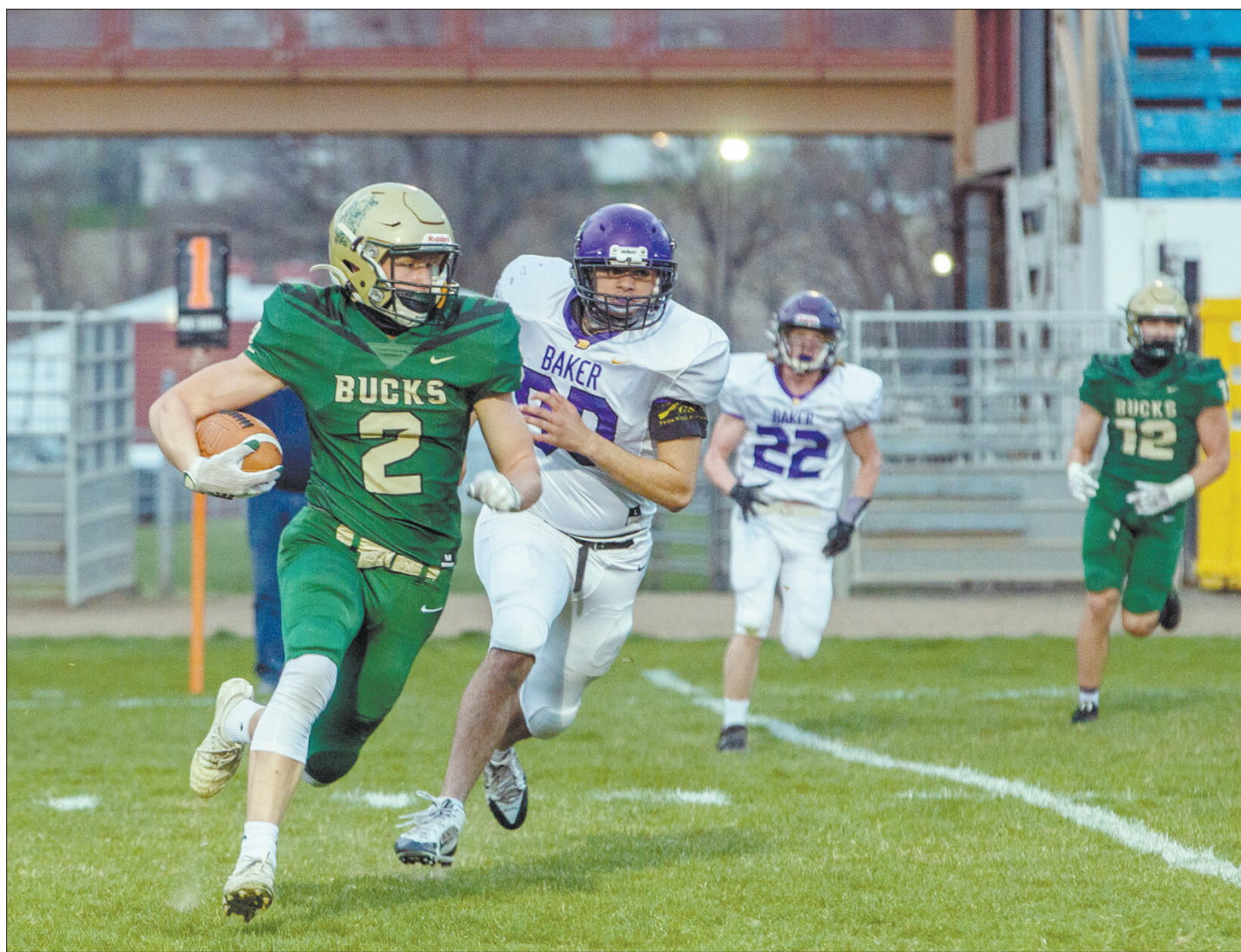


EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

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A10



Pendleton's Sam Coleman runs the ball at Round-Up Arena on Friday, April 2, 2021. The Bucks beat Baker 49-26. Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File
Weston-McEwen's Hunter Lantz (54) carries an American flag ahead of the game in Athena on March 19, 2021. The Weston-McEwen TigerScots defeated the Riverside Pirates 33-6.

W-M, Umatilla square off for a second time

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

ATHENA — It's Round 2 for the TigerScots and Vikings.

Weston-McEwen and Umatilla met during Week 2 of the season, with the TigerScots coming away with a 20-7 victory, but a lot has changed since that time.

"Umatilla is well-coached, and disciplined," said W-M coach Kenzie Hansell, who was seeding alfalfa when reached on Wednesday, April 7. "They have gotten better, and so have we. It will be a great game. It will have a playoff atmosphere."

The teams will play at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 9, at Weston-McEwen High School.

The TigerScots (4-1) are coming off a 38-12 win over McLoughlin, while Umatilla (2-3) dropped a tight 34-28 game to Grant Union last week.

"We have improved a lot with our blocking," Umatilla coach Dan Durfey said. "We have had a few games when we have put up a few yards. We are starting to get the blocks, we have kept a simple game plan, which has helped a lot. Just the basics and playing football. They are playing good football and they don't have to think that much."

W-M had a tough time getting its passing game going last week, but with short fields on a few series, and special teams putting out a solid effort, the TigerScots took what the game offered.

"We do what's working during the game," Hansell said. "We prepare for the pass and run, and credit to the offensive line, they give us options."

It's those options that concern Durfey.

"The different formations they play, we need to pay attention to that and make sure they are in the right spot," Durfey said.

It's the final game of the season

— See Prep Football, Page A11

A TALL TASK

Pendleton will have its hands full with 6A Summit

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton is not a team to back down from a challenge. The Bucks hit the road to play 6A Summit on Friday, April 9, taking on a team that has twice the personnel and players who only play one side of the ball.

"They platoon kids, they don't play both ways," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said.

"They are a 6A football team, they have horses and good athletic kids. I think it's a good matchup, for sure."

The Storm has had an interesting season, playing Mountain View twice, Bend twice, and Beaverton once. Summit is coming off a 15-5 loss last week to Bend.

Summit (2-3) won the first game between the teams, but last week the Lava Bears took advantage of two Storm special teams mistakes to pick up their first win of the season.

If the Bucks (4-1) have an edge on the Storm, it could be their team speed.

Tyasin Burns and Zaanan Bane have done a tremendous job out of the backfield, and Pendleton's defense has been able to diffuse

opponents' game plans.

"They will run some man coverage, which lends them to be able to bring pressure," Davis said of the Storm. "If we can take advantage of them, it will be our team speed. Having two tailbacks opens up our offense, which creates problems. If we play like we did against Hood River, we will be OK. If we make the mistakes we did against Redmond, it will be a long night."

Bane, who took a helmet to the thigh against Redmond, is back to 100%. Davis is moving the 6-foot-1, 170-pound senior from the secondary to outside linebacker.

"If we play defensively like we did

— See Pendleton, Page A11

EOU SPORTS BRIEFING

Eastern drops five spots in latest NAIA ranking

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Eastern Oregon women's soccer team dropped in the NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches' Top-25 Poll, falling five spots in the latest poll released on Wednesday, April 7.

The Mountaineers now sit at No. 16 in the NAIA after being ranked as high as No. 9.

Eastern wrapped up regular season play earlier this week with a pair of road contests at College of Idaho. The Mountaineers tied in the first matchup at 1-1 before dropping a 1-0 bout in the second game. With regular season play over for the Mountaineers, they stand at 7-1-2 overall and finish 5-1-2 in Cascade Collegiate

Conference East Division play.

Regular season play for the rest of the conference will wrap up early next week to determine the winner of the CCC East Division. As it stands, EOU leads with 17 points, while C of I is second with 13. A pair of wins or a win and a draw for the Yotes at Carroll College would give the Yotes the East Division Title.

In this set of rankings, EOU is the only ranked CCC team. C of I continues to remain in the receiving votes category.

Mountaineers drop one spot in top-25 poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A fourth-quarter collapse cost the Eastern Oregon University one spot in the latest NAIA Football FirstDown PlayBook Top-25 Poll, released on Monday, April 5.

The Mountaineers (2-1, 2-1 Frontier) fell one spot in the rankings to No. 21 following a home loss to No. 6 College of Idaho on Senior Day.

The Yotes outscored the Mountaineers 21-7 in the final quarter to rally from a 38-28 deficit.

The Mountaineers final game of the regular season will be on the road this weekend in Havre, Montana, against Montana State-Northern. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 10.

Mountaineers hold steady at No. 8 in latest poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Eastern Oregon University volleyball team remained No. 8 in the latest NAIA Women's Volleyball Coaches' Poll, released Wednesday, April 7.

SPORTS SHORT

China warns Washington not to boycott Winter Olympics

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's government warned Washington on Wednesday, April 7, not to boycott next year's Winter Olympics in Beijing after the Biden administration said it was talking with allies about a joint approach to complaints of human rights abuses.

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson rejected accusations of abuses against ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region. He warned of an unspecified "robust Chinese response" to a potential Olympics boycott.

"The politicization of sports will damage the spirit of the

Olympic Charter and the interests of athletes from all countries," said the spokesperson, Zhao Lijian. "The international community including the U.S. Olympic Committee will not accept it."

Human rights groups are protesting China's hosting of the games, due to start in February 2022. They have urged a boycott or other measures to call attention to accusations of Chinese abuses against Uyghurs, Tibetans and residents of Hong Kong.

The U.S. State Department suggested an Olympic boycott was among the possibilities, but a senior official said later a boycott has not been discussed. The International Olympic Committee and

the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee have said in the past they oppose boycotts.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on April 7 that the White House is not looking at a boycott of the 2022 Olympics.

"We have not discussed, and are not discussing, any joint boycott with allies and partners," she said.

When asked if the U.S. government would discourage Americans from traveling to China, Psaki said the Biden administration hopes that by the time of the event, "we are at a point where enough people across the country, and hopefully around the world have been vaccinated" against COVID-19.



Andy Wong/Associated Press

Chinese attendants dressed in winter costumes rehearse the award ceremony of the men's 500-meter race during a test event for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics at the National Speed Skating Oval in Beijing on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.