

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A8

ROAD WARRIORS

Bucks hit the road to take on Hood River Valley

Both teams are 1-0 in conference play

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — It's never an easy week for Pendleton in the Northwest Oregon Conference East.

The Bucks, coming off playing a team that features a Wing-T offense, now has to contend with Hood River Valley quarterback Trenton Hughes, who loves to throw the ball and create plays with his feet.

"He is a pretty quarterback," Bucks coach Erik Davis said. "I coached him in the Les Schwab Bowl. We are going to have to contain him. He is athletic enough to create some issues. He's also a great safety on defense and a great kick returner."

The Bucks will play at Hood River Valley at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24. Ranked No. 1 in the 5A division by Oregon School Activities Association, the Eagles are 3-0 and coming off their league opener — a 28-27 comeback win over Ridgeview. Hughes threw for three touchdowns in the game, all to Mason Spellecky.

"They are ranked No. 1 per the OSAA, and well deserved, I suppose," Davis said. "They beat a good Scappoose team, and beat



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pendleton's Collin Primus runs the ball for the Bucks on Sept. 16, 2021, during a 47-6 win over the Putnam Kingsmen at Pendleton High School. The Bucks, 2-1 overall, face Hood River Valley at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24.

Ridgeview in overtime. Coach (Caleb) Sperry is a good buddy of mine and he will have them ready. They have changed up their offense to utilize their quarterback. We have to be ready to battle."

Pendleton, which is 1-0 in league play and 2-1 overall, is not

the biggest team in the 5A classification and sometimes gets overlooked in Eastern Oregon.

"I think we are a good football team," Davis said. "If the sentiment around the state that we are the underdog, we will relish that. We have some unbelievably talented kids. They have heart. We

will be the smallest team on the field every week, but we will battle every week.

We have some outstanding players. Their hard work is the pillar of what we build our team around."

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Dawgs looking to get back on track against Richland

Hermiston is off to 0-3 start to season

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Last week, Hermiston lost to Chiawana and Richland lost to Kamiakin. On Friday, Sept. 24, both teams will try and get back in the win column as the Bombers visit the Bulldogs in Mid-Columbia Conference action.

"We ran into a really good team last week in Kamiakin," Richland coach Mike Neidhold said. "We did just about everything we could do wrong. Every conceivable thing that could go wrong did. We need another quality opponent this week to find out about us, and Hermiston will give that to us. We will have our hands full."

Hermiston coach David Faaeteete said he has seen improvement in his team every week, but at times their youth and inexperience show through.

"The kids played hard and they competed," Faaeteete said of the game with Chiawana. "From Week 1 to Week 3, overall we have improved as a team, but there's still a lot of room for improvement. We have the smallest roster size

wise in the MCC. We are not going to be bigger than anyone and we are super young. We focus on what we can control. There's no replacement for hard work."

Hermiston is led by quarterback Chase Elliott, who at times prefers to run than pass. His favorite receiver is Caden Hottman, who had four catches for 98 yards and a touchdown last week.

"Their quarterback is a shifty little guy — we like him a lot," Neidhold said. "They have a lot of motion, and they have a lot of different plays. I told my team they do a lot of things and we have to keep our eyes on the ball. It will be a 48-minute game. Neither of us are going to score 50 and have a running clock. Anyone driving through Hermiston on Friday night, who wants to shell out \$5, will see a good game."

Faaeteete said the Bombers have the ability to break free for explosive plays. The Bulldogs need to be able to stop those, and not hurt themselves with penalties.

"Their running back runs hard and they give us matchup problems," Faaeteete said. "We need to control the run and not give up big plays."

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pilot Rock quarterback Jace Otteson hands the ball to running back Efen Castro during the first half against the Outlaws. The Pilot Rock Rockets on Sept. 9, 2021, defeated the Enterprise Outlaws 36-32 in Pilot Rock.

Rockets head to Ione for 8-man showdown

Pilot Rock loses two players for the rest of the football season

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

IONE — It was supposed to be a showdown between two of the best 8-man players this season — Pilot Rock linebacker Wyatt Stillman and Ione/Arlington running back/

linebacker Taylor Rollins.

Come Friday, Sept. 24, Rollins and the host Cardinals will see what they can do against the Rockets, who have lost Stillman for the season for violating a team policy, and Brave Pereria, who suffered a season-ending injury two weeks ago against Enterprise. Also missing for just this week is Austin Ford, who also violated a team policy.

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ON THE SLATE

Thursday, Sept. 23

Prep football
Irrigon at Grant Union, 7 p.m.
Prep volleyball
Pilot Rock at Heppner, 5 p.m.
Crook County at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Walla Walla at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Union, 5 p.m.
La Grande at Irrigon, 5 p.m.
Umatilla at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Cove, 6 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Ione/Arlington, 5 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Walla Walla at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Redmond at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
Pendleton at Redmond, 4:30 p.m.
Prep slowpitch softball
Hermiston at Eisenhower (2), 4 p.m.
Prep cross-country
Heppner, Griswold, McLoughlin, Pilot Rock, Riverside, Umatilla at Stanfield Fun Country, TBD

Friday, Sept. 24

Prep football
Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.
Richland at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Heppner at Kennedy, 7 p.m.
Baker at McLoughlin, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Ione/Arlington, 7 p.m.
Umatilla at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Echo at Dayville/Monument, 1 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 7 p.m.
Prep volleyball
Nixyaawii at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.
Echo at Bickleton, 5 p.m.
College volleyball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 7 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Stanfield/Echo at Umatilla, 1 p.m.
Irrigon at Nyssa, 2 p.m.
Riverside at Four Corners, 4 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
Irrigon at Nyssa, 4 p.m.
Riverside at Four Rivers, 2 p.m.
College men's soccer
Bushnell at Eastern Oregon, 4 p.m.
College women's soccer
Bushnell at Eastern Oregon, 6:30 p.m.
Prep cross-country
Heppner at Bridgette Nelson, The Dalles, 10 a.m.
Weston-McEwen, Nixyaawii at Champs Invite, Lebanon, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 25

College football
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.
Prep volleyball
Enterprise at Heppner, noon
Union at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Pendleton at Oregon City Tournament, 7 a.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Grant Union at Stanfield, 1:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Dayton-Waitsburg at McLoughlin, 12:30 p.m.
Joseph at Nixyaawii, 10 a.m.
Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 1 p.m.
Wallowa at Griswold, 10 a.m.
Joseph at Griswold, 1 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Hermiston at Richland, 1 p.m.
Pendleton at Lewiston, noon
McLoughlin at Ontario, 11 a.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Trout Lake, 1 p.m.
Irrigon at Four Corners, 10 a.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, 1 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
Lewiston at Pendleton, noon
McLoughlin at Ontario, 12:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Four Rivers, noon
Riverside at Nyssa, 11 a.m.
Prep cross-country
Pendleton at Three Course Challenge, TBD
McLoughlin at Connell Invite, 1 p.m.
Pilot Rock at John Hascall Memorial 3K, TBD
College men's soccer
Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2:15 p.m.
Corban at Eastern Oregon, 4 p.m.
College women's soccer
Blue Mountain at Spokane, noon
Corban at Eastern Oregon, 6:30 p.m.
College volleyball
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT



EOU Athletics/Contributed Photo

Morgan Farrington attempts a penalty kick in the 12th minute of a match at Multnomah on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. Farrington's two goals in the 10-0 win helped her earn conference offensive player of the week honors on Sept. 20.

Several Mountaineers take home player of the week honors

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — After a solid week of Mountaineer sports action, several players took home player of the week honors on Monday, Sept. 20.

The No. 14-ranked Eastern volleyball team has been on a roll, winning five matches in a row. The Mountaineers are 6-1 in the Cascade Collegiate Conference through their first seven conference matchups, second only to Corban.

Freshman Alexis McMurtrey was named setter of the week following her solid performances over the week.

Across a weekend series in Portland against Multnomah and Warner Pacific, McMurtrey recorded 16 digs and 60 assists. Against the College of Idaho on Sept. 14, she tallied 25 assists and 10 digs. In her second year with the program, McMurtrey has recorded 396 assists and 188 digs through the team's first 15 games.

In women's soccer, midfielder

Morgan Farrington and goalkeeper Madeline Barker were named offensive and defensive players of the week.

The Mountaineers shut out five straight opponents after a season-opening loss to Spring Arbor, including a 1-0 victory over No. 17 Westmont on Sept. 13. Barker recorded six saves in Eastern's biggest win of the season. She recorded three saves in a 2-0 win over Warner Pacific and helped the team shut out Multnomah 1-0.

On offense, Farrington has led

the way during her senior season. Through three games this past week, Farrington scored in every contest. Her score in the 77th minute against Westmont was the deciding goal in the 1-0 win. Farrington also scored two goals within the first 12 minutes in a 10-0 blowout against Multnomah on Sept. 18. The strong week of competition propelled the Mountaineers to a tie for first with Oregon Tech in the Cascade Collegiate Conference heading into the team's matchup with Bushnell on Sept. 24.