday’s Special District 3 crossover game against Adrian/Jordan Valley at

Eastern Oregon University.

“All of this, he takes with a grain of salt,” Pilot Rock coach Mike Baleztena said. “He is humble and a great kid.”

Burns’ talents aren’t limited to carrying the ball.

He also plays linebacker, and is the team’s punter and kicker. He’s also caught a few passes, but not enough to put receivers Logan Weinke and Wyatt Stillman out of work. And, he’s thrown three touchdown passes.

Burns was named the SD3 West Player of the Year. He was a first team running back and linebacker, a second team punter, and an honorable mention kicker.

“It’s a blessing when you get that one player you can use in all the spots,” Baleztena said. “Not only is he shifty, but he’s strong. He’s a throwback running back. Just a little bit of daylight — that’s all he needs.”

Burns doesn’t dispute that he has talent, and in 8-man football the field is a playground for guys with speed, but nothing hap-

pens, he said, without the men up front.

“The only reason I’m getting yards is because of them,” Burns said.

Fullback Caden Thornton, who carves a lane or two for Burns every Friday night, said his teammate is a special talent.

“It’s super fun to watch him,” Thornton said. “We knew he was going to be good. This year, we beat Dufur — that was a big thing. Being league champs (for the first time since 1983) was something we wanted to do. He’s a big part of all of that.”

It’s been quite a ride

Burns owns just about every record for Pilot Rock football that is not passing or receiving.

“He pretty much has them all,” Baleztena said. “Definitely the rushing — he has all of those.”

In addition to his rushing yards, he has

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PREP ROUNDUP

Dawgs drop close match to Kamiakin

East Oregonian

KENNEWICK — Hermiston finished the Mid-Columbia Conference regular season Thursday with a road loss to Kamiakin, but the Bulldogs did not make it easy on the Braves.

Kendall Dowdy had 21 assists, 13 digs, six kills and three aces as the Bulldogs fought to the end in a 28-26, 25-19, 25-23 loss.

“When you play a team on their Senior Night, they have a little more oomph,” Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said. “Kamiakin never gave in, even when we had the lead.”

The Bulldogs (5-9 MCC) will play North Central (4-7) in a loser-out game in the first round of the MCC/GSL District 8 Tournament at 5 p.m. Nov. 7 at Kamiakin High School. The winner will face Kamiakin (8-6 MCC) at 7 p.m.

Hermiston took an early 4-1 lead in the first set, and led until the Braves pulled even at 22-22. There would be four more ties before Maysen Chelin laid down a kill for Kamiakin for a 27-26 lead. A tip by the Braves would give them the win.

“Hermiston is a tough team,” Kamiakin coach Morgan Schauble said. “We knew it wouldn’t be easy. They are a competitive team.”

Kamiakin controlled the second set from start to finish, leading 15-5 at one point. The Bulldogs rallied to pull within 21-17, but would get no closer.

The Bulldogs took control of the third set, and had leads of 8-3 and 15-12, but 15 unforced errors in the set were too much to overcome.

The teams were tied at 19-19 before Kamiakin pulled away.

“For us, it is very much a mental game,” Dyck said. “We played a lot of good volleyball tonight. Hope-

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SPORTS SHORTS

Pendleton Round-Up Arena ranked seventh-best high school football stadium

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Round-Up Arena is more than just a landmark for Pendleton football fans.

On Wednesday, USA Today High School Sports ranked the home of the Pendleton Buckaroos football team at No. 7 in their list of “America’s Best High School Football Stadiums.”

The comprehensive ranking gathered the country’s 16 best high school football arenas and let fans vote for what

will be crowned the “Champion” pick of the group.

Cathy Parker Field, located in Barrow, Ark. entered the bracket as the No. 1 seed. Allen, Texas’ Eagle Stadium took No. 2, and Oahu, Hawaii’s Raymond Torii Field was the No. 3 selection. Paul Brown Tiger Stadium (Massillon, Ohio) entered at No. 4, Round Valley Ensphere (Eagar, Ariz.) was No. 5, and Jelsma Stadium (Guthrie, Okla.) took No. 6.

The Pendleton Round-Up Arena was eliminated in the first round of fan vot-

ing, falling to the No. 10-seeded R.R. Jones Stadium from El Paso, Texas.

“No matter the stadium, the size of the crowd or the level of competition, there’s something universal about high school football and what it represents,” the publication wrote. “In that way, consider this a collection of America’s most authentic sporting cathedrals, a selection of 16 unique and spectacular high school football stadiums, each notable in its own way.”

Fan voting for the third round is currently ongoing at usatodayhss.com.



EO file photo
The Pendleton Round-Up Arena was recently ranked at No. 7 in USA Today High School Sports’ list of the country’s best high school football stadiums.