

Bulldogs lack bite

Hermiston can't sustain fast start against Falcons

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

Hermiston's season started off with a bang, but its opening game against Hanford ended in a fizzle.

Dayshawn Neal found Vaemu Ena on just the Bulldogs' second play from scrimmage for a 55-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead, but the Falcons roared past the Bulldogs with a big second quarter to win its first game in two years 41-20 in a non-league football game Friday night at Kennison Field.

"I think we needed this," senior tight end/defensive end Bob Coleman said. "I mean, you gotta have something to call you back to reality after coming off a state run like that...People either have to buckle down and say, 'We've had enough of this,' or the season keeps going. I think we'll just use this as a motivator."

But the biggest loss of the night wasn't the score. It was senior wide receiver/return ace Ethan Snow, who left the game in the first half with what the trainer thought was a broken collarbone. He put the timetable to return at six weeks at the earliest.

A light rain began to fall shortly before kickoff, and it lasted through the third quarter. Balls were slick and Neal had a tough time completing passes in the second half. But the rain had nothing to do with the numerous false start and pass interference penalties Hermiston racked up, either killing their own drives or extending Hanford's.

"Rain has nothing to do with it," first-year head coach David Faeteete said. "We just dropped two what someone could say (sure) interceptions by young safeties who have never played before."

Everything looked like it was going Hermiston's way after Ena's long score. Hermiston (0-1) had just forced Hanford into a three-and-out on their first offensive drive, and the quick 7-0 lead was reminiscent of last season when Hermiston put away teams early.

But Hanford (1-0) was never out of it. Junior Falcons quarterback Desmond Samples found Josiah Richardson on Hanford's next drive to come within a point at 7-6 after a missed PAT. The Falcons then forced a Hermiston three-and-out, and scored two plays later when senior running back Elwood Davis broke through cleanly on an inside hand-off and raced 43 yards untouched to give Hanford its first lead at 13-7.

Samples finished 14 of 27 for 221 yards and three scores, and also rushed for 45 yards on 11 carries and a score. Davis had 57 yards on 11 carries and the touchdown, and Kevon Skinner had four catches for 96 yards and a touchdown.

Neal finished 7 of 19 through the air for 113 yards and a score, and also rushed for 106 yards on 19 carries in his first varsity start, and Nathan Hunsaker, who played most of the fourth quarter, was 3 for 6 for 29 yards and a touchdown.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston quarterback Dayshawn Neal runs on a keeper during Friday's game with Hanford High School at Kennison Field.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Bulldawg Tucker Salinas (13) attempts to evade a tackle during Friday's game with Hanford High School at Kennison Field.

Hermiston responded with a seven-play drive that ended with Omar Garcia plowing into the end zone from three yards out to knot the score at 13 with a minute and change remaining in the first period.

It would be the closest Hermiston ever was again.

Midway through the second quarter, Hanford got its first big break that proved to be the turning point. After the Falcons forced Hermiston into a three-and-out at its own 24 yard line, the snap to the punter Coleman went over his head and into the end zone. Instead of covering it up or booting it out of the end zone for a safety, he tried to scoop it up and punt it, but he mishandled it and Hanford recovered for a special teams touchdown and all the momentum. It was the first of 28 unanswered Falcons points that ultimately put the game out of reach.

"It's hard because those kids have never been in that situation before," Faeteete said of a big deficit. "And they tired to battle back but things just kept (going wrong): false start penalties, defensive pass interferences, missed assignments. Things didn't go our way."

Senior back-up quarterback Nathan Hunsaker engineered Hermiston's longest drive of the night, a 12-

play affair that ended when Tucker Salinas had a nice ball knocked out of his hands in the end zone on fourth down. But Hermiston got the ball right back after Hanford's second fumble, and Hunsaker found Coleman over the middle on the ensuing play from 12 yards out.

Coleman said spirits are up, and hard work is going to be the motto going forward.

"I think luck is where preparation means hard work," Coleman said. "We gotta get those three working together with us. I think this was good out here. It sucks taking a loss, but it's hard. You can only tell someone so much before (you make) experience be the speaker."

Hermiston travels to Kennewick, Washington, Friday, Sept. 11, for a date with the Kamiakin Braves at 7 p.m.

Han (1-0)	13 14	0	14 — 41
Herm (0-1)	13 0	0	7 — 20

RUSHING — Hanford: 23-102. D. Samples 11-45, TD; E. Davis 11-57, TD; M. Valdez 1-0. Hermiston: 47-170. D. Neal 19-106; M. Brown 8-52; O. Garcia 7-18, TD; N. Hunsaker 2-(-)6; A. Horn 1-6, H. Simon 3-5, B. Coleman 1-(-)13, A. Faeteete 5-5, K. Mendez 1-(-)3. **PASSING** — Hanford: 14-27, 221 yards, 3 TD. Hermiston — 10-25, 144 yards 2 TD. D. Neal (HERM) — 7-19, 113, TD. N. Hunsaker — 3-6, 29 yards, TD. **TOTAL OFFENSE** — Hanford: 323 yards. Hermiston: 312 yards.

Cross Country season starts with local success

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

The first cross country meet of the season isn't generally for posting fast times or winning. Most teams had tough weeks leading up to the Runner Soul XC Fest at Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston, but many local teams still had impressive outings.

Without No. 1 boy and last year's Runner Soul champ Hayden Earl because of a funeral, Hermiston ran away with the boys team title. The Bulldogs racked up 63 points, and second-place Southridge was far behind with 96. Pendleton finished seventh with 158, Umatilla was ninth with 212 and Stanfield was 12th with 330.

On the girls side, Oregon City took the team title with 50 points, edging Union (56). Pendleton (91) finished in a distance third just ahead of The Dalles (94). Hermiston finished 7th with 137 points. Umatilla's Fabian Cardenas took the boys individual title in 16 minutes, 22.8 seconds — nearly 32 seconds faster than Oregon City's James Swyter — and Pendleton's Delaney Clem took the girls title, finishing in 20:02.6.

Hermiston seniors Josiah Niederwerfer (17:04.2) and Donnell Rome (17:15.5) led the way for the Bulldogs, placing sixth and seventh, respectively. Sophomore Melany Sorlario (21:54.3) finished 11th on the girls side.

For coach Troy Blackburn and Hermiston, it was good to see the young girls team, with just one upperclassmen, to run together as they aim to pull themselves from the bottom of the Columbia River Conference.

"They ran as a team, and it was great seeing them as a team catching people and pushing," the second-year coach said. "I think the girls need to get into better shape, but if we keep on working as a team and improving, we'll do well. It's just that team unity. I really love it. The guys already have it, and we just need to take it a step further (with the girls)."

Cardenas is trying to repeat as 3A/2A/1A state champion, and Saturday's start was a good one. He grabbed the lead from Pendleton's Nolan Bylenga on the back stretch at the fast Sandstone Middle School course and never looked back. But Cardenas wasn't interested in talking about his own race afterwards. He said the goal of his Vikings team is to be the first Umatilla boys team to go to state, and he thinks they have the group to do it.

"I think this is the year for our team," he said. "We've been training hard and we have a good group of guys...That would be sweet if we could get our team, this year, to state."

Umatilla coach Josh Ego was satisfied with how both Cardenas and the team, both boys and girls, ran as a whole.

"It was a pretty good start," he said. "Four of our guys on varsity



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

Southridge's Trevor Jones (859) and Jesse Brinson-Wagner pass Hermiston's Graydon Fritz at the line during the Runner Soul XC Fest Saturday in Hermiston. Fritz popped a rib out during the race and struggled to finish.

have never run before, so it was their first 5K that wasn't a time trial...It's exciting for us. It was a good learning experience."

According to Stanfield coach Eric Jensen, the runners weren't happy with how they run. But the Tigers were essentially without their top two girls. Anna Lemmon had a stiff back and Bailey Watson was bronchitis. Lemmon ran, but below her standards and Watson sat out. Anna's sister, Chelsey, surprised Jensen by being Stanfield's top girl finisher in her sister and Watson's stead.

"The way she's been running, it was looking like she was gonna be our No. 2 or No. 3," he said. "Chelsey ran a great race. She didn't feel all that good. I thought something was wrong because she doesn't usually run that poorly. But Chelsey ran a great race. It was a big surprise. I was expecting something maybe a minute slower than what she did."

Clem said she was surprised with her strong she was considering the tough workouts coach Nicole Stewart put the Bucks through this week.

"I didn't have a good season last year, so it's good to come back and already have a good start, and my team, too," Clem said.

Hermiston and Umatilla both head to Tillamook next week for the Ultimook race through a hydrangea field. Stanfield and Pendleton will both run the Catherine Creek Scamper in Union. Both races involve lots of mud, so times aren't that important. For Blackburn and the Bulldogs, the main focus is mental toughness.

"We're trying to teach them. 'Hey, you still gotta go race,'" he said. "Everybody has the exact same course, you just have to be tougher. You have to be more focused on you're gonna beat the person you're with. You're gonna grind them and you're gonna beat them. We're not gonna be beat, we're gonna do the beating."

Team Results:
Boys: Hermiston 63, Southridge 96, Union 99, Oregon City 138, La Grande 146, The Dalles 151, Pendleton 158, Auburn Mountain View 199, Umatilla 212, Redmond 225, Othello 270, Stanfield 330, Heppner 331, Elgin 332.

Girls: Oregon City 50, Union 56, Pendleton 91, The Dalles 94, Redmond 125, Enterprise 131, Hermiston 137, McLoughlin 212, Othello 247.

Stanfield, Umatilla, Echo start seasons with wins

Vikings break winless streak, Stanfield blows out Enterprise

STANFIELD 42, ENTERPRISE 0 — At Enterprise, a rain-soaked field forced the Stanfield Tigers to change their gameplan but couldn't derail their opener under first-year head coach Davy Salas on Friday.

"The weather wasn't very favorable. Both teams had trouble holding on to the ball but for the most part we were able to keep it away from the edges and go up the middle three or four yards at a time," Salas said. "The running backs had trouble keeping their feet so we tried to keep it as simple as possible. Our players did a very good job of adapting to what was given us and our blockers were able to open holes for our running backs."

Thyler Monkus led the way with 195 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback Dylan Grogan added 44 rushing yards and two touchdowns to his passing stats of 3 for 5 for 76 yards.

Justin Keeney added 47 yards and touchdowns, and Salas said the defense had two goal-line stands to preserve the shutout.

Stanfield (1-0) will play on the road Friday at Tri-Cities Prep in Pasco, Washington. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

UMATILLA 7, UNION/COVE 6 — After an 0-9 season in 2014, the Umatilla

Paul and Brock have never been alone. "We've had the help from (two Legends drivers) Bill Kik and Jose Zamudio," Paul said. "Which I personally feel that's a sponsorship. Without their help, we wouldn't be where we are."

Even when Dalton gave Brock the opportunity to race his car, which was recently purchased by the McDounoughs, Dalton was afraid he wouldn't be involved in any way. Paul assured Dalton that wouldn't happen, that Dalton's expertise and experience were needed with a couple of green racers.

"I'm like, 'No, I need your help. I need your knowledge,'" Paul said. "You can

Vikings did not want to wait any longer to get into the win column, as they downed Union/Cove 7-6.

"I'm proud of what I saw," said Vikings coach Mike Mosher. "The kids kept their heads up when things didn't go right. Union was really tough, just like last year, and we pulled through."

Wet and sloppy field conditions did not deter the Vikings (1-0), who trailed 6-0 at halftime before a late second half touchdown vaulted them into the lead and eventually the victory.

"It was really weird playing the first game of the season in 50 degree weather and seeing everyone bundled up in sweats," said Mosher.

No statistics were available due to the Vikings' stat

book being ruined in the rain.

The Vikings will rest up and hit the practice field again next week before traveling to Pilot Rock (0-0) on Sept. 11 to try and add another check mark in the win column.

"(The teams') spirits are really high right now," said Mosher. "now let's see if we can work on some little things and carry it over to next week."

Umatilla is at Pilot Rock Friday at 7 p.m.

ECHO 58, SOUTH WASCOS COUNTY 14 — In the midst of a culture change, Rick Thew and the Echo Cougars started things off right, clobbering the South Wasco RedSides, 58-14, for its first home win in two seasons.

Echo (1-0) is at Ione Friday at 7 p.m.

help us and you know what to do and what not to do. It's been beneficial to us to have all the support from the track, all the racers out there. Not just with our Legends group but everyone else who's out there.

Brock and the other drivers become competitors on the track, but afterwards everyone meets up at a barbe-

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, September 10
BOYS SOCCER
Hermiston vs. Mac-Hi, 8 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Umatilla @ Mac-Hi, 7 p.m.
Stanfield @ Riverside, 6:30 p.m.
Echo @ Ione, 5 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Hermiston vs. Mac-Hi/Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.

Friday, September 11
FOOTBALL
Hermiston @ Kamiakin, 7 p.m.
Umatilla @ Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.
Stanfield @ Tri City Prep, 7 p.m.
Echo @ Ione, 7 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY
Stanfield @ 39th Annual Catherine Creek Scamper, TBD

Saturday, September 12
CROSS COUNTRY
Hermiston @ Ultimook Race

Cross Country Invitational, noon

Stanfield @ Ultimook Race Cross Country Invitational, noon

BOYS SOCCER
Umatilla @ Culver, 1:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
Echo vs. Irrigon, 10 a.m.

Echo vs. Pine Eagle, 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 13
No events scheduled

Monday, September 14
No events scheduled

Tuesday, September 15
GIRLS SOCCER

Hermiston vs. David Douglas, 4 p.m.

Umatilla vs. Baker/Powder Valley, 5 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER
Hermiston @ La Salle Prep, 4:15 p.m.

RACING

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ture, requires a support system.

Brock and Paul most certainly received it from in beginning in racing.

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"I'm like, 'No, I need your help. I need your knowledge,'" Paul said. "You can

cue to laugh and remember the race.

It's often said that if you come to the races to race, then you've come for the wrong reasons.

"You should come to the race for the barbecue at the end of the night," Paul said. "Because that's what it's all about: having the friends and the family at the track with

you; getting that support from them. Coming to the race is just a benefit to race. It's the barbecue at the end you want to look forward to. Because if you don't race right, you're not gonna make that barbecue at the end. It's definitely an important thing to have the respect and be able to do that, to be able to make it to that final destination."