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This might be year Seattle lets Wilson take over in playoffs

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — It's always been a bit of a lingering question around the Seattle Seahawks when it came to Russell Wilson and the postseason.

If the Seahawks just let Wilson take over in the playoffs, how deep of a run could Seattle make? Is Wilson good enough to carry a solid team and make it championship worthy, like the Legion of Boom defense did en route to the Seahawks' Super Bowl victory following the 2013 season?

This could be the year that gets answered if Seattle's playoff-opening win over Philadelphia is an

indication. With Seattle's already depleted run game shut down by the Eagles, Wilson and rookie DK Metcalf lifted the Seahawks into the divisional round of the playoffs with their 17-9 victory.

Wilson was tremendous, accounting for 325 yards passing and 45 yards rushing. Metcalf set an NFL postseason rookie record with 160 yards receiving on seven catches and a key 53-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

The reward is a date with Green Bay in the divisional round next Sunday.

"It was fun and it was scary at the same time. The way the season's been going, this team, you know I didn't want this to be our last time

playing football," Metcalf said. "So I'm just having fun out there with this team and just the group that we have."

Wilson and Metcalf weren't alone in their starring performances. Jadeveon Clowney had his best game in nearly two months but also became the target of anger in Philadelphia for his hit on Carson Wentz that knocked out the Eagles' starting quarterback early on with a head injury. Clowney's hit came late in the play and included helmet-to-helmet contact but was not flagged.

Clowney insisted after the game he was not trying to cause injury and Carroll defended Clowney



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Seattle Seahawks' Jadeveon Clowney (90) hits Philadelphia quarterback Carson Wentz (11) during the first half of Sunday's NFL wild-card game in Philadelphia. Wentz was injured on the play.

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PREP ROUNDUP



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pilot Rock's Logan Weinke (20) jump stops as Stanfield's Mario Sanchez eyes the ball during Saturday's Blue Mountain Conference game.

Dawgs escape Hanford for MCC victory

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Dawgs led by just four points at the half, but sharp shooting from Jazlyn Romero in the fourth quarter helped put the game away and earn the Hermiston girls their second Mid-Columbia Conference win.

Romero scored 12 of Hermiston's 21 points in the fourth quarter Saturday to help bury visiting Hanford 73-63.

Romero finished the game with 16 points. Six of her 12 points in the fourth quarter were scored at the free-throw line.

Katelyn Heideman led the Bulldogs (5-4, 2-3 MCC) with 17 points, while Jayden Ray added 16. The Falcons were led by Iliana Moran with a game-high 23 points.

Hermiston visits the Richland Bombers at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Girls basketball

MOLALLA 62, MAC-HI 38 — The Pioneers closed their run at the Banks Winter Shootout Tournament with a loss to the Indians.

Daniela Angel scored a team-high 12 points to lead Mac-Hi (7-7), while Victoria Garcia chipped in eight.

Mac-Hi hosts College Place, Washington, at 6 p.m. Tuesday for a nonleague game.

UMATILLA GOES 1-2 AT CRUSADER CLASSIC — The Vikings notched a 41-32 win over Gold Beach on Friday at Salem's Crusader Classic New Year's Invitational, led by Devina Monreal's 12 points, all of which came from beyond the arc, but the momentum wouldn't last.

Umatilla suffered a 44-24 loss Saturday to Western Christian.

The Vikings (3-10) will host River View at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

HEPPNER 49, IRRIGON 32 — The Mustangs never allowed more than 10 points per quarter as they made off with a nonleague home win Saturday.

Sydney Wilson paved the way for Heppner with 18 points and 15



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Courtney Gregerson, of Stanfield, grabs a rebound during Saturday's Blue Mountain Conference game against Pilot Rock.

Hart scores 14 points as Tigers improve to 2-0 in BMC action

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Just two games into the regular season, the Tigers are already proving to be a Blue Mountain Conference power, and Kendra Hart showed that early on.

On Saturday, the senior guard poured in a game-high 14 points, including three treys in the first quarter, as the Stanfield girls basketball team made quick work of

Pilot Rock for a 57-17 road win.

It was the second consecutive conference win of the season for the Tigers, following a blowout win over Grant Union on Friday.

"We've been playing two of the lower-ranked teams in the league so far," Hart said, "but we're not playing down to our level. Games like this help boost our confidence going forward."

Hart fired off back-to-back 3-pointers less than 2 minutes into the game, sparking

an 18-point run that put the Tigers up 22-2 at the end of the quarter.

The Rockets got their only two points off an early basket from sophomore post Emily Lambert. Hart got her third trey of the quarter with 2:22 left on the clock.

Stanfield senior Nyah Tejeda hit two consecutive baskets to open the second quarter. The Rockets managed eight points, four of which came from Lambert, but the Tigers still took a 35-10 lead into the locker room at the half.

"Defensively, we're getting a lot better," Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp said. "We've been working on that throughout the pre-

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Dawgs place 3 at Gut Check tournament

Echo's Kaitlyn Lemmon second at Elmira tourney

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

KENT, Wash. — Hermiston had three wrestlers place in the top eight, and the Bulldogs finished in the top 10 of the team standings Saturday at the prestigious Gut Check tournament at ShoWare Center.

Sophomore Sam Cadenas, who advanced to the semifinals at 220 pounds, was the top Dawg on the weekend, finishing fifth.

Cadenas posted a 10-3 deci-

sion over Carter Thomas of Orting in the 5-6 placing match.

Trevor Wagner dropped from 170 pounds to 160 for the tournament, and placed seventh.

He pinned Jaxsen Tuttle of Connell in his final match.

Dustyn Coughlin placed eighth at 285 pounds, losing the 7-8 placing match to Terrell Underwood of Toppenish, who pinned Coughlin in 2:05.

Hermiston, which had six men still alive for Day 2, including Aiden Favorite (106), Daniel Faeeteete (182) and Jon Lee (220), was



Cadenas



Coughlin



Wagner

eighth in the team standings with 76.5 points after the first day.

Blair Academy (New Jersey), one of the top high school teams in the country, crowned seven champions and won the team title with 351 points.

Toppenish was second with 208, followed by Chiawana with 161. Hermiston finished 10th with 89.5 points in the field of 69 teams.

Joseph Invitational

Heppner had two wrestlers place at 160 pounds Saturday at the Joseph Invitational.

Jace Coe opened the tournament with a pin, then registered a technical fall in the quarterfinals to reach the semifinals.

In the semis, Coe beat teammate Conor Brosnan 5-4 for a spot in the finals.

In the championship match, Hunter Augustynovich of Culver pinned Coe in 5:22.

Brosnan went on to finish third, pinning Trevor Oxenrider of Santiam Christian in 3:52.

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