

SPORTS

March 24, 2021

Send scores and stories to sports@omakchronicle.com

B Section

This week in sports

March 24-30, varsity
(All contests subject to change)

Football

March 25 Soap Lake at Pateros
March 26 Brewster at Oroville
March 26 Manson at Tonasket
March 27 Okanogan at Lake Roosevelt
March 30 Entiat at Pateros

Volleyball

March 24 Brewster at Chelan
March 24 Manson at Oroville
March 24 Okanogan at Ephrata
March 24 Pateros at Cascade Christian
March 26 Liberty Bell at Okanogan
March 27 Bridgeport at Tonasket
March 27 Lake Roosevelt vs. Cascade (at Waterville)
March 27 Lake Roosevelt at Waterville
March 27 Liberty Bell vs. Omak (at Okanogan)
March 27 Omak at Okanogan
March 27 Oroville at Bridgeport
March 27 Oroville at Tonasket

Soccer

March 25 Pateros at Lake Roosevelt
March 27 Liberty Bell at Brewster
March 27 Manson at Pateros
March 27 Moses Lake C at Bridgeport
March 27 Okanogan at Omak
March 27 Tonasket at Chelan
March 30 Brewster at Bridgeport
March 30 Lake Roosevelt at Royal
March 30 Liberty Bell at Okanogan
March 30 Pateros at Moses Lake
March 30 Wahluke at Manson

Cross country

March 24 Okanogan at Manson
Invitational

Sackman plays for College of Idaho

CALDWELL, Idaho — Tanner Sackman, a freshman from Omak, is playing football for the College of Idaho.

Sackman, a defensive lineman, stands 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighs 270 pounds, according to the Yotes' website.

He is a 2020 graduate of Omak High School and was named Caribou Trail League defensive player of the year as a senior. He also participated in track and field.

Sackman is studying history.

According to the Coyotes, he is one of five true freshmen adding depth at tackle.

"Both TJ (Seguritan) and Tanner both showed flashes in fall practices," said defensive coordinator Chris Jewell.

College of Idaho is 2-0 so far on the season, which began March 13. Next up is an April 3 game with Eastern Oregon in LaGrande, Ore.



Sackman

Hall gains 60 yards in college football opener

QUINCY, Calif. — Tanner Hall, Omak, is playing football for Feather River College.

The freshman plays running back. He stands 5 feet, 11 inches tall and weighs 185, according to the college.

Hall had 13 rushes in the Golden Eagles' first game against Shasta on March 13 for 60 yards, averaging 4.6 yards per rush. Feather River lost the game, 31-21.

The team bounced back March 20 with a win over Siskiyou, 22-15.



Hall

Townsend gets All-America honor from AP

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — For the first time in history, two Gonzaga

women's basketball players have been named honorable mention Associated Press All-Americans in the same season.

Jill Townsend, an Okanogan graduate, and teammate Jenn Wirth were selected. The announcement came March 16.

Wirth and Townsend are the fifth and sixth Zags to earn Associated Press All-America accolades, joining



Townsend

See **BRIEFS**, page B4



MADDIE TIMM | *The Chronicle*

Tonasket freshman running back Jade Ramon powers down the field, followed by a swarm of Hornets in the March 20 game between Tonasket and Oroville.

Tonasket wins Battle of the Bell

Brewster battles tough week to notch win

By DEE CAMP
The Chronicle

OROVILLE — Tonasket won the Battle of the Bell on March 20 with a 34-13 high school football victory over Oroville.

"We did a nice job maximizing our opportunities (and) forcing multiple turnovers," said Tonasket coach Jay Hawkins. "The offensive line played great. They opened running lanes consistently."

He said the Tigers are enthusiastic about their progress as a team.

"We lost a tough one to Tonasket," said Oroville coach Rick Clark. "I thought our team played hard and never gave up."

Oroville won the second half, 6-3.

"Even though he threw three interceptions, I thought our quarterback, Taylor McCoy, threw the ball as well as he had all season," said Clark.

Seluniel Castrejon ran the ball hard, and Julian Lopez and Noah Hilderbrand came up big with great catches, he said.

Oroville's offensive line protected "the best it had all year," the coach said. "Noah and Kolo Mosher Jr. came up big on defense."

The time for Tonasket's March 26 football game has been changed to accommodate officials' schedules.

Kickoff will be at 4 p.m. Halftime will be senior recognition for football, cross country and cheerleaders.

Brewster 38, Wahluke 6

Brewster worked through a tough week, marred by the death of one of its players, to top Wahluke, 38-6, in high school football March 19.

"I am so proud of our players and coaches who battled through a tough week in Brewster," said coach Jake Johansen. "All credit goes to our players who put it all out there and played one of the best



JEFF LIDEY

A Liberty Bell player's helmet pays tribute to the late Cade Gebbers.

defensive games in recent memory."

Quarterback Kelson Gebbers honored his late brother, Cade, by wearing jersey No. 4, which had been Cade's. Kelson Gebbers went 15-for-25 passing for 224 yards and two touchdowns and no interceptions.

"This was a total team effort," said Johansen. "Gio Nila, Arnie Arevalo and Clayton Isensee led the team with seven tackles apiece. Reese Vassar and Adaih Najera each had interceptions on defense."

Vassar played his best game as a Bear on both sides of the ball and Logan McGuire "made a huge catch and played lights-out defense all night," said the coach.

Warden's only score was a pick-6 on a trick play.

Rushing — Najera, 8-for-83, one touchdown; Nila, 11-for-74, three touchdowns; Eric Ramirez, 5-for-26; Kelson Gebbers, 5-for-16; Isensee, 4-for-15; McGuire, 1-for-12.

Receiving — Najera, 5-for-82, one touchdown; Vassar, 3-for-50; McGuire, 2-for-48; Nila, 2-for-26; Eric Ramirez, 1-for-10; Nico Maldonado, 1-for-3; Isensee, 1-for-5, one touchdown.

Okanogan 40, Warden 6

Okanogan hosted Warden on March 19 and tallied a 40-6 football win.



AJ WOODWARD | *Special to The Chronicle*

Kelson Gebbers carries the ball in Brewster's win over Wahluke.

The Bulldogs scored first on a Bo Silverthorn run for nine yards. Jamie Gonzalez' extra point kick was blocked. Four minutes later, Kolbe Tverberg ran for 18 yards and a touchdown. Gonzalez' kick was good.

Okanogan scored again in the first quarter on a Silverthorn pass to McKade Pateron for 21 yards. Gonzalez added the PAT.

In the second quarter, Tverberg ran for two yards and the touchdown, with Gonzalez adding the PAT. Okanogan struck again just before the half on a Brad Ingram pass to Parker Jones for 26 yards. The PAT was blocked, leaving the halftime score at 33-0.

Johnny Swartsel scored at the end of the third quarter on an eight-yard run. Gonzalez' PAT was good.

Warden held Okanogan scoreless in the

fourth and scored its only touchdown of the game on a 47-yard pass play. A two-point conversion attempt failed.

"I thought both teams played hard and with great sportsmanship," said Okanogan coach Erick Judd. "I thought our line played well on both sides of the ball. The offensive line controlled the line of scrimmage and blocked well downfield. The defensive line was aggressive and put pressure on the quarterback."

Okanogan had 313 yards of offense to Warden's 87, with 250 yards coming on the ground.

Okanogan's game against Lake Roosevelt has been changed from March 26 to

See **FOOTBALL**, page B6

Larger crowd sizes allowed for school sports

By DEE CAMP
The Chronicle

RENTON — Schools are allowed to have larger crowds at sporting events under Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan.

The whole state went to Phase 3 as of March 22, with changes for restaurant capacity, gathering sizes and so on. School sports went to Phase 3 March 18.

"Phase 3's biggest impact for us is that we no longer have to count game personnel toward our total capacity," Okanogan School District athletic director Kevin Daling.

Under Phase 2, event sizes were capped at 200 people, with team members, coaches, statisticians, game officials and medical personnel all counting toward the maximum.

Now, spectator restrictions for outdoor events will vary, based on whether permanent seating is

available and the amount of designated seats. Physical distancing requirements of six feet of separation between groups must be maintained in all seating arrangements, which may limit the capacity number further than the guidelines listed, said WIAA.

For facilities with permanent seating up to 1,600 spectators, schools may operate at 50 percent capacity or a maximum of 400 people, whichever is fewer.

For facilities with permanent seating for more than 1,600 spectators, schools may operate at 25 percent capacity.

Omak and Okanogan district further limited spectators under Phase 2, with neither school allowing fans at most events or limiting them by issuing tickets to athletes.

"The six-foot social distancing requirement remains in place, meaning that the number of spectators remains drastically reduced in

relation to pre-COVID," said Daling. "We don't have enough room in our bleachers to have a substantial crowd while keeping everyone six feet apart."

"Phase 3 is a step in the right direction, and we are excited that our student athletes will be able to have two parents or guardians attend home contests and watch them compete," said Daling.

"With respect to the governor's newest guidelines, we are pleased to increase the number of tickets (given) to players," said Omak athletic director Joe LaGrou.

Each player and coach will get four tickets instead of two, he said. Only home fans are allowed; there's no admission charge.

Those attending Omak events must undergo a COVID screening and temperature check upon entry, wear a face mask that covers the nose, mouth and chin at all times, maintain a distance of nine feet from those not

in their household group, not bring in outside food or beverages, sit in designated areas only with people from the same household, not enter if there are COVID symptoms.

As of March 22, all Okanogan uniformed athletes may have up to four family members attend athletic contests, Daling said. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Fans remain prohibited from attending out-of-town contests.

Tonasket High School Principal Trisha Roach, also the athletic director, said although more people are allowed, the distancing requirement remains "so it doesn't really change the situation for us, since we already are allowing home fans."

Similarly, Almira/Coulee-Hartline High School has allowed home fans, but athletic director Brandon Walsh said the school is "still working

See **CROWD**, page B6