The Observer





Photos by Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande native Zoe AnDyke, left, was the winner of the women's pro open division, while Dustin Keegan, right, won the mixed pro open division at Grande Ronde Open II Saturday and Sunday.

Disc golfers let it fly

By Ronald Bond

Professional Disc Golfer and La Grande native Zoe AnDyke's has dreamed of being able to play disc golf on a course at

Morgan Lake. That dream was played out Saturday, and may be one step

closer to a permanent reality. AnDyke was among more than 90 disc golfers, from recreational players to professionals, to take part in Grande Ronde Open II, which was played Saturday at Morgan Lake and Sunday at Eastern Oregon University.

"The fact that there's a disc golf tournament in my hometown blows me away," she said. It's my heart's desire. I played at Morgan Lake, which is my true back yard. My parents live up there."

Organizers of Grande Ronde Open II set up a temporary 20-hole course at Morgan Lake to offset the 20 holes that were played at EOU.

Saturday, in fact was the third day the new layout was played, according to Tournament Director Alex Duffy.



Kennewick, Washington's David Morse won the mixed pro 50-plus open division.

The contrasts between the courses were vast. The course at Morgan Lake was 8,200 feet in length, close to triple that of EOU's 2,900 feet. Yet the two had similar score to par — Morgan Lake was a par-68 course, EOU par-62.

"Morgan Lake was extreme, to say the least," said professional disc golfer Dustin Keegan, of Eugene. "It was nothing like I've ever played before. It's beautiful, a lot of the shots were fun

to throw. The minute I saw it I knew I was going to play well. It was a good place for my style of game."

The course not only had length, but, as AnDyke put it, required "a lot of straight shots (and) a lot of technical golf through the woods."

"Morgan Lake was basically marathon golf," said Tri Cities, Washington disc golfer Donny Ballew. "You had to be competitive for a long time. It was a 5-1/2-hour round for me."

One additional challenge presented by the Morgan Lake course was a need for grooming, as Ballew put it, because of its temporary status. The course didn't have tee pads, had some tough terrain and had a lot of cheatgrass.

But those were items Duffy said they knew would be brought up given the current state.

"It needs development," he

Duffy added, though, that there was a lot of positive feedback on the course.

"Everyone was thrilled with the layout (and) the wooded aspect of the course. There aren't courses like this anywhere close

(to La Grande)," he said. Even the professional golfers on hand expressed an appreciation for the course and what it could become with some additional work.

"The shots are awesome. The holes were fine lengthwise," Keegan said. "There were just no tee pads...But with a little manicure up there and a little

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La Grande Juniors reach state **semifinals**

Observer staff

The La Grande Junior baseball team is off to a solid start at the Oregon Junior State Tournament.

La Grande, the District 3 champion, opened with two wins in its first two games, defeating Parrish/West Salem Saturday, 10-0 in six innings, and toppling Raleigh Hills, 9-2, Sunday to reach the semifinals of the double elimination tournament.

LA GRANDE 10, PARRISH/WEST SALEM 0

Sam Tsiatsos went 4-for-4, scored three runs and collected two RBIs to pace La Grande's offense in its opening win. Devin Bell added three hits and two RBIs. But the difference in the game was La Grande's pitching. Logan Williams and Noah McIlmoil combined to allow one hit, walk two batters and strike out 11. La Grande scored in all but the first inning, and finished off the win in the sixth with a walk-off RBI single by Williams to force the 10-run rule.

LA GRANDE 9, RALEIGH HILLS 2

Cole Jorgensen tripled among his three hits and drove in three runs, three pitchers combined on a four-hitter and La Grande gradually pulled away for a second win.

La Grande took a 3-0 lead in the second inning, built it up to 6-2 by the end of the fifth and added on. La Grande also took advantage of four Raleigh Hills errors.

Jace Schow, Tsiatsos and Bell combined to give up just four singles, walk seven batters and strike out five.

La Grande faces Crook County at 5 p.m. today, with the winner reaching the championship game on Wednesday.

La Grande 10U eliminated

The La Grande 10U Little League team won two elimination games to reach the semifinals of the loser's bracket, but was handed a second loss Sunday eliminating it from the tournament.

LA GRANDE 15. DEL NORTE 2

La Grande rolled in its first elimination game Friday evening. Landon Hood pitched three innings for the win. Sovann Chab and Carter Hardens highlighted the offense with a three-run triple and two-run single, respectively, in the third inning.

LA GRANDE 9, CLACKAMAS 5

Chab and Ryder McIlmoil both had three hits to lead the La Grande offense to a second elimination game win Saturday. McIlmoil also pitched 3-1/3 innings for the win, and Beckett Hutchins tossed the final 2-2/3 innings for the save.

KLAMATH FALLS 14, LA GRANDE 4

La Grande was knocked out by the team that handed it its first loss in the tournament. Hood, Chab and Bragen Anderson led the La Grande offense in the loss, each reaching base multiple times.

France wins World Cup

The Associated Press

Kylian Mbappe and France put on a thrilling show in winning the World Cup title.

The 19-year-old Mbappe became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final, helping France beat Croatia 42 on Sunday.

The only other teen to score in a World Cup final was Pele, who was 17 when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in 1958.

Mbappe, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain in the French league, was born months after France first won its only other World Cup title in 1998.

Paul Pogba and Antoine Griezmann, France's two other key players, also scored at the Luzhniki Stadium.

But it was Mbappe who put the match out of reach with a furious passage of play in the second half. In the 59th, a run from Mbappe started a play that ended up with Pogba on the edge of the penalty area. With his second attempt, the midfielder curled his shot beyond Subasic.

Mbappe then scored himself, his fourth of the tournament, to make it 4-1.

Griezmann scored from the penalty spot in the 38th minute after a video review.

France took the lead in the 18th when Croatia forward Mario Mandzukic, rose to meet Griezmann's free kick with the top of his head. He inadvertently sent it past his own goalkeeper.

Curtain comes down on Elgin Stampede

By Ronald Bond

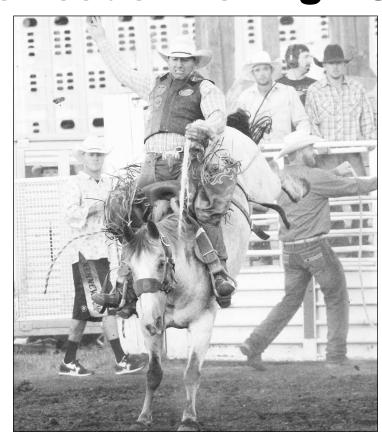
No lead was safe.

That was the common theme from two days of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association performances at the 72nd Elgin Stampede, which drew to a close Friday and Saturday night.

Every early lead set during Friday's action was supplanted less than 24 hours later, whether in the slack performances Saturday morning or during the main show Saturday evening.

The lead changes came fast and furious from the start. Both Kirk St. Clair and George Gillespie IV took over the top spot from Friday night's bareback riding leader, Brent Bannon, with identical scores of 73, but Austin Williams - on the final ride of the night — stole the championship with a winning score of 77.5 points. Bannon, who had posted a score of 67 points Friday, finished in fourth.

Hank Hollenback's leading time of 11.2 seconds in the tiedown roping from Friday was quickly dispatched by Seth Hopper, who turned in the winning time of 9.1 seconds on the second attempt Saturday night. Hollenback eventually slipped to third when Kass Kaiser turned in a time of 11.1 on the final attempt



Ronald Bond/The Observer Nick LaDuke won saddle bronc riding at the Elgin Stampede.

of the night. Roger Nonella, who was second Friday, finished

fourth with his time of 11.6. Johnny Espeland also saw a lead from Friday in the saddle bronc riding surpassed Saturday. A pair of riders — Tate Owens (75.5) and Wyatt Hurst (77.5)

— came within four points of

Espeland's 79.5-point effort, but

Nick LaDuke eventually set the bar with a winning score of 81 points. A hotly-contested leaderboard in the event finished with Espeland in second, Toby Collins (78.5) in third and Hurst tying with Dalton Davis for fourth.

Ryan Botham set the bar in the steer wrestling with a fast 3.8-second takedown in slack

Saturday to win the event. Baker City's Jesse Brown had the top time Saturday night of 5.1 seconds to take second. Friday's leader, Will Powell finished in third, and both Greg Schaffeld and Riley Jones had times of 5.8 seconds to tie for fourth.

Tyler Smith and Andy Carlson's lead of 5.5 seconds in team roping from Friday was taken from them in the final attempts Saturday. Shane Erickson and Brent Falon — the third to last group — tied Smith and Carlson for the top spot. Both teams, though, were outdone by eventual champions Jeff Flenniken and Jake Minor — the second to last group — who finished in 5.1 seconds.

Samantha Lane, who had the lead Friday in barrel racing at 16.79 seconds, dropped to third after two swift runs in slack Saturday morning. Megan McLeod-Sprague was the champion with a run of 16.72 seconds to just edge Leah Crockett, who completed the clover pattern in 16.73 seconds. Jodi Goodrich posted the top time Saturday night of 16.86 seconds, which was good for fourth.

Jed Jones and Colby Hill turned in impressive performances back-to-back in the bull riding to wrap up the rodeo.

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