

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Mahomes, Chiefs hold off Chargers 24-17 in Mexico City

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Daniel Sorensen picked off Philip Rivers' fourth interception at the goal line with 18 seconds to play, and the Kansas City Chiefs stayed on top of the AFC West with a 24-17 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday night at Azteca Stadium.

Patrick Mahomes passed for 182 yards and hit Travis Kelce

for his only touchdown, while LeSean McCoy and Darrel Williams rushed for touchdowns as the Chiefs (7-4) hung on to win the fourth regular-season NFL game played in Mexico despite a few problems with Azteca's grass field and a one-sided first half favoring the Chargers (4-7), who racked up 312 yards without a touchdown.

After throwing his second interception of the season in the first half, Mahomes led two sharp scoring drives in the third quarter with

help from Kelce, who caught seven passes for 92 yards. The Chiefs held Los Angeles to eight points in the second half, and Sorensen grabbed Rivers' underthrown pass to Austin Ekeler at the goal line to secure the Chiefs' 10th win over Los Angeles in 11 meetings.

Rivers passed for 353 yards during his first four-interception game since November 2016 for the Chargers, whose playoff hopes are nearly dead after five losses in seven games. Keenan Allen caught

his first TD pass since Week 3 in the third quarter, but the Chargers had three inept drives in the scoreless fourth quarter.

On the Bolts' last gasp, Mike Williams made a spectacular 50-yard catch with 44 seconds to play. Los Angeles reached the Kansas City 14 before Rivers' final mistake. Rivers, who turns 38 next month, has thrown seven interceptions in the Chargers' last two games.

One year after the NFL called

off a game at Azteca Stadium on short notice because of poor field conditions, these teams played an entertaining game in the 7,200-foot elevation and on the Azteca grass, which yielded several significant divots from sharp stops or changes of direction.

The Rams and Chiefs were scheduled to play here last season, but severe damage to the turf field compelled the NFL to relocate the

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Heppner headed to the SEMIFINALS



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Heppner players cheer and yell to the crowd after their 32-7 win over the Warrenton Warriors in the OSAA Class 2A quarterfinal game at Les Payne Field in Heppner on Saturday afternoon.

Mustangs force six turnovers, shut down Warrenton for 32-7 victory

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPNER — Heppner has played stellar defense all season, and nothing changed Saturday afternoon against Warrenton.

The Mustangs had five interceptions, and Matt Orem had 11 tackles and one sack as Heppner topped the Warriors 32-7 in the Class 2A state quarterfinals at Les Payne Field.

"We weren't sharp on offense, but the defense did great," Heppner coach Greg Grant said. "They are tough, they play hard, and they made it happen."

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Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Heppner tight end Jackson Lehman (15) returns a kickoff 64 yards for a touchdown during the second half against the Warriors. The Heppner Mustangs defeated the Warrenton Warriors 32-7 in an OSAA Class 2A quarterfinal game at Les Payne Field in Heppner on Saturday afternoon.



Photo courtesy of Sara Sargent

Hermiston juniors Georgia Stevenson (left) and Abigail Sharon pose for a photo at the WIAA 3A girls swimming state championships on Friday in Federal Way, Wash.

Bulldogs fail to advance out of WIAA state prelims

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. — The first two Oregon swimmers to compete in a Washington girls swimming state meet, Hermiston junior Georgia Stevenson placed 22nd in the 100-yard backstroke prelims at 1:09.53, and fellow junior Abigail Sharon placed 25th in the 100 butterfly prelims at 1:07.94 on Friday.

Neither of the swimmers were able to advance to the WIAA 3A girls state swimming finals on Saturday.

The state appearance was Stevenson's second, following her freshman year competition in Oregon, and Sharon's first.

"State was quite the experience," Hermiston coach Sara Sargent said. "Although the girls didn't make it to finals, they had fun. Georgia and Abigail have their sights on state next year. I expect they'll condition during the off season and swim over the summer, coming back stronger and faster. Throughout the season, the goal is always to strive to be the best, and that's what we'll continue to do, year after year, increasing in quality and numbers."

Harden, Westbrook help Rockets rout Trail Blazers

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden scored 36 points, Russell Westbrook had 28 points and a triple-double, and the Houston Rockets coasted to their eighth straight win, 132-108 over the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday night.

Westbrook had 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season and the 141st of his career after sitting out to rest in Houston's last game on Saturday night.

The Rockets led by double digits for most of this one on a night they got starters Clint Capela and Daniel House back after both players had missed time with injuries.

Capela added a season-high 22 points and had 20 rebounds to become the first Rocket to have at least 20 rebounds in four straight

games since Hall of Famer Elvin Hayes in 1971. Hayes sat court-side with fellow Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon to witness Capela's big game.

Houston was up by 18 with about five minutes left when Harden made a 3-pointer to make it 120-99. Westbrook collected his 10th assist when Harden made a layup with about 3 1/2 minutes for Houston's next points and the pair along with P.J. Tucker headed to the bench for good after that.

CJ McCollum led the Trail Blazers with 25 points in a game where Damian Lillard shot just 4 of 15 and had 13 points.

Harden, who has scored at least 30 points in eight straight games, had six rebounds, five assists and a steal.

Houston led by 23 points entering the fourth quarter after scoring 35 points in a big third quarter. The Trail

Blazers cut it to 102-85 with about 9 minutes to go but Westbrook had the next three points to pad the lead.

The Trail Blazers cut the lead to 11 with a 3-pointer by McCollum with about 8 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter. The Rockets then used a 19-6 run to make it 94-70 with about 2 1/2 minutes left in the period. Harden had six points in that stretch and Tucker made a 3-pointer and added five points.

The Rockets were up by 14 at halftime after a 15-point second quarter from Harden.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Coach Terry Stotts said Carmelo Anthony is expected to join the team on Tuesday. Anthony hasn't played in the NBA since Nov. 8, 2018, when he was with the Rockets ... Portland made 11 of 36 3-pointers.



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook (0) drives toward the basket as Portland Trail Blazers' Kent Bazemore defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Monday in Houston.