

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton's Chas Corbett carries the ball for the Bucks on Sept. 30, 2021, during a 70-6 win over The Dalles Riverhawks in the Pendleton Round-Up Arena. The Bucks on Friday, Oct. 15, face their biggest game of the season yet on their home turf when they play Redmond.

Pendleton will be tested by Redmond

Lambert returns to Bucks' lineup after missing two games

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — There's nothing like a Friday night football game at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Pendleton returns to Special District 1 play Friday, Oct. 15, when Redmond comes to town.

"This is the biggest game on our calendar to this point," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "This game puts a stamp on where we can go the rest of the season. I think the kids understand how big this game is. I think this group will thrive in this environment. There is no quit."

The Bucks, who lead the league

with a 4-0 record (6-1 overall), are one game up on Redmond, Hood River Valley and Ridgeview, making the matchup that much more important.

"It's a really big game for us this week," Davis said. "It has a lot of implications for sure. They only have one loss, which keeps them in the title hunt. We have a goal of winning a league title. It should be a good football game."

In last year's makeshift season,

the Panthers shut out the Bucks 28-0. Davis said he doesn't think there will be a repeat of that.

"I know this has been circled on the calendar of a few kids who played last year," Davis said. "I think our kids realize what's in front of them. They run a high-tempo, no-huddle offense. We have talked about the opportunity to go and win a big conference game at home."

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Dawgs to lock horns with Lions in MCC battle

Hermiston still looking for first win of the season

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Things have not gone as smoothly as Hermiston football coach David Faaeteete would like them to this season, but his team rallies each week and takes the field.

The Bulldogs are back in action Thursday, Oct. 14, against the Kennebec Lions in Mid-Columbia Conference action at Lampson Stadium.

"We hope the moment is not too big for our kids and we go out and give Kennebec a fight," Faaeteete said. "I love playing the underdog role. Not many teams in the MCC give us a chance of winning. If we dot our i's and cross our t's, anything can happen. We have to take advantage of the moment. We just have to get a good break and execute the game plan."

Hermiston (0-6 overall, 0-5 MCC) lost the lead in the fourth quarter in a 27-14 loss to Southridge last week, while Kennebec (5-1, 4-1) is coming off a 34-20 loss to Kamiakin.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston's Marcus Winebarger intercepts a pass intended for Southridge's Lucien Cone during a 27-14 loss Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, to the Southridge Suns in Hermiston. The Bulldogs on Oct. 14 head off to face the Kennebec Lions at Lampson Stadium.

SPORTS SHORT

Oregon Ducks offensive coordinator uncertain for game against Cal

The Oregonian

EUGENE — Oregon offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead could be back for Friday's game against Cal.

Moorhead, 47, had surgery eight days ago in the Bay Area before Oregon's loss at Stanford for an unspecified illness and later returned to Eugene.

"He's trying to (return this week)," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. "I know he's healing up. Certainly first and foremost we want him to get healthy and to be well. He is progressing. He's certainly involved with what we

have planned. Just like last week, the game plan doesn't change. We have an offense; we're not going to scrap it in the middle of the year. But he is healing up day by day. We'll see where we're at mid-week but he certainly is involved in the game planning part of it and we'll see where we are later in the week."

Offensive analyst Nate Costa has temporarily taken on some of Moorhead's coaching responsibilities in the quarterback meeting room and at practice.

The Golden Bears have had a rough season, beginning with back-to-back close losses to Nevada and at

TCU. Then came the 42-30 win over Sacramento State. But a 31-24 overtime loss at Washington dropped Cal to 1-3, and the subsequent 21-6 loss to Washington State was both UC's best defensive performance on a per play basis and its worst offensive showing yet.

The No. 9 Oregon Ducks (4-1, 1-1) are coming off their first conference loss of the season, falling to Stanford in overtime, 31-24. Running backs coach Jim Mastro called the plays during the loss. If Moorhead doesn't return Oct. 15, Mastro will continue to call UO's offense and a different staff member will oversee the running back rotation.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian

Oregon offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead watches as the Ducks face the Arizona Wildcats in a college football game Sept. 25, 2021, at Autzen Stadium. Moorhead has been out after surgery and could return to the Duck's contest Friday, Oct. 15, against the California Golden Bears.

Ione/Arlington takes on 1A power Dufur

Cardinals have to limit mistakes and not give up big plays to the Rangers

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

IONE — The way Dennis Stefani sees it, his Ione/Arlington football team is going to have to do three things well against Dufur: play disciplined defense, hang onto the ball and use the clock wisely on their offensive drives.

"If we can move the ball, keep it on the ground and keep it out of their hands, that will be huge," Stefani said. "Our strengths are running, but we are going to have to set that up with different things along the way to open up the game a little."

The Rangers, who lead the Special District 2-West with a 4-0 record, will have their hands full Friday, Oct. 15, with the Cardinals and their power back Taylor Rollins.

At 6-foot-2, 265 pounds, Rollins runs hard and is even harder to bring down. On defense, he will live in your backfield if given the chance.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Riverside's volleyball season ends abruptly with COVID-19 quarantine

BOARDMAN — The Riverside volleyball team has forfeited the last four games of its season because of a positive COVID-19 case on the team.

"We had a girl who tested positive, so all of our girls are in quarantine," Riverside Athletic Director Clair Costello said. "For the seniors it's really bad. We still have soccer and football that are going."

The Pirates, who finish the season 2-8 in the Eastern Oregon League and 4-15 overall, will forfeit their EOL game Friday, Oct. 15, against Vale, and league games to Burns and Nyssa on Oct. 16. All were home games.

The Pirates' nonleague game against River View, Washington, on Oct. 12, also was canceled.

Rockets ready to return to home gym Thursday

PILOT ROCK — The Pilot Rock volleyball team is finally back in its own gym.

The school received a seismic grant from the state of Oregon for \$2,472,000 in spring 2019 to reinforce the gym's exterior walls.

That work is now done, minus a little painting, and the Rockets will host their first match Thursday, Oct. 14, against Heppner.

The gym has been closed for months, forcing the Rockets to practice at the middle school gym, which also doubles as the cafeteria.

The Rockets, who are 0-7 in Blue Mountain Conference play, and 1-13 overall, also will host Union on Oct. 19 to finish the regular season.

Spectators are welcome to both matches. Masks must be worn.

—EO Media Group