



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton junior Riley Hegarty watches his shot off of the 9th fairway during the Wildhorse Invite on Monday.

GOLF: Mustangs hit 364

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with a 77 but wasn’t feeling as settled as Hegarty.

“I didn’t hit the ball that well, but that’s all right it’s the beginning of the season,” she said.

Pendleton’s boys turned in a combined score of 309 to hold off Richland (315) and Hermiston (326) in a 10-team field.

It was a close race in the seven-team girls’ field as well, with Heppner edging their hosts by four strokes for the title. The Mustangs carded a 364 for a second tournament win in a row, which came despite no individual medalists.

“We’ve been five strong this year and last year, and that’s kind of been our deal, that our No. 5 can play in any position,” said coach Greg Grant. “This one was really big because it’s against some bigger schools and some really good schools.”

The Mustangs were led by No. 4 shooter Paige Grieb, who tied for fifth with an 85 but finished seventh due to a scorecard playoff. Her 37 on the front nine tied medalist Emily Baumgart of DeSales, who shot a 76, for the lowest score on nine holes.

“Paige had a day today. I’ve been waiting for her to break out like this,” Grant said. “She’s been able to hit the shots, she just put it together (Monday).”

While Grieb was putting it all together, Pendleton’s Greb said she’s been tinkering with her putting grip and probably added a few strokes because of it.

“I’ve been changing grips on my putter, like left hand lower from my regular (grip), and I don’t know which one’s working better so I’m going to go out and practice some more and figure that out,” she said. “I think in the midst of changing it, being a little more uncomfortable over the ball is affecting (my putting) a little too.”

With ideal weather and a fairly straightforward course layout, the short game was key for everybody on Monday.

“My irons were really good and this is the second

weekend in a row I’ve hit 14 greens (in regulation), but I’ve really got to work on my putting the next couple weeks,” Hegarty said. “If I can improve that then my scores will be really low.”

Hermiston’s Zac Adams, who led the Bulldogs with a 75 that earned him second medalist, felt like he left a few strokes on the greens as well.

“I just hit every green (in regulation) on the first probably 12 holes or so, and I had a birdie on most of those,” he said. “I got pretty close to making a bunch of birdies but I lipped them out.”

His Bulldogs teammate Keegan Crafton finished in a four-way tie for third that also included Pendleton’s Braden Pulver with 76’s. But Hermiston’s next lowest score was Jared Thacker’s 87, and coach Mike Frink said the team hasn’t been on the same page yet this season.

“We haven’t been together as a team all season long, so we get a couple working but we can’t get the third or fourth score to really count for us, so it’s been kind of tough,” he said. “Until we get more consistent with our third, fourth and fifth (golfers), this is what’s going to happen. We’re totally capable of shooting with the rest of them, they’ve just got to believe in themselves.”

Hermiston’s girls finished fourth with a 379 and were led by Madison Welch with a 92.

The Dalles’ Iliana Telles also shot a 76 to tie Baumgart for the girls’ low score, but lost the scorecard playoff.

BOYS
PENDLETON (309) — Reilly Hegarty, 36-35—71 (1st); Braden Pulver, 39-37—76 (t3rd); Dillon George 42-41—83; Nathan Som 38-41—79; Jared Gier 41-44—85; Dakota Post 44-43—87.
HERMISTON (326) — Paden LaCourseiere 38-50—88; Keegan Crafton 37-39—76 (t3rd); Zac Adams 37-38—75 (2nd); Jared Thacker 40-47—87; Anders Lind 44-44—88.
MAC-HI (371) — Sterling Sandburg 45-49—94; Rain Wheeler 50-45—95; Riley Chester 47-45—92; Evan Kain 45-45—90; Noah Wilson 51-56—107.
NIXYAARWII — Tiya-Po Farrow 40-46—86; Riley Lankford 40-43—83.
Girls
HEPPNER (364) — Sophie Grant 45-42—87; Amanda Rea 44-49—93; Emily Rea 50-52—102; Paige Grieb 37-48—85; Maddie Lindsay 47-62—99.
PENDLETON (368) — Haley Greb 38-39—77 (3rd); Shelby Greb 38-44—82 (4th); Whitney Bahns 44-52—96; Britney Bahns 62-51—113; McKenna Pratt 57-59—116.
HERMISTON (379) — Madison Welch 48-44—92; Tannie Brock 48-45—93; Saige Smith 42-53—95; Sydney Adams 51-52—103; Lyndsee Anderson 48-51—99.

DUKE: First time in title game since 2010

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For Duke, this was where a team packed with star freshmen was supposed to end up. The Blue Devils began the year at No. 4 in the preseason AP Top 25, never fell below fifth and spent six weeks at No. 2 before finishing at No. 4.

This was the first Final Four for Duke’s undergraduates. The Blue Devils reached college basketball’s biggest stage for the first time since winning the 2010 title.

“I’m just thrilled to be part of (a class) that won a national championship,” said Mahsa Taskindoust, a senior biology major from New York who wore a T-shirt commemorating Duke’s previous four titles.

With some students treating recycling bins like bass drums, Cameron was crazy for one last game this season as the venerable old building rocked at its customary full-decibel volume all night long.

As soon as the doors opened, there were mad dashes through the lobby, up the stairs and into the upper concourse to secure the best seats — some directly below the banners that hang behind a baseline to commemorate the school’s previous four championships.

They placed a protective cover over the court, raised the baskets out of the way to the ceiling and put the TV broadcast of the game on the video



AP Photo/Chris Steppig, Pool

Duke’s Quinn Cook, left, drives to the basket past Wisconsin’s Nigel Hayes during the second half Monday in Indianapolis.

scoreboard, which was lowered closer to floor level.

A line of several hundred Duke students wrapped along one side of “Krzyzewskiville” — the grassy plot where they camp out for the home game against North Carolina each year — and past the school’s tennis courts. They

cheered and whooped while a nearby speaker blared one of the songs that always gets them dancing at Cameron: “Everytime We Touch” by Cascada.

The only things missing were coach Mike Krzyzewski and his players, who are scheduled to return Tuesday afternoon for a campus celebration.

BLAZERS: Outscored 32-12 in second quarter

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ter before the Nets pulled away again. Portland, guaranteed a top-four seed as the Northwest Division champion, isn’t assured of home-court advantage, which is determined solely by record.

The originally scheduled game was called off when New York was hit with snow, though not nearly enough to live up to the blizzard predictions. By the time the Blazers were told to leave, it took them more than two hours to reach the airport.

Both coaches downplayed the inconvenience of the one-game, cross-country return trip, and in fact both said they had already done it.

Stotts was an assistant to George Karl in Seattle when the SuperSonics had to play an April makeup in New York in 1996, while the Nets’ Lionel Hollins was a player in Portland in 1978 when the Blazers couldn’t get to a game in New York because of weather and had to return later.

The Nets outscored the Blazers 32-12 in the second quarter, limiting Portland to 4-of-18 shooting, and expanded their lead to 22 points in the third quarter.

They won their season-high fifth straight at home and have won 11 of 14 overall.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Portland finished 20-

10 against the Eastern Conference. ... CJ McCollum scored 15 points.

Nets: Joe Johnson barely extended his NBA-leading streak to 879 games with a field goal, making his lone basket with 1:55 to play and finishing 1 for 10.

He has the longest active streak after Tim Duncan went without a basket for the first time in his career earlier this season. ... Brooklyn signed forward Earl Clark to a multiyear contract Monday. He has appeared in six games since signing a 10-day contract on March 27.

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Host Minnesota on Wednesday.

Nets: Host Atlanta on Wednesday.

MARINERS: Hernandez struck out 10, gets win

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win it’s great.”

Smith was the offensive star. Acquired in an offseason trade with San Diego, Smith doubled twice and lined a two-out RBI triple to score Austin Jackson with Seattle’s first run of the season. All three hits came off Los Angeles starter Jered Weaver (0-1).

Smith became the first player in Mariners history to have three extra-base hits on opening day. Dustin Ackley added a solo home run and Robinson Cano had an RBI single as Seattle’s season of high expectations got off to a rousing start.

“We just had to get some runs on the board and that would take care of the rest,” Ackley said.

Mike Trout hit a solo homer in the first inning and Erick Aybar singled leading off the fifth. That was all the Angels could do against Hernandez.

Hernandez struck out at least 10 batters for the third time on opening day. He struck out 12 in 2007 against Oakland and 11 last year against the Angels. He retired nine straight after giving up the home run and got out of a jam in the fifth inning with two on and no outs getting a strikeout of Chris Iannetta and getting Johnny Giavotella to ground into a double play.

Hernandez is just the fourth pitcher dating to 1914 with at least three opening day starts of 10 or more strikeouts, joining Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and Bob Gibson.

“You can just tell in his demeanor, you can tell in how he’s going about his business,” Seattle catcher Mike



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Felix Hernandez throws against the Los Angeles Angels in the sixth inning Monday.

Zunino said. “Felix is one of those few guys that can really do it. You see it from pitch-to-pitch or situations that he can turn it up that extra notch.”

TROUT’S DAY

Trout started by homering off Hernandez in the opener for the second straight year, struck out his next three at-bats and capped his day by robbing Logan Morrison of a home run.

Trout’s third career homer off Hernandez was the 99th of his career. But he struck out three straight times, including going down swinging in the eighth against reliever Carson Smith with two runners on.

“I just chased a couple of pitches,”

Trout said.

Jackson had a chance to rob Trout of his homer, but mistimed his jump. Trout then showed how it’s done by perfectly leaping above the wall in the eighth inning to deny Morrison.

UP NEXT

LHP James Paxton starts for Seattle on Tuesday. Paxton missed a couple of starts during spring training after falling during an agility drill, but said despite the fewer innings he feels ready for the season. He gets the call rather than Hisashi Iwakuma. McClendon split his top two right-handers in the rotation with the young lefty.

Women’s NCAA title a rematch of last year

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The women’s basketball championship game will have a familiar feel to it with UConn and Notre Dame playing for a title for the second straight year.

Unlike last season’s game when much of the conversation building up to the matchup of undefeated teams was about the frosty relationship between Geno Auriemma and Muffet McGraw. This year there is much friendlier attitude between the coaches and their teams, despite the rivals once again meeting on the game’s biggest stage.

A win for the Huskies on Tuesday night would be a third straight title for UConn and 10th overall for Auriemma. That would tie him with UCLA men’s coach John Wooden for the most all-time in college basketball.

Auriemma has a perfect record with the title on the line, winning all nine of UConn’s trips to the national championship.

“This isn’t something that’s going to last forever,” he said. “Not going to win every single championship game that we’re in. If we’re in some more, but up

to this point, it’s something that’s really hard to explain. And I’m just incredibly grateful.”

UConn junior Breanna Stewart has been the key two the last two titles.

The two-time AP Player of the Year saves her best games for the brightest lights. She has won outstanding player of the Final Four as a freshman and sophomore and had another great game in the semifinal win over Maryland.

She stated when she came to UConn that her goal was to win four championships. She’s one victory away from being three-quarters of the way there. Only the Huskies from 2002-04 and Tennessee from 1996-98 have won three straight titles.

UConn beat Tennessee in 2003 and 2004 which was the only other time in the history of the NCAA Tournament that there was a repeat title game.

McGraw has her team back in the title game for the fourth time in five seasons. Unlike Auriemma, she’s only won one title with the Irish back in 2001.

The Irish lost two All-Americans from last season’s team and weren’t ex-

pected to make it to the title game when the season began.

“I think when we started the season and looked at what we lost last year and were wondering where all the offense is going to come from, to say that we’ve come a long way, I think it’s a little bit of an understatement,” McGraw said. “I’m just proud of where we’ve gotten to and how this team has just been resilient and continued to pursue their goals this year.”

Notre Dame needed a putback by unlikely star Madison Cable with 16 seconds left and a defensive stand on the other to even advance to the championship game and face UConn.

Unlike last season when these two women’s basketball powerhouses didn’t play until the championship game which UConn won by 21 points, they met in December in South Bend, Indiana. The Huskies came away with an 18-point victory in that game.

Notre Dame was missing freshman Brianna Turner, who was nursing a shoulder injury. She’s made a major impact since missing those three games.

Prep tennis

Bucks sweep La Grande

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton girls tennis team used its non-league match with La Grande on Monday as a chance to break from their routine.

The results were positive on all accounts as the Buckaroos swept the Tigers 5-0.

The most visible change was Keren Hampton at No. 1 singles — where she beat Anna Grigsby 6-1, 7-6(2) — and her sister Keziah teamed with Mati Cittabini at No. 1 doubles for a 6-2, 6-2 win over La Grande’s Jerika and Jaden Christman.

“There’s a happy medium there between keeping things fresh and learning to play with your partner,” said Pendleton coach Rocky Dillenburg. “Keren and Keziah

have played so much together over the years it’s nice to split them up every now and then.”

Dillenburg also went with brand new pairings in the other two doubles matches, and said his emphasis on communication in practice seemed to be paying off.

Sam Bixler and Jenna Senter downed Clara Gandy and Jenny Schiller 6-1, 6-0, and Brandy Brown teamed with Isabelle Chapman to beat Hanna Roberts and Isabel Eidhaman 6-0, 6-2.

Pendleton’s other win was by Meagan Flanagan, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 over Alessia Marzocchini.

Pendleton will host Hood River Valley on Wednesday at 4 p.m. to open league play. Dillenburg said all players will return to their regular positions for that match.