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SPORTS

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OSAA PLAYOFFS | FOOTBALL

Pendleton draws a familiar foe in Scappoose

5A • Bucks have won the past 4 matchups against Indians

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When Scappoose football coach Sean McNabb saw the 5A state playoff pairings Saturday, he welcomed the chance to play Pendleton for the third time this season.

“There was always a potential for this,” McNabb said of the matchup. “I thought going to bed that it would be Silverton. I almost did a backflip when I saw Pendleton. We are on the road, but it feels like home. We know our locker room, we know the field and we know the lighting.”

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Staff photo
by Kathy Aney

Pendleton’s Kyle Liscom runs during last week’s game against Scappoose. The teams will meet for the third time this season on Friday in the first round of the 5A state playoffs.

Rockets, Wolves to tangle in first round

1A • Injury to RB could put a wrinkle in Rockets’ offense

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Mike Baleztena is down to 16 players on his roster, but he still feels his team can get the job done in the first round of the 1A state playoffs Friday night.

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii (6-2) will host Days Creek, and Baleztena’s Rockets are determined to put their best foot forward, even if that means getting limited production from star running back Tyasin Burns, who has run for 2,234 yards this season.

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Staff photo by
Kathy Aney, File

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii quarterback Tanner Corwin hands off the ball to Wyatt Stillman during their Oct. 11, 2019, game against the Union Bobcats.

OSAA PLAYOFFS | SOCCER

Pirates dominate Knights



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jose Napoles (21), of Riverside, gets by De La Salle defender Alexander Rivera-Morena during Wednesday’s state semifinal game.

Riverside defeats visiting De La Salle North Catholic in first round playoffs

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Although the Pirates are no strangers to the OSAA boys soccer state playoffs, their first-round victory over De La Salle North Catholic was one that surprised even them.

On Wednesday evening, the Riverside Pirates knocked down a 7-2 home victory over the visiting Knights to take the first round of the 3A/2A/1A state tournament. The match saw the most goals the Lewis & Clark League’s fourth-ranked Knights have allowed all season.

“The score really surprised me,” Riverside sophomore forward Adair Rodriguez said. “(De La Salle) played hard, but we just gotta admit that we went harder.”

The Pirates, who are now enjoying an 11-match streak, wasted no time putting points on the board as Rodriguez and



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Gerardo Lopez (8), of Riverside, gets ready to make a kick on goal during Wednesday’s state semifinal game against De La Salle.

junior Gerardo Lopez both netted goals in the opening 10 minutes.

Junior Juan Reyna continued to keep Riverside out front with a goal in the 29th minute, and sophomore Cesar Vargas assisted Rodriguez in another score with just 2:08 left in the half.

The Knights could not connect with the net in the first 40 minutes of the contest as the Pirates held onto their 4-0 advantage by halftime.

“Everyone (on our team) wanted it,” Riverside head coach Jose Duenas said. “Everyone wanted to win, and nobody wanted to stay home.”

The Knights finally made contact with the net three minutes into the final half when sophomore forward Emanuel Montoya-Pena slipped a goal past Pirates keeper Jose Torres.

Knights senior keeper Jesus

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan, File

Hermiston wide receiver Garrett Walchli poses for a portrait before his senior season in early August. Walchli will play his final game for the Bulldogs Friday night at 5 p.m. at Kennison Field in Hermiston.

Dawgs to finish year vs. North Central

Hermiston’s promising season plagued by series of injuries

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — There was so much promise at the start of the season for the Hermiston football team: strong senior class, good leadership and a grasp of what it takes to be successful in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

The Bulldogs were on top of the world heading into their first game at Pasco. Then sophomore quarterback Chase Elliott broke his leg, and running back Guiomar Garay missed several games with an ankle injury.

And the hits just kept coming. Defensive lineman Sean Stewart missed the better part of two games with injuries, linebacker Nathan Wheeler suffered a hand injury last week, and linebacker Ryan Arnold, the team’s leading tackler, is likely to miss his second game Friday with an injury when the Bulldogs host North Central at 5 p.m. in an MCC/GSL crossover game at Kennison Field.

“It’s a pride thing,” Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said. “We have had a sour taste all year. We have a chance to be 1-0 in November. It’s always different with these crossover games. They (GSL teams) are well-coached and deep. We have to do our thing and play as a team.”

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