PREP ROUNDUP

Lapwai rallies to beat Nixyaawii

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

MISSION — Titus Yearout and Kross Taylor combined for 46 points as Lapwai used a big fourth quarter to beat Nixyaawii 65-62 in a nonleague game Thursday night.

"They are talented, and they had a couple of kids who were tough for us to stop," Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera said. "The whole part of scheduling teams like this, is you hope they will pay off when we play more experienced teams down the road."

The Golden Eagles (7-4) led 23-14 after the first quarter, and 33-27 at the half. They still had the lead after three quarters, 52-48, but the Wildcats went on a 17-10 run in the fourth quarter to rally for the win.

Mick Schimmel led the Golden Eagles with 20 points, while Tyasin Burns had 11 points, and Moses Moses 10 points and nine rebounds.

"We didn't do a very good job of rebounding tonight," Rivera said. "We didn't shoot really well tonight either."

Taylor led the Wildcats with 24 points, including six 3-pointers.

Nixyaawii opens Old Oregon League play at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Powder Valley.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Dakota Sams (11), of Pendleton, shoots the ball under pressure from a pair of Milwaukie defenders during Thursday's nonleague game at Warberg Court.

Bucks: 'It was hard to get a rhythm going'

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onds for a 12-point, 48-36 lead over the Bucks.

Sweek and Sams combined for four points to pull within eight with 6:50 left in the final quarter, but the Mustangs would take two 16-point leads in response.

"We didn't think they were miles above us," said Sams, who finished with 14 points on the night. "We thought we could win. They played as a team, we played as five individuals."

Milwaukie senior Colton Corder hit two at the line in the final minute to hand Pendleton the 15-point loss.

Sweek led the Bucks (10-3) with 17 points, while Hoffman had 11.

"I knew it was going to be a close game," Dong said. "Milwaukie did a good job. They hit their shots. We missed some good opportunities underneath the hoop."

Pendleton will stay at home to host its IMC opener against Hood River Valley on Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Mississippi State hires Mike Leach

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

PULLMAN, Wash. — The pirate is heading to Starkvegas.

Mississippi State hired Washington State's Mike Leach as its new head coach Thursday, bringing one of the nation's quirkiest and most successful coaches from the Pac-12 to the Southeastern Conference.

Leach will replace Joe Moorhead, fired last week after two seasons. Mississippi State announced it hired Leach with a social media hype video that included its new coach bellyflopping into a pool.

College football in the state of Mississippi has gotten a lot more interesting over the last month, with Leach joining new Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin.

"Welcome to the state old pirate and friend!!" Kiffin tweeted.

The post-bowl game firing by Mississippi State was unusual, but the Bulldogs now have a coach with a long track record of winning at programs that have historically struggled. In 18 years at Texas Tech and Washington State, Leach is 139-90, using his Air Raid offense to set records and consistently reach the postseason.

AP Photo/Michael Wyke, File

In this Sept. 13, 2019, file photo, Washington State head coach Mike Leach watches during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Houston, in Houston.

At Washington State, Leach took over a program that had been mired in the Pac-12 basement and went to five straight bowl games, including a school-record 11 victories in 2018.

He finished 55-47 in eight seasons with the Cougars. He produced a similar turnaround at Texas Tech, taking the Red Raiders to bowl games in all 10 seasons.

His style is anything but typical. Leach gets a lot of attention for his news conferences, where he has been known to dole out wedding advice, once pondered which Pac-12 mascots would survive a fight and told tales about his passion for pirates. He taught a class at Washington State last year about football and combat.

It has not all been fun and games, though.

Leach was fired by Texas Tech after being accused of mistreating a player, Adam Jones — the son of former ESPN announcer and NFL player Craig James — who had suffered a concussion. He then clashed with his bosses, and sued Texas Tech for wrongful termination. The school was protected by state law, but Leach is still trying to fight that case. He also filed a lawsuit against ESPN and Craig James that was later dismissed.

When his teams have struggled, his news conferences have been far less amusing. Leach has not been shy about calling players soft and making other disparaging remarks.

But on the field, his teams win more than they lose and his quarterbacks typically throw for more yards than just about anyone else. Washington State has led the nation in passing four times since 2014 and never finished worse than third over the period.

Waves: 'I grew up with my mom as my coach'

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event, we won three of five relays. That was a pretty awesome experience."

The watery trail

Growing up in midst of a city where rodeo and football are king, swimming had its own small niche among the sports at Pendleton High School, where Collins' mom, Donna, was a longtime swim coach.

"I grew up with my mom as my coach from age 13 to 18," Collins said. "Both my sister (Brooke) and I were attached to the Bend program in the summer. We grew up at the aquatic center — that's where I learned to swim."

Collins competed at state during his time at Pendleton High. He remembers the relays finishing in the top eight. His top events were the 100 and 200 freestyle.

"It's so much more competitive now," Collins said.

From Pendleton, Collins swam two years at Central Washington, then the Wildcats' program got cut. He then went to San Francisco State University, where he finished his swimming career and earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

During his time at SFSU, Collins' coach used to make the team compete in the Escape from Alcatraz Swim, an event organized by the city.

"They take you out on a boat and you dive in off the rocks," Collins said. "I am petrified of sharks, and swimming where I can't see the bottom. I only did it once. That was enough."

Collins also earned a master's degree in sport business management from the University of San Francisco.

"Having a master's has helped me run a successful swim club," Collins said. "It has really helped grow the business and put pieces into place to grow a healthy business. It seems coaching is 25% of my job, while 75% is business, recruiting and human resources. Not a lot of people get to just coach."

Before landing with the Marlins, Collins worked with swim clubs in San Francisco, Pendleton, Boston, Walla Walla, Washington, and Tennessee.

"I had success in Boston, but I really didn't like living in Boston," Collins said. "We had four snow emergencies in one month. We had a great club, and it was successful."

In Tennessee, Collins worked as a senior coach at Tennessee Aquatics, with athletes ranging from local/regional qualifiers to Olympic Trials qualifiers and national finalists.

Up next, the Olympic Trials

Collins has a handful of swimmers who have qualified for June's 2020 Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, and a few more who could punch their ticket in the next couple of months.

"We have six who have qualified, and that's a big thing for us," Collins said. "We have two more, maybe four, who could qualify by the first week of June."

Dillard, Colby and Bryce Mefford, Morgan Gore, Rosie Murphy and Matthew Klotz are among the six who have been or still are part of the Sierra Marlins.

Dillard, whose top events are the 100 and 200 breaststroke, has committed to USC. Bryce Mefford (on the U.S. National Team, and one of their top 200 backstrokers) is a junior at Cal, and Colby Mefford (200 freestyle, 200 back) is a freshman at Cal.

Murphy, 15, swims a multitude of events (200 backstroke is her best event), while Gore, 15, is highly ranked in the 200 butterfly.

Klotz (100 and 200 backstroke) is a senior at LSU, and is one of the top deaf swimmers in the world.

A past member of the program, open water swimmer Haley Anderson, already has qualified for her third Olympics. She won silver in 2012 in London, and was fifth at the Rio Olympics in 2016. She was the first American to earn an Olympic medal in open water swimming.

"The kids like it when she comes to swim," Collins said.

Family life

Away from the pool, Collins enjoys spending time with his family.

He is engaged to Sarah Dunleavy, a former collegiate swimmer at Perdue. She is a former assistant coach at Cal, but now works for the Marlins as their college recruiting director. They are planning an October wedding in Hawaii.

They also have a Jack Russell terrier named Tripp, who can be kind of hyper.

"I have to run him 6 miles a day," Collins said.

His sister, Brooke, who swam on the Cal Poly swim team in San Luis Obispo, Calif., is a social worker in Bend.

Then, there is his club's biggest fan, his mom Donna.

"My mom is such a swim geek," Collins said. "She's been to the last three meets and wears Marlins gear. All of the kids know who she is. She will be up in the stands at the big meets, and will text me notes. I'm assuming she will be going to the Trials."

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

Boys basketball
Irrigon at Vale, 6:30 p.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, 6:30 p.m.
Union at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Echo at Prairie City, 7:30 p.m.
Grant Union at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Sherman at Ione/Arlington, 7:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at North Powder, 7:30 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Walla Walla, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball
Irrigon at Vale, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, 5 p.m.
Hermiston at Walla Walla, 5:45 p.m.
Union at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Echo at Prairie City, 6 p.m.
Grant Union at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Sherman at Ione/Arlington, 6 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 6 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Enterprise, 6 p.m.
Pendleton at Scappoose, 6:45 p.m.
Girls wrestling
Hermiston at Kelso Invite, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Boys basketball
Sherman at Echo, 3:30 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 3:30 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Ontario, 4:30 p.m.
Heppner at Pilot Rock, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 5:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
Kamiakin at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball
Sherman at Echo, 2 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 2 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Ontario, 2 p.m.
Heppner at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 4 p.m.
Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Kamiakin at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m.
Girls wrestling
Hermiston at Kelso Invite, TBD
Men's basketball
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley, 4 p.m.
Women's basketball
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley, 2 p.m.

PREP STANDINGS

BOYS BASKETBALL

1A Big Sky League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Ione	3-0	10-1	767	459
Dufur	2-1	6-5	649	504
Sherman	2-1	4-7	442	519
Condon	1-0	6-3	527	446
S. Wasco	1-2	7-4	732	513
Mitchell	0-1	5-3	426	375
H. Christian	0-1	3-6	377	435
Echo	0-3	0-12	306	820

1A Old Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Pine Eagle	1-0	3-4	335	340
Joseph	0-0	9-3	643	540
P. Valley	0-0	8-3	756	554
Nixyaawii	0-0	7-3	663	575
Elgin	0-0	5-5	500	494
Helix	0-0	5-6	516	589
Imbler	0-0	2-7	346	459
Cove	0-0	1-9	354	500
Wallowa	0-1	4-7	472	548

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
G. Union	2-0	7-4	592	540
Heppner	1-0	6-5	541	517
Stanfield	1-1	6-7	675	639
Enterprise	1-1	5-4	475	473
Union	0-0	9-4	669	563
W-M	0-1	3-9	617	760
Pilot Rock	0-2	10-2	699	537

3A Eastern Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Riverside	0-0	9-4	702	554
Nyssa	0-0	7-3	506	447
Umatilla	0-0	7-7	696	700
Burns	0-0	6-7	641	675
Vale	0-0	4-5	446	458
Irrigon	0-0	2-9	509	594

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Baker	0-0	8-6	780	695
Mac-Hi	0-0	6-7	593	595
Ontario	0-0	2-11	559	824
La Grande	0-0	1-10	528	657

5A Intermountain Conference

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Pendleton	0-0	10-2	747	554
C. County	0-0	8-4	749	602
Redmond	0-0	7-7	711	711
H. River	0-0	6-4	620	564
The Dalles	0-0	4-9	722	803
Ridgeview	0-0	3-9	507	645

Mid-Columbia Conference

Team	Lg	Ovrl
Chiawana	6-0	10-0
Kennewick	5-1	7-2
Kamiakin	4-2	8-2
Walla Walla	4-2	8-2
Richland	4-3	7-4
Southridge	2-4	3-7
Pasco	1-5	2-8
Hermiston	1-5	2-8
Hanford	1-6	2-8

GIRLS BASKETBALL

1A Big Sky League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Echo	3-0	9-4	578	506
Dufur	2-1	7-4	518	386
Condon	1-0	3-6	299	380
Sherman	1-1	4-5	294	377
S. Wasco	1-2	5-5	447	430
Mitchell	0-1	0-5	90	220
Ione/Arlington	0-3	5-6	495	468

1A Old Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Wallowa	1-0	6-6	505	445
Elgin	0-0	8-2	477	304
Helix	0-0	8-3	381	350
Joseph	0-0	7-5	496	437
Cove	0-0	6-4	436	332
P. Valley	0-0	4-5	319	353
Nixyaawii	0-0	4-6	429	464
Imbler	0-0	0-10	218	440
P. Eagle	0-1	3-4	269	313

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Stanfield	2-0	11-2	630	429
Enterprise	2-0	10-1	520	317
Heppner	1-0	8-2	453	364
Union	0-0	10-3	578	389
W-M	0-1	2-10	346	521
Pilot Rock	0-2	4-8	386	484
G. Union	0-2	2-9	359	525

3A Eastern Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Burns	0-0	11-3	762	507
Irrigon	0-0	6-5	435	504
Nyssa	0-0	6-6	434	457
Umatilla	0-0	4-10	503	632
Vale	0-0	2-6	295	325
Riverside	0-0	2-11	367	530

4A Greater Oregon League

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Baker	0-0	12-2	743	456
La Grande	0-0	9-4	699	545
Mac-Hi	0-0	7-8	545	590
Ontario	0-0	1-9	301	459

5A Intermountain Confernence

Team	Lg	Ovrl	Pts	Allwd
Ridgeview	0-0	8-6	659	664
Pendleton	0-0	7-4	536	485
The Dalles	0-0	5-6	462	532
C. County	0-0	2-9	400	594
Redmond	0-0	1-10	323	595
H. River	0-0	0-10	298	601

Mid-Columbia Conference

Team	Lg	Ovrl
Chiawana	6-0	9-1
Kennewick	5-1	8-1
Richland	5-2	6-5
Pasco	4-2	7-2
Walla Walla	4-2	7-2
Hermiston	3-3	6-4
Kamiakin	1-5	2-8
Hanford	1-6	2-8
Southridge	0-6	3-7

2019-20 BOWL GAMES

MONDAY, JAN. 13

College Football Championship
New Orleans
Clemson (14-0) vs. LSU (14-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)

NFL PLAYOFFS

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 11
Minnesota at San Francisco, 1:35 p.m. (NBC)
Tennessee at Baltimore, 5:15 p.m (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 12
Houston at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m. (CBS)
Seattle at Green Bay, 3:40 p.m. (FOX)

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	11	.694	—
Toronto	25	13	.658	1
Phila.	25	14	.641	1½
Brooklyn	16	20	.444	9
New York	10	28	.263	16
Southeast	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Miami	27	10	.730	—
Orlando	18	20	.474	9½
Charlotte	15	25	.375	13½
Washington	12	25	.324	15
Atlanta	8	30	.211	19½
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Milwaukee	33	6	.846	—
Indiana	23	15	.605	9½
Detroit	14	25	.359	19
Chicago	13	25	.342	19½
Cleveland	11	27	.289	21½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	11	.694	—
Dallas	23	14	.622	2½
San Antonio	16	20	.444	9
Memphis	16	22	.421	10
New Orleans	13	25	.342	13
Northwest	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Denver	26	11	.703	—
Utah	25	12	.676	1
Oklahoma City	21	16	.568	5
Portland	16	23	.410	11
Minnesota	15	22	.405	11
Pacific	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
L.A. Lakers	30	7	.811	—
L.A. Clippers	26	12	.684	4½
Sacramento	15	23	.395	15½
Phoenix	14	23	.378	16
Golden State	9	30	.231	22

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Wednesday's Games
Miami 122, Indiana 108
San Antonio 129, Boston 114
Toronto 112, Charlotte 110, OT
Orlando 123, Washington 89
Denver 107, Dallas 106
Houston 122, Atlanta 115
New Orleans 123, Chicago 108
Utah 128, New York 104
Milwaukee 107, Golden State 98
Thursday's Games
Phila. 109, Boston 98
Cleveland 115, Detroit 112 (OT)
Minnesota 116, Portland 102
Houston at Oklahoma City, late
Friday's Games
Atlanta at Washington, 4 p.m.
New Orleans at New York, 4:15 p.m.
Miami at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 5 p.m.
San Antonio at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Utah, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 6:45 p.m.
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Minnesota at Houston, 2 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 4 p.m.
New Orleans at Boston, 4 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Phila. at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Portland, 7 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	45	26	8	11	63	151	117
Tampa Bay	43	26	13	4	56	160	127
Toronto	45	24	15	6	54	162	145
Florida	44	23	16	5	51	158	148
Buffalo	44	19	18	7	45	128	140
Montreal	45	18	20	7	43	141	147
Ottawa	43	16	22	5	37	118	149
Detroit	44	11	30	3	25	96	168

Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	45	30	10	5	65	163	133
N.Y. Islanders	42	27	12	3	57	120	108
Pittsburgh	43	26	12	5	57	146	116
Carolina	43	25	16	2	52	145	123
Phila.	44	23	15	6	52	140	136
Columbus	44	21	15	8	50	117	121
N.Y. Rangers	43	21	18	4	46	144	144
New Jersey	43	15	21	7	37	112	154

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	45	28	10	7	63	143	122
Dallas	43	25	14	4	54	117	105
Colorado	44	25	15	4	54	159	130
Winnipeg	45	24	17	4	52	141	139
Nashville	43	20	16	7	47	149	145
Minnesota	43	20	17	6	46	133	144
Chicago	45	19	20	6	44	130	148

Pacific	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	46	24	16	6	54	147	137
Arizona	46	25	17	4	54	133	118
Edmonton	46	24	17	5	53	141	144
Calgary	45	23	17	5	51	125	135
Vancouver	44	23	17	4	50	145	139
San Jose	45	19	22	4	42	121	151
Anaheim	43	17	21	5	39	113	136
Los Angeles	45	17	24	4	38	113	142

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

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Thursday's Games
Boston 5, Winnipeg 4
Florida 5, Vancouver 2
Edmonton 4, Montreal 2
N.Y. Rangers 6, New Jersey 3
Tampa Bay 4, Arizona 0
St. Louis 5, Buffalo 1
Nashville 5, Chicago 2
Minnesota at Calgary, late
Dallas at Anaheim, late
Los Angeles at Vegas, late
Columbus at San Jose, late
Friday's Games
Arizona at Carolina, 4:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Vancouver at Buffalo, 10 a.m.
Los Angeles at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 4 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Phila., 4 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Vegas, 7 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.