

SPORTS

THE BULLETIN • FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

bendbulletin.com/sports

PREP FOOTBALL

Bend-Summit highlights weekend

The second week of the prep football season kicks off on Friday — with fans allowed in the stands. Here is a quick glance at what is ahead for Central Oregon football teams:

Two of Bend's high schools were humbled in the opening week of the 2021 football season as neither team found the end zone. Bend High (0-1) was shutout 35-0 by Redmond, while Summit (0-1) managed just a field goal in its 33-3 loss to Mountain View.

The Lava Bears will try to get their fifth straight win over the Storm when they host Summit Friday.

Also Friday, Redmond (1-0), coming off that statement win over Bend, hosts Hood River Valley (1-0), which started its year with a 30-14 win over La Salle Prep.

The first points scored in Friday's game between Ridgeview (1-0) and Pendleton (1-0) will be the first points either team has given up all year. The Buckaroos shutout Parkrose 46-0, while the Ravens shutout Putnam 33-0 last week.

In its home opener Friday, Crook County (1-0) looks to improve to 2-0 against Molalla (1-0), which held Madras scoreless last week.

Seeking their first points of the season, Madras (0-1) will travel Friday to face Estacada (0-1), which fell to Gladstone 35-22 last Friday.

Two teams looking to rebound after a Week 1 defeat will meet in Sisters Friday when the Outlaws (0-1) play host to Harrisburg (0-1), which was shutout last week.

Coming off a last-minute win to beat Siuslaw, La Pine (1-0) faces a tough challenge Friday on the road against Junction City (1-0), which dominated Harrisburg last week.

After a controversial game last week, Culver (1-0) will play its first of four consecutive games on the road, starting with Jefferson on Friday, which beat Gervais (1-0) 28-18 a week ago.

Gilchrist (1-0) will make its way to the Central Coast hoping to improve to 2-0 with a win over Eddyville Charter (0-1) on Friday.

Playing at a neutral field in Salem on Saturday due to travel restrictions, Mountain View (1-0) will cap off the second week against Aloha (1-0), which beat Westview 27-21 in the first week.

— Bulletin staff report

TENNIS

Federer loses in Qatar Open QFs

DOHA, Qatar — Roger Federer failed to convert a match point before losing 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 to Nikoloz Basilashvili in the Qatar Open quarterfinals on Thursday, his second match back on tour after a 13-month injury layoff.

Basilashvili saved a match point at 5-4 in the deciding set and then broke Federer's serve in the next game.

It was a second straight grueling three-setter for Federer after his win Wednesday over Dan Evans took nearly 2½ hours. The 39-year-old Federer was playing in his first tournament since the 2020 Australian Open following knee surgery.

Federer announced later on Twitter that he decided it was best to resume training and had therefore decided to withdraw from next week's tournament in Dubai.

— Associated Press

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | PAC-12 TOURNAMENT

Beavs stun Bruins in quarterfinals

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Warith Alatishe scored a career-high 22 points with 10 rebounds, Ethan Thompson scored all 18 of his points after halftime and Oregon State rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat UCLA 83-79 in overtime on Thursday in the Pac-12 Conference tournament.

Alatishe got a floater to fall in the lane with 11.2 seconds left in regulation to put the Beavers up 70-69 and UCLA's Jules Bernard tied it with a free throw after missing the first. Gianni Hunt's heave at the

buzzer, from near midcourt, went over the backboard.

Rodrigue Andela was sent to the line with 57.8 seconds left in overtime — after missing four of his first eight free-throw attempts — and sank both free throws for a 79-78 lead. Seconds later, he blocked Bernard's shot.

After an Oregon State miss, Bernard raced down the court but turned it over and Jarrod Lucas, a 91% free-throw shooter, made two for an 81-78 lead with 4 seconds left. Oregon State elected to foul and Johnny Juzang made the first

of two free throws. He missed the second and Andela made two more free throws to seal it after grabbing the rebound.

Oregon State will play regular-season champion Oregon on Friday in the semifinals. The No. 5 seed Beavers began the tournament against the fourth-seeded Bruins after the Pac-12 adjusted the format due to Arizona not playing. The Ducks opened with an easy win over Arizona State, and will look to take a 2-1 series against their rivals after an 80-67 win in the regular-season finale.

See Pac-12 / B4



Al Powers via Pac-12

Oregon State's Warith Alatishe drives to the basket over multiple UCLA defenders in the Pac-12 Conference tournament quarterfinals on Thursday in Las Vegas. Alatishe had a double-double with 22 points and 10 rebounds in the Beavers' 83-79 overtime victory. OSU will face Oregon in the semifinals on Friday.

MLB

Bouncing back

Orioles' Trey Mancini heads list of players returning after missing 2020 due to surgery for cancer

BY ROB MAADDI

Associated Press

Trey Mancini had surgery for colon cancer last year on the same day Major League Baseball shut down spring training due to COVID-19.

Baseball returned later in 2020 and Mancini is back now, healthy and ready to go.

His comeback story has been a highlight of spring training. Mancini is not only the best player on the Baltimore Orioles, he's the most popular.

"There were times, especially when I was diagnosed early on where I wasn't totally sure if I was ever going to play baseball again," Mancini recalled upon his return. "Just being able to feel like myself, feel great and participate in everything fully is something I'm very appreciative of and I don't take for granted at all."

Mancini, who turns 29 next week, had a breakout season in 2019, batting .291 with 35 homers and 97



Paul Sancya/AP file

Baltimore Orioles' Trey Mancini (16) celebrates his solo home run against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit in 2019. Mancini had surgery for colon cancer last year on the same day major league baseball shut down spring training due to COVID-19. Baseball returned later in 2020. Mancini is back now, healthy and ready to go.

RBIs. He singled in his first at-bat in nearly a year and got a standing ovation from a socially distanced crowd at the ballpark.

"I can't remember a bigger hug that I gave anybody than seeing him for the first time," Orioles infielder Rio Ruiz said.

Many players are returning from injuries that forced them to miss last season or cut their season short. Nearly 20 guys are back after opting not to play because of coronavirus concerns, including former All-Stars David Price, Buster Posey, Lorenzo Cain, Marcus Stroman and Ryan Zimmerman.

Here are five more players looking to rebound in 2021:

Stephen Strasburg

The 2019 World Series MVP pitched five innings last season before carpal tunnel surgery. He struck out four of the six batters he faced in his spring training debut this week, and the 32-year-old righty is expected to make four more appearances for Washington before the season.

Strasburg has made more than 10 trips to the disabled and injured lists throughout his career. "This isn't my first rodeo when it comes to injuries and stuff," Strasburg said after his outing. "So I'm kind of at a point where I'm going to go out there and give it everything I have and roll with the punches."

See MLB / B4

MOTOR SPORTS | NASCAR CUP SERIES

Hendrick off to fast start with 2 wins heading into Phoenix

BY JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hendrick Motorsports celebrates each race win with a Victory Bell that is carted across the campus for every employee to ring.

If not for the pandemic, the bell would have made two trips so far this season.

The Hendrick folks believe the count should actually be at four.

Hendrick Motorsports is off to a blazing start this season with two wins through NASCAR's first four races, a marked uptick for an organization that went deep into the schedule the last few years before its program found a rhythm.

William Byron and Kyle Larson have Hendrick on a two-race streak heading into this weekend's race at Phoenix Raceway, where Chase Elliott won in November to clinch his first Cup Series championship. Elliott and Alex Bowman are winless through the first month, but Bowman won the pole for



John Locher/AP

Hendrick Motorsports driver Kyle Larson does a burnout after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race on Sunday in Las Vegas.

the Daytona 500 and Elliott, a week after a runner-up finish in that marquee event, had the field covered at Daytona's road course until a questionable caution jumbled the race.

"I mean, certainly the Hendrick guys have come to play," said Kyle Busch, a former Hendrick driver who has since won two Cup championships with Joe Gibbs Racing.

The momentum is a carryover from last season when Elliott gave Rick Hendrick his first title since Jimmie Johnson won it in 2016. The team had

failed to advance a driver into the championship round in the three years between titles, a stretch that included an embarrassing 2018 season in which Elliott accounted for the only three wins for the entire organization.

The slow rebuild has focused on behind-the-scenes reorganizations and improving performance on 1.5-mile tracks. Hendrick Motorsports trailed its rivals in nearly every statistical category, including victories, at those tracks last season.

But after two stops at the

bread-and-butter NASCAR circuits, Hendrick Motorsports is undefeated on intermediate tracks. NASCAR this year has diversified the schedule but there are still two 1.5-mile tracks in the third round of the playoffs, where a win earns an automatic berth into the championship finale.

"We've delved in pretty deep as a group to try to get our collective knowledge base higher," said Chad Knaus, who moved this year to vice president of competition at Hendrick after nearly two decades as a crew chief. "Each team has its own identity, for sure, and the leeway to do whatever it is that they need to do, but they really collectively work together."

Knaus even suggested that winning seven championships with Johnson might have precipitated the lean years. Johnson went winless his final three seasons and the Hendrick organization needed significant time to adapt to the new Camaro introduced by Chevrolet in 2018 and then again in 2020.

The team has now had a full

season with the new Camaro but Hendrick is also not following the lead of one team.

"Sometimes if you get somebody in there who is too overpowering, or maybe even too successful, they can lead the group in the wrong direction," Knaus said. "The success that Jimmie and I had for years, it ruined a lot of advancement at Hendrick Motorsports. We won races that we maybe shouldn't have and what happens is a driver and a crew chief say 'Well, let's just do it like the 48.' That's not always the healthiest thing."

This quick start has given Hendrick 265 victories, just three short of the record held by Petty Enterprises. The boss isn't celebrating just yet.

"I think you build momentum slowly in this sport," Hendrick said. "We've still got work to do. We've got work to do in the pits. But we've got good speed. I just feel like the chemistry is so good right now. I don't know if I ever remember it being any better across the board with all four cars."