

Rough weekend for West Coast alumni

It was a sad weekend for local college football teams.

The Oregon Ducks, Sean Hart's alma mater, lost an intriguing game to Utah full of surprises and breaks and a blowout. Washington, my school, thought the game started at 4 p.m. instead of 2 p.m., didn't play the



Sam Barbee
FROM THE SIDELINES

first half and almost won despite of it. Oregon State, Gary West's, was blitzed by Stanford on Friday night, and Jade McDowell's BYU Cougars were ham-

mered 31-0 at home.

The only saving grace of the week was Washington State, who, by the luck of having a bye week, will have the best week of the year. Because they didn't play.

I spent a good portion of Saturday evening at Sean's place, watching highlights, talking about games. Primarily we talked about the Oregon game and the weird things Utah did. If you watched, Utah ran a couple interesting special teams plays that worked out as well as they could have.

The return touchdown just played on normal aggressiveness covering kicks. The players covering aren't looking for the ball, but at the returner and trusting that he will lead them to the ball. He tricked the Duck players, and Utah executed perfectly and scored. Then the Seahawks did the same thing on Sunday.

The fake punt was brilliant. I say "fake" punt because it wasn't a broken play. It just had the illusion of a broken play. I'm not sure if the high snap was intentional. I'm leaning that it was, because it gives the allusion of the punt being broken. If you dare, watch the replay and watch the personal protectors. There are three of them and they're all offensive linemen — big guys with knee braces and numbers in the 60s or 70s. The guy in the middle acts as a gate, swinging in when the ball is snapped by him. But, instead of swinging in as the ball goes by, he runs right to the hole the punter ran through and looked for someone to block. That tells me it was a set play.

But mostly Sean and I talked about the surprising nature of Oregon's loss, but also of the week. Did anyone see that the finish of the TCU game?

It's somber here at the Hermiston Herald on Monday. Not really, more of a humorous somberness. No one is really shaken up about the week of the football — well, maybe Sean — and I'm still optimistic about the Huskies. I'm really curious about Oregon's trip to Seattle in three weeks.

But, time wears on. Next week there will be more games (not for me because Washington doesn't play), but more opportunities to give Sean some ribbing for Oregon falling off (please) and struggling to get past Colorado (pretty please).

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Bulldogs fall to Pendleton

By **ERIC SINGER**
Staff Writer

The Hermiston Bulldogs were dominated Thursday in a rivalry game on the road against Pendleton, and the Bucks won, 3-0.

The Bucks (3-3, 1-2) won with set scores of 25-13, 25-8 and 25-18. In the third set, the Bucks appeared to be running away with the set holding a 15-3 lead. However, that's when the Bulldogs (3-5, 0-3) showed some life and went on a 14-2 run to eventually tie the game at 17-17.

In that set, the Bulldogs' Hayden Meyers registered three-straight aces

from the serving line and Alex Barton later added two as the Bucks seemed to be falling into a lull. Regan Meyers added two kills during the Bulldogs' run as well.

The Lady Bucks would rebound, though, and finished off the Bulldogs by outscoring them 8-1 to seal the win.

The Bulldogs had numerous serving errors, as well as hitting errors and mental mistakes that led to their downfall.

However, the Bucks did put forth one of their best performances from the serving line so far this season with a 96 percent success rate.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

The Bulldogs' Clarissa Nitz (10) and Maddy Juul (14) attempt to block a hit by Kirah McGlothran (5), of Pendleton, during Thursday's game at Warberg Court.

STANFIELD PREPS FOR BIG LEAGUE OPENER

TigerScots come to town riding three-game winning streak

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

A year ago, the Stanfield Tigers began 2A Columbia Basin Conference at Weston-McEwen in a wild game that the TigerScots eventually won, 53-42.

This year, with both teams healthy and with new coaches, two blazing hot teams will square off in Stanfield this Friday at 7 p.m. It is the CBC opener for both schools.

"They are one of our top competitors, for sure," senior Jason Fitzpatrick said after Stanfield's 46-26 win over Imbler last Friday. "They put up a big fight every year, whether we win by one or lose by one or two. They're still a great team to go against. Now we gotta focus ahead and really step up this whole week and show up at practice every day."

Stanfield enters 4-0 with its closest win coming by 18 points two weeks ago over Grant Union. Weston-McEwen enters 3-1 with a 52-14 win over the same Imbler



STAFF PHOTO BY SAM BARBEE

The Stanfield Tigers celebrate after beating Imbler 46-26 at home Friday night. This week, the Tigers host the Weston-McEwen TigerScots.

team that Stanfield struggled with for a time, if brief, last Friday. But the league opener starts a slate with five teams that can legitimately win the Columbia Basin Conference. Stanfield, Heppner and Irrigon are each 4-0, the TigerScots are just a game back, and the Culver Bulldogs are 2-2 after playing a tough schedule its first four games.

This league opener, with Heppner playing Pilot Rock and Irrigon at Culver, might have the first say in which teams are truly contenders and which teams have inflated records.

"It's a good way to get league going, to let everyone know where everyone stands," first-year Tigers coach Davy Salas said. "Our league's tough. That's the thing I'm gonna reiterate to my team every day: We can't let any slip by. We gotta take everybody serious and take it game-by-game."

For Stanfield, the health of quarterback Dylan Grogan has been huge for the Tigers, giving them more opportunities to spread carries in its Wing-T offense than last year when running back Thyler Monkus was toting the football 30

or 40 times.

The spread-the-wealth philosophy has paid off, especially for Monkus. In four games, the junior has accumulated 807 yards on the ground and scored 11 times. Grogan has showed he can run and throw, rushing for 136 yards and a touchdown while also throwing for a score in Stanfield's 46-26 win over Imbler last Friday.

But Weston-McEwen, despite losing some key contributors from last year's playoff team, is also on a roll. Since dropping

See **STANFIELD, A12**

Stanfield blows past Imbler

Thyler Monkus rushes for 235 yards, 5 TDs

By **SAM BARBEE**
Staff Writer

After the first two Imbler drives Friday night in Stanfield, it was as if the Panthers where the undefeated record and big point differential.

Behind burly running back Tyler Tandy, the Panthers marched right down the field twice while holding the explosive Tigers to two three-and-outs en route to a 14-0 lead. But Jason Fitzpatrick intercepted a pass, got a decent return, and Stanfield scored that drive and dominated the final three quarters in a 46-26 non-league football win.

"They came up with a great gameplan,"

See **TIGERS, A12**

Prep roundup: Umatilla XC competes without Cardenas

The Umatilla Vikings ran well at Nike Portland XC without top runner Fabian Cardenas.

The Umatilla boys team finished No. 11 out of 23 teams in their group, headlined by senior Armando Mendoza who finished No. 25 with a time of 17:53. Junior Bradley Bensen also finished No. 43 at 18:26.

On the girls side, Aleesha Watson finished No. 23 with a time of 21:25.

HERMISTON BULLDOGS — At Idaho, the Bulldogs competed in the Bob Firman Invitational on Saturday afternoon and had a decent showing.

The boys team placed No. 20 out of 25 teams, while the girls finished No. 19 out of 38 teams.

Top finishers for the boys were Josiah Niederwerfer at No. 100 with a time of 17:04, Donell Rome at No. 114 with a time of 17:15, and Hayden Earl at No. 115 with a time of 17:17.

On the girls side, Melany Solorio finished No. 77 with a time of 21:36, while Morgan Hancock finished No. 93 with a time of 21:51.

BRIDGETTE NELSON MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL — Stanfield's Carlos Flores was third and Chelsy Lemmon was 12th to lead local boys and girls at the Bridgette Nelson Memorial Invitational on Friday at Sosis Park.

Flores ran a season-best 18:30 and Hermiston's Emanuel Ibarra was sixth at 18:49. Heppner's Trent Smith was 12th (19:21) and Stanfield's Elias Esquivel was 13th (19:23).

The Dalles won the boys team title

led by overall champion Jony Nelson (17:48). Hermiston, Stanfield, Heppner and Helix finished 4-7.

The Dalles also won the girls team title led by champion Emily Morin (21:42).

Lemmon stopped the clock in 23:48 and Anna Lemmon was 20th in 24:51.

Volleyball

ECHO 3, JOSEPH 1 — At Joseph, the Echo Cougars earned their 10th win of the season over Joseph on Saturday.

Echo (10-3, 3-0) dropped the first set to Joseph 25-20, but then rebounded to grind out three-straight sets 25-23, 25-21, and 25-23 to earn the victory.

Echo next plays at Helix Tuesday at 5 p.m.

WESTON-MCEWEN 3, STANFIELD 0 — At Stanfield, the TigerScots pitched their second-straight shutout with the win over Stanfield.

The TigerScots (12-6, 2-0) won 25-19, 25-19, and 25-17.

Sarah Finifrock led the TigerScots attack with 11 kills, while Alyssa Finifrock added four kills and three blocks.

"I thought we played one of our most complete matches," said TigerScots coach Shawn White.

Defensively the TigerScots turned in a solid performance, with Mati Aby leading with 16 digs and Sara von Borstel adding 15 digs.

"Our defensive rotations were much, much better," said White.

Stanfield (4-5, 0-2) hosts Imbler

today at 4 p.m. while Weston-McEwen plays at the La Grande Tournament on Saturday.

IMBLER 3, STANFIELD 2 — The Stanfield Tigers volleyball team wasn't able to sustain a full five sets, and dropped a non-league match 3-2 (25-21, 25-20, 24-26, 22-25, 15-1) to Imbler Friday afternoon in Stanfield.

Katie Burns had ten blocks for the Tigers (4-6, 0-2) who, head coach Angie Connell said, was great at the net. Maya Gadsen added six blocks and Britton Braithwaite had seven. Four others had at least two. Burns led the way all around, with three aces and five kills, both tops on the night. McKenzie Gonzales added five kills as well.

"Our struggle is learning how to finish," Connell said. "They're definitely gaining confidence. I can see it."

Stanfield's next match is Thursday in Culver with a 5:15 p.m. start.

ECHO 3, WALLOWA 1 — At Wallowa, Echo won for the fifth time in its last six tries on Friday in Old Oregon League play. Scores were 25-14, 25-19, 25-23. No details were reported.

Wallowa (0-10, 0-1) hasn't won a set all season.

Echo (9-3, 2-0) will remain on the road for its next three matches and will be at Joseph on Saturday at 1 p.m.

UMATILLA 3, PILOT ROCK 2 — At Pilot Rock, the Umatilla Vikings grinded out a five-set victory

over the Rockets on Tuesday.

Pilot Rock (7-6) won the first and third sets with scores of 25-19 and 25-16. But Umatilla (4-9) was just too much, winning their sets 26-24, 25-14 and 15-7.

The Umatilla win breaks a five-match losing streak dating back to Sept. 12, when the Vikings beat Dufur 2-1.

Up next for Umatilla is a home match with Vale and Nyssa on Saturday starting at noon, while Pilot Rock hosts Culver on Thursday at 6:15 p.m.

HOOD RIVER 3, HERMISTON 1 — At Hood River, the Bulldogs dropped its second league game of the season in four sets to Hood River.

Hood River won its three sets 25-20, 25-18 and 26-24, while Hermiston (3-4, 0-2) won the third set 25-14.

No other details from the match were reported.

Next up for Hermiston is a road match at rival Pendleton on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Football

LEWISTON 56, HERMISTON 37 — The 2015 season slump continued for the Hermiston Bulldogs on Friday, falling 56-37 on the road to Lewiston, Idaho.

Even with the loss, it was the best overall performance from the Hermiston offense this season notching a season-high 37 points.

The Bulldogs (0-4) fell behind

See **ROUNDUP, A11**