

Umatilla holds off Stanfield to improve to 3-0 record

By ANNIE FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

UMATILLA — Who is this Umatilla football team? The Vikings opened the season 3-0 for the first time in 5 years, handing Stanfield a 27-20 loss on Thursday at Milt Durand Field.

“This is a year we have been able to coach for all four quarters of all three games,” Umatilla coach Dan Durfey said. “They played a really good football game.”

Stanfield, which opened the season with convincing wins over Irrigon and Central Linn, found the Vikings to be a whole other beast.

“That was fun,” Tigers coach Davie Salas said. “One game never defines a team. You need these game to get you where you want to go.”

Tied at 20-20 at the end of the third quarter, the Vikings went to work. They ended a 49-yard drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass from Andrew Earl to Izayah Rodarte with 11:18 left in the game.

Stanfield turned the ball over on downs on its next possession, but the Vikings gave the ball back with a fumble at its own 44-yard line.

The Tigers drove down to the Umatilla 7-yard line, but the Vikings drove them back 8 yards, and two incomplete passes had them giving the ball back to Umatilla, who ran out the clock.

The Vikings (3-0) matched the Tigers (2-1) touchdown for touchdown in the first half, then took the lead at 20-14 with 4:24 to play in the first half on a 10-yard pass play from Earl to Cody Thacker. Jose Medina made good on the PAT.



Staff photos by Kathy Aney
TOP: Cody Thacker (33), of Umatilla, fends off Stanfield's Ryan Elizares during Thursday's game in Umatilla. BOTTOM: Hobs Hurty (33), of Stanfield, runs the ball under pressure from a couple of Vikings.

“He is a big target and has good hands,” Durfey said of Thacker. “It’s nice to have that in the arsenal.”

Enrique Arellano scored both of Stanfield’s touchdowns in the first quarter on runs of 2 and 5 yards.

Pedro Alvarez scored on a 5-yard run to open the score for the Vikings, and Rodarte added a 75-yard kickoff return to pull Umatilla to within 14-13.

“That is a game changer when you run it back after

they score,” Durfey said of Rodarte’s play. “It shifts the momentum quickly.”

Arellano ran for 203 yards on the night for the Tigers.

“We were nervous about him,” Durfey said. “We have a young line and they are bigger and older. Our young guys never faltered.”

Arellano has more than 500 yards rushing in three games.

“We blocked well and he ran well,” Salas said. “We will run him all day and his legs are there. We just have to get the ball into the end zone to win games.”

Stanfield 14 0 6 0 — 20
Umatilla 7 13 0 7 — 27
SCORING
S — Enrique Arellano 2 run (Kaden Combe run)
U — Pedro Alvarez 5 run (Jose Medina kick)
S — Arellano 5 run (run failed)
U — Izayah Rodarte 75 kickoff return (kick failed)
U — Cody Thacker 10 pass from Andrew Earl (Medina kick)
S — Arellano 1 run (run failed)
U — Rodarte 7 pass from Earl (Medina kick)

Football tab well received, looks to improve

By RONALD BOND
EO MEDIA GROUP

Three weeks have passed since the 2019 Kickoff magazine appeared in the Northeast Oregon publications of EO Media Group, including in the *East Oregonian* and the *Hermiston Herald*.

We’ve received a lot of positive feedback so far, including from those in the coverage area of the *EO* and *HH* who picked it for the first time.

But we also have gotten some feedback expressing disappointment, particularly from some Morrow County readers. Not in the overall product, but in why the four schools from Morrow County were not included, and just the Umatilla County schools were.

It’s those comments I would like to address.

As I wrote a few weeks ago, the reach of the Kickoff magazine was expanded this fall. Previously it had been run in *The Observer* (where I am also the sports editor) and in the *Baker City Herald*, and was a widely popular and often referred-to publication. It was included in the *EO*, *HH* and *Wallowa County Chieftain* this fall for the first time.

We met in July, just a few weeks after EOMG purchased *The Observer* and *Baker City Herald*, to discuss what adding the Kickoff magazine to the *EO*, *HH* and *WCC* would look like. We viewed it as a test run, one that would take some time to figure out the best approach to, especially at first.

I can attest to the fact that, for the previous four years, getting out a football tab that featured team previews for 13 or 14 schools, three unique covers and four or five feature articles (and doing so in a little over a week with a small staff) was

already a herculean effort. Adding nine schools, two more covers, two more features and close to 20 more pages was going to make that more of a challenge — not to mention coordinating that big of a change on a relatively short turnaround.

With that in mind, and not wanting to entirely overwhelm the sports staff at those publications with the first run, the decision was made that, for year one of the combined project, we would add the teams in a small dose and go with the schools of Umatilla County.

The Morrow County football teams would remain in the *EO/HH* combined fall preview section as they had been previously.

We knew this decision could elicit some negative feedback, and it wasn’t an easy one to make. Nobody likes to be left out, and we don’t like leaving anyone out. I’m certain there would have been some great content that would have come from those schools this fall, which does make it sting on our end.

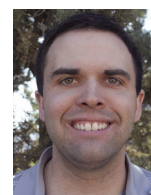
But we also wanted to see how it would be received before completely diving in headlong.

From what I have been told, the reviews have been more than positive. The fact that we have schools that want to be in it in the future shows that the publication is, as we hoped, gaining popularity in a new demographic.

I do want to apologize to those schools who, for this edition, were left on the outside.

But rest assured that we have heard you, and that upcoming sports collaborations between our combined resources in the EOMG’s east region will include Morrow County.

And, perhaps, reach even further.



Bond

Hermiston Bulldogs win twice on volleyball court

HERMISTON HERALD

YAKIMA — Kendall Dowdy had a big day for Hermiston on Saturday as the team took a non-league volleyball match from Davis.

Dowdy had seven kills, 16 assists, 15 digs and six ace serves as Hermiston posted a 25-18, 28-30, 25-16, 25-20 victory.

Grace Vertrees added 11 kills, 14 digs and nine aces, while Courtney West had 12 assists and six digs, and Halee Stubbs 16 digs.

The Bulldogs will play a Mid-Columbia Conference match Thursday at Southridge.

HERMISTON 3, PASCO 0 — Hermiston notched its first win of the season Thursday with a 25-10, 25-13, 25-18 MCC win at Pasco.

“It’s always nice to get a win under your belt,” Bulldogs coach Amy Dyck said. “Being efficient and consistent was a key tonight.”

Avery Treadwell led Hermiston with seven kills, while Kendall Dowdy had 12 assists to go with five digs and four kills.

Soccer

SPOKANE — With five starting players absent Sat-

urday, Hermiston was no match for Shadle Park.

The Hilanders scored early and often in the first half, en route to a 6-0 non-league victory.

“We had to take players off the bench,” Bulldogs coach Freddy Guizar said. “It showed the girls that on any given day, it might be your turn to be a starter.”

A rough first half saw Shadle Park take a 5-0 lead at the buzzer, but they only managed one shot in the final 40 minutes.

“It wasn’t our best game at all,” Guizar said, “but it showed us what we need to improve on. Our girls just didn’t perform. It wasn’t our game to play.”

Hermiston (1-4) will host Southridge at 7 p.m. Thursday in a Mid-Columbia Conference contest.

HERMISTON 2, PASCO 0 — Jayden Ray finally got the goal she’s been waiting for all season.

The junior center midfielder capped off Hermiston’s scoring with the match-winning goal as the Bulldogs took down visiting Pasco on Thursday night.

The goal was Ray’s first of the season, and the second of her high school career.

It also marked the Bulldogs’ first victory of the season.

“It was exhilarating,” said. “I’ve been waiting for that all year.”

The score was locked at 0-0 at the half, as both teams struggled to connect with the net.

“Coming (into the second half), we were motivated,” Ray said. “We knew we could beat them and get the win. We knew we were better than they were.”

Sophomore midfielder Giselle Cisneros opened the scoring with a goal at 33:30, and Ray’s followed in the 64th minute.

“We’re slowly improving,” Hermiston coach Freddy Guizar said. “They weren’t the same team that has been playing all year. They were hungry. They wanted it.”

Cross-country

LAKESIDE, Wash. — Hermiston’s Amanda Nygard finished 10th with a time of 19 minutes, 29.30 seconds at the Brooks Fort Steilacoom Invitational.

The Bulldogs finished eighth in the team standings with 192 points. Camas won the team title with 53 points.

Cydney Sanchez was right behind Nygard, finishing 13th (19:37.30). Rounding out the Bulldogs’ scoring were Ellie Ernst (58th), Alexia Serna (68th) and Julianna Joyce (70th).

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