

Juniors finish in third place at West Regional Tourney

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The La Grande Juniors All-Star baseball team struggled against a California pitching staff for the second straight game as it collected just three hits in a 6-1 loss to Livermore, Northern California, Friday after-

noon in the West Regional Tournament in San Jose, California.

"Our bats didn't come around. Seemed like every time we hit, the ball went right at someone," head coach Doug Schow said. "We hit a lot of balls those last two games right at people, and they made plays."

The loss eliminated La Grande from the tournament in third place, exceeding expectations set by Schow at the start of the season with the majority of the players being athletes who were new to him.

"These kids put in a lot of hard work. They've surpassed where I

thought we would end up," he said. (They've been) playing as a team and having fun. From where we started out to where we ended up, these kids made huge strides. They improved every day and they got better.

"I'm super proud of how they played."

Livermore took the lead for good against La Grande with a four-run first inning. Tanner Griffith hit an RBI single, and Nate Keaney had an RBI double to bookend a two-run error for the big frame for Livermore.

Livermore added single runs in

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Kathy Orr/EQ Media Group

Gus Ramsden, of Wallowa, threw a touchdown pass in the third quarter for the East.



Kathy Orr/EQ Media Group

La Grande's Wes Howard, left, works against a West lineman during Saturday's Shrine Game.

Auburn looms as Oregon opens camp

The Associated Press

Oregon coach Mario Cristobal figures the Ducks will have 19 days of traditional fall camp before they'll have to start preparing for Auburn.

Oregon's high-profile opener, a rematch of sorts of the 2011 national championship game, is set for Aug. 31 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"Really, you gotta start preparing for your opponents 10 days out, right? So you're looking at 19 days to figure out your football team," Cristobal said. "You can't pound it out for 19 days either, so you've got to be really careful how you assess and evaluate this thing."

The players seemed just happy to get back on the practice field Friday.

"I would say that we're more focused on the 19 days of fall camp," senior quarterback Justin Herbert

said. "We've got a lot to correct and a lot of time before then, and we're going to do our best to get ready and do everything we can to get this team ready for the season."

Oregon was a narrow pick to win the Pac-12 North in the annual preseason media poll after finishing one point ahead of rival Washington. The Ducks also received 11 votes to win the Pac-12 title game. Utah was picked to finish atop the league.

While there was speculation Herbert might leave Oregon early to declare for the NFL draft, he announced his intention to return shortly before the team's bowl victory over Michigan State. Oregon finished 9-4 and Herbert threw for 3,515 yards with 29 touchdowns and just eight interceptions.

He has 63 career TD

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West rolls to Shrine Game win

By Gerry Steele
EQ Media Group

The West took advantage of six East turnovers Saturday to break a four-game losing streak at the annual East-West Shrine All-Star Football Game.

The West had three interceptions and recovered three fumbles on the way to a 43-10 win Saturday at Bulldog Memorial Stadium in Baker City.

The East still leads the overall series 33-31-3.

The West totaled 456 yards, 319 on the arm of quarterback Hayden Vandehey. He finished 20-of-34 with four touchdowns.

Vandehey's favorite target was Blake Markham, who had nine catches for 107 yards.

That duo opened the

scoring with 1:59 left in the first quarter on a 27-yard completion.

The West then broke the game open in the second period, scoring three times for a 30-0 halftime advantage.

Vandehey and Dax Bennett scored on runs, and Vandehey found Sean Bodi for a TD pass.

Then, after a scoreless third quarter, the East finally scored on a safety.

On the play, the West punter bobbled the snap and had the kick blocked in the end zone. The West recovered the ball but was tackled in the end zone for the two points.

Following the ensuing kickoff the East needed just four plays to score again.

Gus Ramsden found Tanner Hamilton from three

yards out to cut the deficit to 30-10.

Vandehey then closed the door on the East, connecting with Markham and Joey Tripp for the final two scores.

Baker's Justin Miller recovered a West fumble in the fourth quarter from his defensive secondary slot.

Box Score

West	7	23	0	13	—	43
East	0	0	0	10	—	10
W	— Markham 27 pass from Vandehey (Torress kick)					
W	— Vandehey 2 run (Torress kick)					
W	— Bennett 6 run (Herberger pass from Vandehey)					
W	— Bodi 12 pass from Vandehey (Herberger pass from Vandehey)					
E	— Safety — punter tackled in end zone					
E	— Hamilton 3 pass from Ramsden (Towne pass from Ramsden)					
W	— Markham 23 pass from Vandehey (Kick failed)					
W	— Tripp 24 pass from Vandehey (Torress kick)					
Individual statistics						
RUSHING — East: Keller 18-61, Ramsden 8-27, Bixby 7-21, Jannsen 10-18, Hill 4-16, Guillen 1-0. West: Bennett						

17-74, Herberger 7-36, Vandehey 10-15, Blodgett 3-7, Tripp 2-5.
PASSING — East: Ramsden 8-15-1-107, Keller 10-14-2-77. West: Vandehey 20-34-1-319.
RECEIVING — East: Langley 5-70, Hamilton 5-38, Towne 3-42, Bixby 3-33, Fralich 1-6, Homan 1-(-5). West: Markham 9-107, Bodi 4-85, Burgess 3-45, Herberger 1-47, Tripp 1-24, Fisher 1-11, Bennett 1-0.

Quarterbacks Luton, Gebbia ready to fight for starting job

By Steve Gross
Corvallis Gazette-Times

Jake Luton is no stranger to quarterback competitions. So to find himself in a battle to be Oregon State's starter entering the 2019 season is pretty much old hat.

"It feels like every other year," the 6-foot-7, 229-pound sixth-year senior said at Wednesday's media day. "I've been doing it for six years, longer than most people get to, and every year I've been part of a competition so it's kind of just what I'm used to."

"It would probably feel more weird if I wasn't. I'm excited for it, to go out and compete every day and just get after it."

So that would mean Luton doesn't really want coach Jonathan Smith to name him the starter after the first practice?

"I didn't say that," he responded with a smile.

Luton, who earned the starting nod for the Beavers in each of the last two seasons, is the frontrunner heading into training camp, which begins Thursday. They open the season Aug. 30 at

home against Oklahoma State.

Luton will be battling Tristan Gebbia, a 6-2, 193-pound redshirt sophomore who sat out last season after transferring to Oregon State from Nebraska.

"I'm real excited to get back out there (Thursday)," Gebbia said. "I think that it's going to be a great camp. I like the stuff we are doing on the offensive side of the ball and just to get back out there and start competing with the guys."

The relationship between

the two competitors is a healthy one, according to Gebbia.

"It's great. Jake's great. We've been pushing each other a lot in the offseason," he said. "I'm excited for it. I think Jake's a great guy. He brings a lot of experience to the quarterback room. Any way we can help each other we do, and I think it's a great dynamic we're establishing."

While Luton, who received a sixth year of eligibility in January, has been the starter entering each of the

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