

## SPORTS

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## Beavers ready to reload in 2018

### OSU looking ahead after stunning end in World Series

By **BOB LUNDEBERG**  
*Albany Democrat-Herald*

OMAHA, Neb. — Despite an unfulfilling end to the College World Series, the future is bright for the Oregon State baseball team.

The Beavers, who finished the season 56-6 after dropping consecutive games to LSU at TD Ameritrade Park, are poised to bring back a wealth of talent as they mount a defense of their conference title in 2018.



Pac-12 player of the year Nick Madrigal headlines a large group of returners that will be fighting for the program's seventh trip to Omaha.

"Almost everybody on the field, other than KJ (Harrison), is a returner," coach Pat Casey said following Saturday's 6-1 season-ending loss to LSU. "So that's a pretty good piece of the puzzle. ... Our bullpen was really, really good all year long, and they were young guys. They'll be back."

Harrison, the team's home run leader in each of the past three years, is expected to turn professional after getting selected in the third round (84th overall) by the Milwaukee Brewers in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

The 6-foot, 209-pound first baseman/catcher hit .313 with nine homers and 43 RBIs in 2016.

Madrigal, a sophomore second baseman, led the team in batting average (.380), runs (53), doubles (20) and stolen bases (16). The Pac-12 defensive player of the year finished the season with just five errors.

Other notable sophomore returners include shortstop Cadyn Grenier and outfielders Steven Kwan, Trevor Larnach, Andy Atwood and Elliott Cary (a red-shirt sophomore). Freshman catcher Adley Rutschman shined defensively at the CWS, making acrobatic catches on popped-up bunts while throwing out multiple runners.

"I think it's tremendous what Adley Rutschman was able to do, seeing his growth and development behind the plate," pitching coach Nate Yeskie said. "We think this weekend was kind of a glimpse of what he has in his toolbox. The guy played tremendously well on the defensive side, handled the staff well."

Larnach led the Beavers with 48 RBIs while batting .303.

Redshirt junior Jack Anderson, junior Christian Donahue and senior Kyle Nobach, who red-shirted in 2016, could also be back in a crowded outfield that includes promising freshman Preston Jones.

Junior third baseman Michael Gretler, drafted in the 39th round (1,168th overall), has the option of returning to school. Gretler hit .301 with five homers and 33 RBIs.

Sophomore Zak Taylor and freshman Tyler Malone are candidates to replace Harrison at first. Also fighting for playing time next year will be freshman infielders Andy Armstrong and George Mendazona.

## GEARHART GOLF LINKS CELEBRATES 125TH BIRTHDAY

*The Daily Astorian*

The oldest golf course on the Pacific Coast is celebrating an historic birthday this year, as Gearhart Golf Links turns 125 years old. Built on slightly more than 100 acres and playing at just over 6,500 yards, Gearhart Golf Links was established in 1892, predating the U.S. Golf Association, which wasn't founded until 1896.

Events will kick off this summer with a special gala, but are planned throughout the year.

Gearhart's current routing was the work of an early American golf champion, Chandler Egan, who moved to Oregon from Chicago right before World War I. In addition to winning two U.S. Amateurs and a team gold medal at the 1904 Olympics, Egan established himself as a leading West Coast golf course designer.

Egan's portfolio included the original course designs for Portland's first public course, Eastmoreland, along with Oswego Lake, Eugene and Tualatin country clubs. Among Egan's numerous redesigns was a rerouting of Gearhart in the 1920s.

Collaborating with Alister Mackenzie and Robert Hunter (who was also Egan's teammate on the winning U.S. Olympic golf team), Egan remodeled the Pebble Beach Golf Course in advance of the 1929 U.S. Amateur Championship.

In time for its anniversary, Gearhart has just completed a yearslong project to restore the course to its original links style. Trees were removed and several of the holes were lengthened and modified to bring the course up to 6,500 yards.

Gearhart is meticulously maintained by Forrest Goodling's staff of groundskeepers, and the entire operation is managed by Jason Bangild, a PGA professional.

Gearhart hosted the "Hickory Classic" last week. The Northwest Hickory Society plays every year at Gearhart, and this year the society extended an invitation to Gearhart regulars.



Golfers in front of the clubhouse at Gearhart Golf Links.

Don Frank Photography

### UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

**July 16:** Whiskey Road to the Final Four — Gearhart Golf's signature team event of three 9-hole matches. Grab a partner and vie for a spot on the perpetual trophy.

**July 19:** Birthday pricing. Gearhart Golf Links was founded in 1892, so for one day only, green fees will only be \$18.92.

**July 21:** McMenamins Scramble: Forrest's Revenge. Celebrate the golf course by playing it at its toughest.

**July 27:** \$125 Skins Game.

**July 28:** Fifth annual Croquet on the Lawn.

For more information on Gearhart Golf Links, visit <http://www.gearhartgolfinks.com/> or contact Bangild at 503-739-5037 or JasonB@GearhartGolfLinks.com.



Gearhart Golf Links  
 Submitted Photo

## Florida holds off LSU in Game 1 of CWS Championship Series

By **ERIC OLSON**  
*Associated Press*

OMAHA, Neb. — Brady Singer struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings, Jonathan India doubled in two runs, and Florida beat LSU 4-3 in Game 1 of the College World Series finals Monday night.

The Gators (51-19) need a win today or Wednesday to earn their first national championship in baseball.

Singer's strikeout total was highest by a single pitcher in a CWS finals game. Singer (9-5) limited LSU (52-19) to three singles before Antoine Duplantis homered in the sixth. He left after Greg Deichmann doubled leading off the eighth.

Florida led 3-0 after LSU starter Russell Reynolds (1-2) issued three straight walks in the fourth, with India driving in two runs on a ground-rule double.

Down 4-2 and with fans clad in purple and gold chanting "L-S-U, L-S-U," the Tigers threatened in the eighth. Josh Smith sent a ball into the right-center gap to drive in a run.

But he was thrown out trying for second by Nick Horvath, who entered as a pinch runner in the top of the eighth and stayed in the game as the center fielder.

Singer, who pitched a complete game in an 8-1 win over LSU in March, turned in his second strong performance at the CWS. The sophomore struck out nine and allowed one run in seven innings against Lou-



AP Photo/Matt Ryerson

Florida pitcher Brady Singer (51) throws in the first inning of Game 1 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals against LSU in Omaha, Neb., Monday.

isville last Tuesday. Monday marked the eighth straight game that Florida pitchers struck out 11 or more.

LSU — playing its fourth game in six days and with Eric Walker out with an injury — turned to the seldom-used Reynolds to start. The fifth-year senior, wearing a close-cropped Mohawk under his cap and throwing an 85 mph fastball, gave the Tigers three solid innings in his first start since March 2015.

He got a groundout to start the fourth but then walked three straight. Coach Paul Mainieri called on left-

hander Nick Bush, and Reynolds got a nice hand from LSU fans as he went into the dugout.

Florida took a 3-0 lead when Dalton Guthrie tagged up on Austin Langworthy's foul out, and two more runs came home when India's drive to deep center bounced over the fence for a ground-rule double.

The Tigers pulled within a run in the sixth. Antoine Duplantis went deep into the right-field bullpen for his second homer of the season, and first since March 18, and Beau Jordan singled in a run to make it 3-2.

## Westbrook wins NBA MVP honor

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Russell Westbrook moved past Oscar Robertson and kept right on going to the top of the NBA.

Westbrook was voted MVP on Monday night after setting a record with 42 triple-doubles during his historic season. He led the league with 31.6 points and added 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists per game, joining Robertson as the only players to average a triple-double for the season and breaking Robertson's single-season record of 41 triple-doubles in 1961-62.

"I remember growing up just being home, playing the video games and stuff with my pops, and my mom sitting there and my brother and just talking about maybe one day I could be the MVP. Obviously I was joking at the time," Westbrook said.

"But now to be standing here with this trophy next to me is a true blessing, man, and it's an unbelievable feeling, something that I can never imagine."

Westbrook's victory ended the first NBA Awards show, which included two wins apiece for the Houston Rockets and Milwaukee Bucks.

He received 69 first-place votes and 888 points from a panel of 100 media members.

## SCOREBOARD

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### WEDNESDAY

**Junior Baseball** — Neah-Kah-Nie at Astoria Ford (2), 5 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

**Junior Baseball** — Warrenton at Seaside (2), 4 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

**Baseball** — Warrenton Alumni Day at Huddleston Field, Noon