

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A7

Bucks will be tested by Wilsonville

Pendleton is coming off an impressive win over Southridge

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As if playing 6A Southridge wasn't enough of a challenge, Pendleton will take on powerful Wilsonville out of the Northwest Oregon Conference on Friday, Sept. 10.

The Bucks will host the nonleague game at 7 p.m. at the Pendleton High School field.

"A win against a 6A program on the road Week 1 is a feather in our cap," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "What matters is the 5A and our league games moving forward. There are a lot of teams who wouldn't play that tough of a preseason schedule. For us to win this game, we have to play a near perfect game. I think we are up to the challenge."

Wilsonville is coming off a 42-19 victory over Lebanon, a game in which quarterback Chase Hix threw for two touchdowns, Jay Rummell-West ran for two scores, and Jack Johnson scored twice — once on a reception and another on a punt return.

"We had to make sure we watched film and make sure we were ready for one of the best 5A teams in the state," Davis said. "They are a very well-coached team. They have had tremendous success the last 5-6 years. I have coached with and against him



Pendleton's Kyle Liscom (21) carries the ball during a Friday, Aug. 27, 2021, scrimmage against the Hermiston Bulldogs at Pendleton High School.

(coach Adam Guenther) in the Les Schwab Bowl. I know how he thinks. We are going to have our hands full."

Hix is someone Davis said they will need to keep track of.

"Watching him on film, he is impressive," Davis said. "He is accurate and can make any throw on the field. He extends plays with his feet. If I know Adam Guenther, he will have a stable of receivers. They lost 19 starters, but they reload. We will have our hands full."

The Wildcats will have a little trouble of their own trying to contain the Bucks.

Pendleton had more than 300

yards rushing in its 27-26 win over Southridge, with Kyle Liscom and Payton Lambert doing most of the damage.

"I like our run game, but they don't do it on their own," Davis said. "Our O-line has done a nice job. For our kids to compete against an extremely big line, that was a high point for us. If you give Kyle or Payton a seam, they will create for us."

The Bucks had to revamp their O-line before their first game. When Tucker Pace got hurt, Davis shifted Michael Avery to left tackle and Adam Thorne to left guard.

"Adam is coachable," Davis said. "That allowed him to be a

contributor. Our entire offensive line will have to do a good job."

The Bucks also were solid on defense. Luke Benching had an interception, they stopped Southridge's 2-point attempt with 1:26 remaining that likely would have given the Skyhawks the win, and they allowed just 26 points.

"There were times when we didn't close down, but those are things we can fix," Davis said. "I think we are going to come in having shaken off that first Friday night jitters. This will be a tremendous barometer for us. I foresee us being a top four team this year, but I'm excited to see how we stack up against the elite of the elite."

Heppner clashes with Warrenton on Saturday

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — The last time Heppner and Warrenton met, the Mustangs sent the Warriors packing with a 32-7 loss in the 2019 state quarterfinals.

That was then. Both are completely different teams heading into the 5 p.m. matchup Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

"They are a very good football team," Heppner coach Greg Grant said. "They were the last time we played them, and they could be better now. They have a very good athlete at quarterback. It will be a real test defensively. Offensively, we need to step up and execute better."

Heppner, which has won 19 consecutive games, is coming off a 19-0 victory over Toledo. The Mustangs allowed the Boomers just 167 yards of offense, and returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

"I liked that we competed," Grant said. "We adjusted as the game went along and we did some nice things. I think we need to slow down and know what we are doing. We need to make sure we are fundamentally sound."

Warrenton beat Knappa 45-14 last week. The Warriors, who play in the Coastal Range League, went 5-0 last season in a makeshift COVID season.

Pilot Rock on Sept. 9 host Enterprise in their Old Oregon League opener, and on Sept. 10, La Grande is at McLoughlin, while Weston-McEwen is at Nestucca, Ione/Arlington is at Imbler, Umatilla plays at Irrigon, Pine Eagle is at Echo and Stanfield travels to Culver.

Dawgs hit the road to take on Sunnyside

Hermiston needs to clean up mistakes to be successful

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs are hitting the road Friday, Sept. 10, to take on the Sunnyside Grizzlies.

There is nothing sunny about the Grizzlies, who are coming off a 34-23 win over Prosser last week.

"We checked out their film and got it broken down," Hermiston coach David Faeteete said. "They have a physical run game, and their offensive line is aggressive and very competitive. They fire around on defense and they do a great job of tackling."

Offensively, the Grizzlies have a few weapons.

Myles Newhouse caught a touchdown pass and ran for three more scores — including a 68-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Newhouse ran for 214 yards on 31 carries, while quarterback Logan Rodriguez completed 18 of 27 passes for 200 yards.

The Bulldogs are coming off a 46-10 Mid-Columbia Conference loss to Kamiakin.

"For the most part, the evaluation of kids continues," Faeteete said. "A lot of young mistakes were made all over the field. We need to get that shored up. This week is about us and improving."

The Bulldogs rolled up 264 yards of

offense, with quarterback Chase Elliott running for 92 yards — which included a 29-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

"I thought Chase played well," Faeteete said. "He made some good plays with his legs. He's still a little rusty."

The biggest thing Faeteete would like to see his team do is clean up the mistakes. The Bulldogs were penalized eight times for 102 yards, they lost two fumbles and Isaac Corey threw an interception.

"We want to execute better and finish drives," Faeteete said. "We can't make silly mistakes and take penalties in the red zone, or turn the ball over. We need to take care of the little details and we will be where we want to be."



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Chase Elliott runs with the ball in the Bulldogs home opener Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, against Kamiakin at Kennison Field. The Bulldogs hit the road Sept. 10 to take on Sunnyside.

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