

## SPORTS

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THE BULLETIN • SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

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## PREP FOOTBALL

## Ridgeview blanks Putnam 33-0

For the first time since 2015, Ridgeview starts the season off with a win.

Senior running back Gannon Jeter rushed for a 125 yards and found the end zone twice in Ridgeview's 33-0 over Putnam Saturday afternoon in Redmond.

According to team archives, it is the first time since 2013 — the year the program claimed the 4A state title — that the Ravens have shut out an opponent. Senior Eli Millington scored on a fumble recovery in the fourth quarter.

Next up for the Ravens is a matchup on the road against Pendleton.

— Bulletin staff report

## Panthers thump rival Lava Bears

It was a dominant performance in all phases in Redmond's 35-0 win over Bend High in the most recent rendition of Central Oregon's oldest football rivalry Saturday afternoon.

"We felt like we had a good plan going into it, our kids executed it out of this world," said Redmond coach Seth Womack. "I'm proud of them, they did everything we asked of them and then some."

Although only going into the half up 13-0, Womack had a sense his team's offense would break through in the second half. After all, the Panthers racked up over 60 offensive plays in the opening half.

"We wanted to go as fast as we could, we just didn't score," said the second-year Redmond coach. "We did wear them out a little bit and were able to move the ball on them."

The second half, after a Lava Bear turnover, the Panthers pulled away for good.

There was no stopping senior Redmond running back Austin Carter, who finished with 173 yards rushing, 38 receiving yards and three touchdowns. Senior Kole Davis and sophomore Dylan Lee also found the end zone for the Panthers.

"80% of yardage after contact," Womack said of Carter. "He is a different kind of guy."

Although the offense scored 35 points, a simple field goal would have been enough to beat the Lava Bears, who were kept off the scoreboard. Quarterback Steve Castillo finished with 89 yards passing while running back RJ Jones led the team with 52 yards rushing.

Without running back Nate Denney — last season's Mountain Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year and Yale football commit from a year who transferred to play his senior season in Texas — the Lava Bears struggled to find a rhythm offensively. Gaining only 157 yards of total offense.

But Redmond came up with a solid plan to handle the tricky Lava Bear offense that is tough to plan for because of the use of backfield motion. "Coach (Gene) Dale put together a really great defensive game plan," said Womack. "Bend is no picnic to defend."

Next week Redmond is on the road next Friday to face Hood River Valley, while Bend plays host to Summit in its first of two matchups against the Storm.

— Bulletin staff report

## PREP FOOTBALL

## Rust shows in Sisters' 1st game back

Culver game against Santiam mysteriously ends in 3rd quarter

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

SISTERS —

**B**lame the pandemic. In the first half alone, Pleasant Hill and Sisters fumbled the ball a combined six times.

Needless to say, the year and a half layoff and a short practice window formed some rust for both football teams Friday night.

A few too many mistakes from the Outlaws and enough explosive plays in the passing game helped the Billies cruise to a 20-6 victory.

## INSIDE

• Prep results in Scoreboard on B2

Gary Thorson. "It is the same for both teams. Both teams are going to go home and watch film and say, 'Gosh we missed this, we missed this and we

"We are a young team and we are going to make mistakes," said Sisters coach



Ryan Brennecke/TheBulletin

Sisters' Hayden Sharp (11) breaks a run down field during the third quarter of Friday night's game against Pleasant Hill in Sisters.

"We are a young team and we are going to make mistakes. It is the same for both teams. Both teams are going to go home and watch film and say, 'Gosh we missed this, we missed this and we missed this.'"

— Gary Thorson, Sisters football coach

missed this."

Neither team could hold onto, or move the ball without a fumble as teams traded turnovers. In the first half, each team forced turnovers in the red zone.

It was a couple of big passing plays from Pleasant Hill that was the difference in the game. Billies' quarterback Max Smith connected with Mason Hylemon and Hunter Etchison in the final seconds of the first half and gave

Pleasant Hill a comfortable lead. A Smith rushing touchdown in the third quarter gave the Billies a 20-0 lead midway through the third quarter.

Sisters finally got on the board when sophomore Adam Madox-Castle broke off a touchdown run late in the fourth quarter, but it was too late to mount a comeback.

It was a tough first outing for the Outlaws in their first Class 3A game of the year.

See **Sisters** / B2



Ross D. Franklin/AP

Seattle Mariners pitcher Chris Flexen throws against the Chicago White Sox during a spring training game on Friday in Phoenix.

## MLB

## Mariners hope to have unearthed a pitching gem in Chris Flexen

BY TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

This past offseason was not going to be the time the Seattle Mariners made a bevy of high-priced moves in free agency. Not with the team focused on getting its young prospects closer to the majors and money tight after a season with no fans in stadiums.

The Mariners had to be clever to bolster some of their needs.

Enter Chris Flexen. Seattle needed at least one

## INSIDE

• Mariners prospect Jarred Kelenic sidelined with knee strain, B3

more arm for its pitching rotation and it unearthed Flexen, who after spending the 2020 season pitching in South Korea, was ready for a return to the majors and the chance to restart a career that didn't begin well during his time with the New York Mets.

Flexen signed a \$4.75 million, two-year contract with a club option for 2023.

"One thing to keep in mind I think, everybody says, 'ah, he spent some time in Korea.' He is still only 26 years old," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "I look at it, he fits right into our group. He had success over in Korea. He's looking to get that to translate over here."

Barring a setback during spring training, Flexen is already written into Seattle's six-man pitching rotation that is heavy on left-handers and needs his right-handed arm.

See **MLB** / B3

## MOTOR SPORTS | NASCAR CUP SERIES

## Larson settling in at Hendrick Motorsports

BY JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

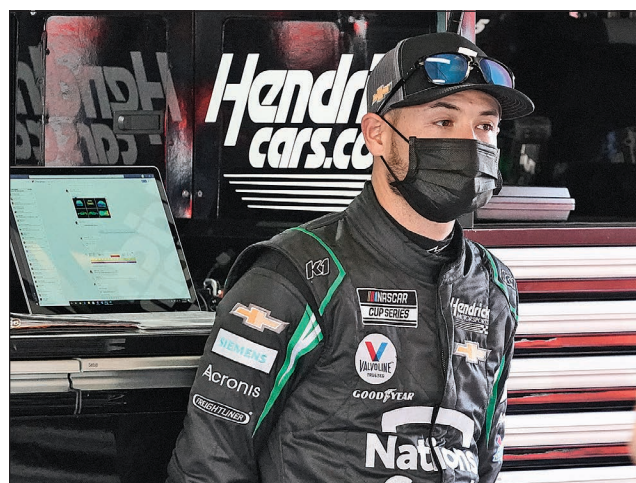
LAS VEGAS — Kyle Larson was out of NASCAR long enough to wonder if he'd still feel comfortable in a Cup car.

He raced in nearly 100 events last year, just not in 3,400-pound stock cars.

Would it feel the same as he remembered? Had his familiarity with the interior faded? His instincts slipped?

Larson, who won 42 of 83 open-wheel races during his NASCAR suspension for using a racial slur, has fallen right back into the old routine.

"I thought there would be cobwebs and rust. But maybe because I raced so much last year in sprint cars and open wheel cars ... I felt as fresh as



John Raoux/AP file

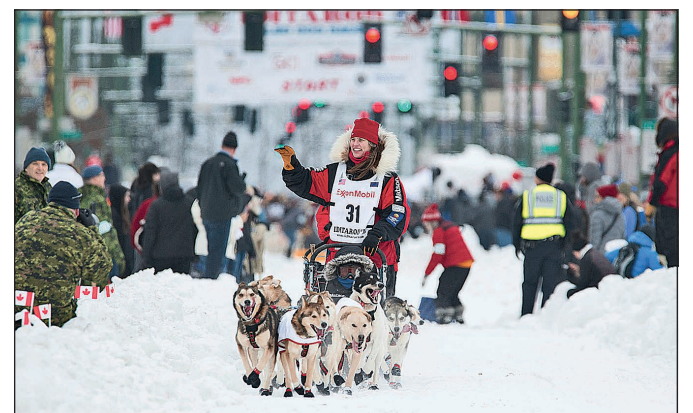
Kyle Larson in his garage during a Daytona 500 practice session at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 10 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

ever," Larson said. "When I got in the car and put my head-and-neck restraint on and buckled up, everything just felt normal. It didn't feel like I had been out of the car a long time.

"Even shifting gears and coming down pit road and stopping on my pit sign and stuff like that, like it's all come natural so far."

See **Motor sports** / B3

## SLED DOG RACING | IDITAROD



Michael Dinneen/AP file

Musher Aliy Zirkle runs her team during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in March 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska.

## Pandemic forces route change, other precautions for Iditarod

BY MARK THIESSEN  
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Traveling across the rugged, unforgiving and roadless Alaska terrain is already hard

enough, but whatever comforts mushers previously had in the world's most famous sled dog race will be cast aside this year due to the pandemic.

See **Iditarod** / B3