

Rodeo: 'We are excited that our sponsors are on board'

Continued from Page B1

history and always found a way to come back better," Miller said.

Miller said the EOLS committee has been working closely with community partners to share ideas and create a plan that incorporates health and safety guidelines while promoting the stock show experience people enjoy.

"Every aspect of this year's plan has been developed with the safety and well-being of our volunteers, fans and contestants in mind," Miller said.

Elgin Stampede set to resume in 2021

ELGIN — Union County's second-oldest active rodeo is set to ride again.

The Elgin Stampede, second only to the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show's rodeo in terms of longevity in Union County, will operate July 7-10, according to Ty Hallgarth, president of the Stampede. The COVID-19 pandemic led to cancellation of the event in 2020.

Hallgarth said Elgin Stampede representatives consulted with the county's public health arm, the Center for Human Development, La Grande, plus other health organizations in the community before deciding to go forward with the rodeo. He



Ronald Bond/La Grande Observer, File

Jory Markiss rides July 6, 2017, during the Elgin Stampede. The coronavirus pandemic led to the cancellation of the annual rodeo in 2020, but it is set to return July 7-10, 2021.

said the support local residents have expressed for the Elgin Stampede is encouraging.

"Everyone in the community is coming on board," Hallgarth said.

The rodeo is making changes to meet state social distancing standards, Hallgarth said, but those standards are a moving target. He noted that the COVID-19 infection rates in Union County dictate the guidelines, making it difficult to address questions in advance,

such as how many spectators can be in the stands.

This will be the 74th Elgin Stampede. Hallgarth said he believes the rodeo has run every year over the past seven decades except in 2020.

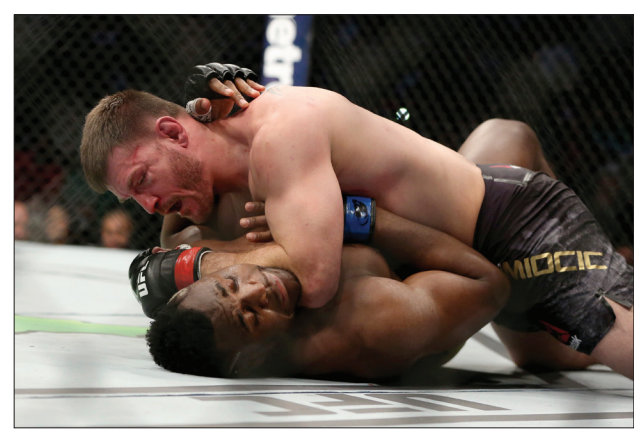
Hallgarth noted other rodeos in the region are set to go on before the Elgin Stampede, including the High Desert Stampede on Friday, March 26, in Redmond and the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union, June 10-13. He said he will be watching how these and other rodeos

are run.

"We may get ideas from each of them," he said, on how to operate a rodeo during a pandemic.

The stock contractors and vendors the Elgin Stampede has had in past years have expressed strong interest in again participating in the rodeo, Hallgarth said, and past sponsors are indicating they will be supporting the event.

"We are excited that our sponsors are on board," he said.



Gregory Payan/Associated Press, File

Stipe Miocic, top, presses his elbow into the throat of Francis Ngannou during a heavyweight championship mixed martial arts bout at UFC 220 in Boston on Jan. 21, 2018.

UFC:

Continued from Page B1

the extraordinary athletes dotting the UFC heavyweight roster.

Although they've met before, this matchup with the 34-year-old Ngannou (15-3) is a refreshing change for Miocic, who hasn't fought anybody except Daniel Cormier in three years. Miocic won two of three and reclaimed his belt from his most daunting foe.

Miocic went into that trilogy after easily controlling all five rounds in 2018 against Ngannou, the up-and-coming challenger widely expected to take Miocic's crown. The heavyweights have watched each other since then, and Miocic has no doubt Ngannou earned another shot.

"He's gotten way better," Miocic said. "He's got great coaches and teammates. He's evolved, you can tell. I definitely know he's prepared. He has great coaches. He's got the hunger and he's got the drive. I can see that. I'm here to extinguish it again."

With a win, Miocic would have the most heavyweight title fight victories in UFC history.

But Ngannou has demonstrated his own tenacity over the past 2 1/2 years, reviving a career that collapsed almost as quickly as it rose.

Ngannou was unbeaten in UFC competition and

thought to be the future of the heavyweight division before Miocic embarrassed him. The Cameroonian challenger then appeared to be in serious trouble when he lost a lifeless decision to Derrick Lewis six months later, but Ngannou responded with four consecutive first-round knockout victories to jump back to the top of the contenders list.

Ngannou's memory of his loss to Miocic fueled his comeback.

"I hate to watch that fight, because I don't recognize myself," Ngannou said. "That guy looked like me, but I don't recognize that style. I made a lot of mistakes leading up to that fight. I wasn't there myself. I didn't even have the emotion in that fight. I don't know how I had that lack of emotion. But this time, things will be different. I've had enough time with my team, and everything is going to be right."

The heavyweights are the main event in what might be the UFC's final pay-per-view show held in a mostly empty gym on its corporate campus.

The promotion hits the road again next month to fight in arenas where state and local governments will allow full-capacity crowds amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has caused dozens of UFC fight cancellations and alterations over the past 10 months, including several fights on this card.

Dawgs:

Continued from Page B1

Also chipping in top-five team times have been seniors Ellie Ernst and Julianna Joyce, and freshmen Megan Joyce, Madeline Franke and Hailey Melville.

"The crazy thing is, these girls would be top five on almost every team," Blackburn said. "We are deep — it's great."

Blackburn said Sanchez,

who was one of the Bulldogs' top two runners entering the season, is scheduled to run this weekend.

"She has been hurt and is still hurt," he said. "It's nothing horrible, just a nagging injury with her IT band. It's tight and uncomfortable to run. It will be nice to have her back."

The MCC Championships will not be broken down into 3A and 4A divisions, as it has been in the past. All nine teams will be going after one trophy.

Blackburn admits Richland is the favorite going into the race. The Bombers finished the season 8-0, while Hermiston was 7-1, and Hanford and Kennewick tied for third at 5-3.

"Richland is a top four team in 4A," he said. "We can't quite keep up with them. This is the strongest team I have had since I've been here (seven years). I think this team could compete with any team Hermiston has ever had."

Kamiakin is the favorite

in the boys race. The Braves finished the season 8-0, followed by Chiawana (7-1), Hanford (6-2) and Southridge (5-3).

Hermiston junior Logan Springstead has been a fixture in the top five of conference races this spring, followed by junior Grant Anderson.

Junior Isaac Teeple, who won the 2019 3A state title, and led Kamiakin to its third consecutive team title, leads the Braves' strong contingent, along with Grayson Wilcott.

PREP STANDINGS

Through games played March 25

PREP FOOTBALL

5A Special District 1

Team	League	Overall
Pendleton	3-0	3-0
Hood River Valley	2-1	2-1
The Dalles	1-0	1-1
Redmond	1-1	2-1
Ridgeview	1-2	1-2
LaSalle Prep	0-1	2-1
Parkrose	0-1	0-3
Putnam	0-2	1-2

Mid-Columbia Conference

Team	League	Overall
Chiawana	5-0	5-0
Kennewick	5-0	5-0
Kamiakin	4-1	4-1
Richland	3-2	3-2
Walla Walla	2-2	2-2
Hermiston	1-3	1-3
Pasco	0-4	1-4
Hanford	0-4	1-4
Southridge	0-4	0-5

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	3-0	3-0
Weston-McEwen	2-0	3-0
Umatilla	2-2	2-2
Stanfield	1-2	1-2
Irrigon	0-1	0-2
Riverside	0-1	0-1
Grant Union	0-2	1-2

1A Special District 2

Team	League	Overall
Dufur	3-0	3-0
Wallowa	2-0	2-0
Powder Valley	1-0	3-0
Enterprise	1-1	1-1
Imbler	1-1	1-1
Pilot Rock	1-2	1-2
Elgin	0-0	0-1
Union	0-1	0-1
Cove	0-2	0-2
Ione/Arlington	0-2	0-2
Crane	0-3	0-3

1A Special District 4 (6-man)

Team	League	Overall
South Wasco County	3-0	3-0
Joseph	2-0	3-0
Dayville/Monument	1-0	1-2
Sherman/Condon	1-1	2-1
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler	1-1	1-1
Harper Charter	0-1	0-1
Prairie City	0-2	0-3
Echo	0-3	0-3

PREP VOLLEYBALL

5A Intermountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Crook County	4-0	7-1
Ridgeview	4-1	6-3
Pendleton	4-2	3-3
Hood River Valley	3-2	3-4
Redmond	1-6	2-8
The Dalles	0-5	0-6

3A Eastern Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Burns	3-0	9-1
Vale	1-3	3-6
Irrigon	0-0	5-4
Umatilla	0-1	1-4
Nyssa	0-2	3-5
Riverside	0-2	1-6

2A Blue Mountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	4-0	5-1
Grant Union	3-1	4-3
Union	2-0	8-1
Weston McEwen	1-1	6-2
Stanfield	1-3	1-6
Enterprise	0-1	2-4
Pilot Rock	0-2	4-4

1A Big Sky League

Team	League	Overall
Condon	5-1	5-1
Echo	5-1	5-1
Dufur	3-0	5-0
South Wasco County	3-1	3-5
Ione/Arlington	3-3	3-3
Sherman	3-3	3-3
Lyle/Wishram	2-1	2-1
Trout Lake	1-3	1-4
Mitchell/Spray	1-4	1-5

Glenwood/Klickitat	0-4	0-4
Bickleton	0-5	0-5

1A Old Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
Imbler	3-0	3-2
Powder Valley	1-0	7-0
Nixyaawii	1-0	5-3
Wallowa	1-1	5-2
Cove	1-2	2-4
Joseph	0-0	1-4
Griswold	0-0	1-6
Elgin	0-1	0-1
Pine Eagle	0-2	0-5

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

5A Intermountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Redmond	1-0-1	4-1-1
The Dalles/Dufur	2-0-0	4-2-0
Hood River Valley	0-0-1	1-4-2
Ridgeview	0-1-1	0-5-1
Crook County	0-1-0	0-2-0
Pendleton	0-2-0	0-6-0

3A/2A/1A Special District 6

Team	League	Overall
Riverside	2-0-0	5-1-0
Nyssa	1-0-0	3-1-0
Umatilla	0-1-0	1-2-1
Stanfield/Echo	0-1-0	0-3-1
Four Rivers	0-2-0	0-5-0

PREP BOYS SOCCER

5A Intermountain Conference

Team	League	Overall
Hood River Valley	3-0-0	3-2-0
Ridgeview	2-1-0	4-3-0
The Dalles/Dufur	2-2-0	3-3-0
Pendleton	1-1-0	1-2-0
Redmond	0-2-0	1-5-0
Crook County	0-2-0	0-5-0

3A/2A/1A Special District 6

Team	League	Overall
Nyssa	1-0-0	2-3-0
Riverside	0-0-0	2-2-1
Umatilla	0-0-0	2-2-0
Irrigon	0-0-0	0-5-0
Four Rivers	0-1-0	0-4-1

ON THE SLATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Prep football
Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 7 p.m.

Prep volleyball
Ridgeview at Pendleton, 11 a.m.
Hermiston at Pendleton, 3 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
La Grande at Hermiston, noon
McLoughlin at Riverside, 1 p.m.
Umatilla at Stanfield/Echo, 1 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
McLoughlin at Riverside, 3 p.m.

Prep cross-country
Walla Walla, Southridge, Richland, Hanford, Kennewick, Kamiakin, Chiawana, Pasco at Hermiston, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 29

Prep volleyball
Stanfield at Echo, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Prep volleyball
Pendleton at Crook County, 6:30 p.m.
Echo at Ione/Arlington, 5 p.m.
Griswold at Riverside, 5 p.m.
Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock at McLoughlin, 5 p.m.
Irrigon at Stanfield, 5 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Hood River Valley at Pendleton, 6 p.m.
Stanfield/Echo at McLoughlin, 4 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Riverside at Baker/Powder Valley, 5 p.m.
Irrigon at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Prep volleyball
Pendleton at The Dalles, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Prep volleyball
Ione/Arlington at Condon, 5 p.m.
Griswold at McLoughlin JV, 5 p.m.
Riverside at Nixyaawii, 5 p.m.
Umatilla at Pilot Rock, 6:30 p.m.
Heppner at Grant Union, 5 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 4 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Pendleton at Ridgeview, 4:30 p.m.
Umatilla at McLoughlin, 4 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Ridgeview at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.
Riverside at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at McLoughlin, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Prep football
Putnam at Pendleton, 7 p.m.

McLoughlin at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
Stanfield at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Umatilla at Grant Union, 6 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Union, 7 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Imbler, 2 p.m.
Echo at Prairie City, 2 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
La Grande at McLoughlin, 4 p.m.

Prep cross-country
McLoughlin at La Grande, TBD

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Prep football
Heppner vs. Toledo at Redmond, 1 p.m.

Prep volleyball
Hood River Valley at Pendleton, 11 a.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Echo, 1 p.m.
Umatilla at Gravelly, 1 p.m.
McLoughlin at Nixyaawii, 11 a.m.
Riverside at Irrigon, 1 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 4 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Crook County at Pendleton, noon
Stanfield/Echo at Riverside, 1 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Pendleton at Crook County, noon

Women's college soccer
Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, noon




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