

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A10

MAKING HIS MARK

Pendleton's Brock Mackey is taking advantage of opportunities on the field

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Brock Mackey has worked his way up the ranks on the Pendleton football team. This fall, he has spent time on the scout team, getting time in the secondary and reps out of the backfield.

The past three weeks, Mackey has seen a lot of varsity time against Putnam, Hood River and The Dalles, and he has made every yard count.

"I'm really happy for him," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "He has waited his turn. He has run scout team and given us good looks with zero let down."

Against Putnam, he ran for 30 yards and a touchdown. The following week against Hood River, the 5-foot-11, 155-pound junior chewed up 50 yards and scored two touchdowns.

On Sept. 30, against The Dalles, the Bucks were without tailback Payton Lambert (ankle). Mackey stepped in and ran for 111 yards and scored four touchdowns.

"I have never scored four touchdowns in a game before," Mackey said. "That was exciting."

It's all part of being ready when an opportunity arises.

"We ask him to do a lot of stuff for us," Davis said. "When he got thrust into a starting spot, he didn't waver. He was ready. We are going to need him moving forward. If Payton needs another week, we know he's ready. He started both



Pendleton's Brock Mackey runs the ball for a touchdown Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021, during a 70-6 win over The Dalles Riverhawks at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

sides of the ball. When you can start both sides, it builds your confidence."

Mackey is ready to do whatever his team needs.

"I haven't been in a starting position since my freshman year and JV," Mackey said. "It's nice to go out and show people what I can do. I'm not very big, but I do have speed. The line did a good job of flowing The Dalles off the line and giving us room to run."

With his size, Mackey is not mowing over defenses, but instead using his speed.

"He is very fast," Davis said. "He's probably one of the top two or three fastest kids on our team. They aren't running anywhere without the offensive line. They (offensive linemen) are undersized and some are inexperienced, but we're still moving the ball."

Lambert and Kyle Liscom have had the lion's share of the work

coming out of the backfield, but Davis is excited about the possibility of a three-headed monster.

"There was an issue if he could take the beating as a varsity tailback and have ball security," Davis said. "He's really taken care of the football. We are watching a tremendous growth in front of our eyes. He will be a force for us the next year and a half."

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ON CAMPUS

Offensive woes continue for Mountaineers

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Another low offensive output led to the Eastern Oregon University football team's second-straight loss. After a 3-0 start to the season, the Mountaineers are now 3-2.

In a 24-3 loss to Southern Oregon on Saturday, Oct. 2, the Mountaineers actually outgained the Raiders in total yardage. With that being said, the offense for Eastern struggled mightily and failed to find the end zone. The Mountaineers have now scored just 20 points in their last three games.

Eastern has totaled less than 100 rushing yards in the team's last four games, mustering just 54 total yards in the loss to Southern Oregon.

Running back Jordan Eggers started the year with a 148-yard performance against Montana Tech, scoring twice in a narrow win.

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Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group

Eastern Oregon University quarterback Kai Quinn throws a pass Sept. 25, 2021, against the College of Idaho, at Community Stadium in La Grande. The Mountaineers started the season with three wins but then lost back-to-back games to stand at 3-2.

Tri-City Americans, WHL will face new challenges this season

Americans open 2021 season with wins over Portland and Spokane

Tri-City Herald

KENNEWICK — After a 2019-20 Western Hockey League season that got cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a very shortened spring of 2021 season — also because of the pandemic — the league hopes to run a full season for 2021-22.

There will definitely be some changes.

The U.S. Divisions teams won't be playing Eastern Conference squads. And already the WHL has tweaked the October portion of the schedule, in which



Tri-City Herald/Contributed Photo

The Tri-City Americans open their 2021-22 season with a new coach in Stu Barnes, and COVID-19 protocols that do not allow them to play teams from the Eastern Conference.

U.S. Division teams won't play against Canadian teams because of the border crossing limitations.

This season's version of the Tri-City Americans,

started with a home opener against the Portland Winterhawks on Friday, Oct. 1, with a 5-4 shootout victory.

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SPORTS SHORT

Heppner Mustangs earn Team of Month honor



Damon Brosnan/Contributed Photo

The Heppner High School football team was Oregon School Activities Association's selection for the 2A Les Schwab Team of the Month for September 2021. The Mustangs, who have a combined 3.27 GPA, are 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the Blue Mountain Conference. They have outscored opponents 121-40, and have three shutouts to their credit.

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