

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

## Sports shorts

### Storm take Loyd with No. 1 pick

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) — Jewell Loyd is the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft.

Loyd, who was chosen by the Seattle Storm on Thursday night, decided to skip her final season at Notre Dame and enter this year's draft. She's the first Irish player to be taken with the top pick.



Fellow underclassmen Amanda Zahui B. was taken by Tulsa with the second pick. Minnesota's red-shirt sophomore and Loyd were eligible to be drafted because they turn 22 during this calendar year.

Seattle took UConn forward Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis third, Connecticut Sun selected 6-foot-3 center Elizabeth Williams of Duke fourth, and Chicago took 6-foot-4 forward Cheyenne Parker of Middle Tennessee State fifth.

### NFL reinstates Peterson from suspension

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NFL has reinstated Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, clearing the way for him to return after missing most of last

season while facing child abuse charges in Texas.

The league announced its decision on Thursday. Commissioner Roger Goodell sent Peterson

a letter advising him of his reinstatement. Goodell wrote that Peterson will have to fulfill all the obligations of his plea deal with authorities after he reached a plea deal to reduce a felony charge to a misdemeanor.

Goodell also told Peterson he would have to continue attending counseling while adhering to the league's new personal conduct policy to avoid further discipline.

Peterson's agent has said the star running back wants to play elsewhere next season. But the Vikings say they have no plans to trade him.

"I'm definitely pissed. I heard a lot of stuff during this time I've been injured from everybody. From different people. Definitely pissed."

— Kevin Durant

Injured Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant on how his season played out and how he felt he was treated by his peers during his time away. The reigning NBA MVP missed 55 games with a foot injury this season including the last two months after it was deemed he needed further surgery to repair a right foot injury. The franchise missed out on the playoffs without him.

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1999** — Quarterbacks go 1-2-3 in the NFL Draft as Tim Couch, Donovan McNabb and Akili Smith go to Cleveland, Philadelphia and Cincinnati — the first quarterback trifecta since 1971.

**2010** — Ubaldo Jimenez pitches the first no-hitter in the Colorado Rockies' 18-year history, dominating the Atlanta Braves in a 4-0 victory.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

## College Baseball

# Richards better than ever for Irish

## Former Buckaroo coming through for No. 25 Notre Dame

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

Notre Dame junior Lane Richards could only watch as his teammates struggled to a 22-31 finish last season.

Their starting shortstop sidelined mid-season with a potentially devastating elbow injury, the Fighting Irish needed a 5-1 finish just to reach their final 9-21 record in the cellar of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

It's a completely different story for No. 25 Notre Dame (24-11, 9-9 ACC) this season.

The Irish have won eight of their last 10 games and swept each of their last two ACC series to move into a tie for third place in the Atlantic Division.



Danny Karnik photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics

**Notre Dame's Lane Richards, of Pendleton, is congratulated by teammates after scoring in the team's 3-2 win over Georgia Tech that opened ACC play on March 6, 2015. Richards has started every game at shortstop this season after undergoing Tommy John Surgery on his throwing elbow in April, 2014.**

But more remarkable than the team's turnaround is the fact that Richards, a 2012 Pendleton High

grad, is just one of four players that has started every one of Notre Dame's 35 games this season.

"The last two weekends I think we've handled ourselves pretty well," said Richards on Thursday as the team prepares for a weekend series against NC State (20-14, 8-9). "We never doubted ourselves, but I think we opened a few eyes that we are a good team and are capable of making a run."

The Fighting Irish have never appeared an ACC tournament and if they're to hold on and make this season's 10-team field, Richards will be at the center of the push.

He's showing no ill effects from his Tommy John Surgery performed by team doctors in April, 2014 — a procedure that while likely not career-threatening, could have put a damper on the live arm that has made Richards one of the top defensive shortstops in the ACC.

He was given a 10-month recovery window from doctors, exactly the time remaining before the start of his junior season.

See RICHARDS/2B

## CRC Baseball

# Eagles hold unfamiliar role

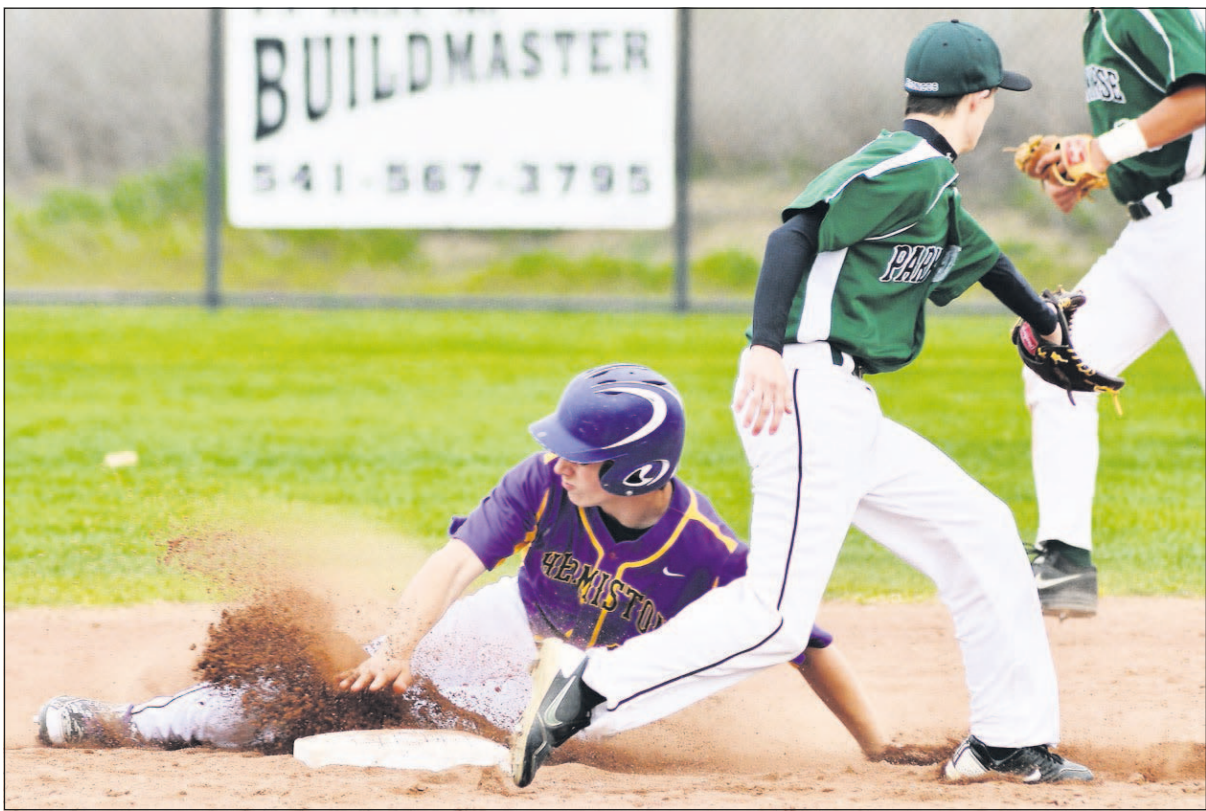
## Dawgs, Bucks seek improvement

By ERIK SKOPIL  
East Oregonian

The Columbia River Conference baseball universe has turned topsy-turvy since the conclusion of last season's conference campaign. Perennial bottom dweller Hood River Valley rode an incomparable string of upsets to the 2014 state title game, and entering this weekend's slate of league openers, the Eagles appear the only sure-thing.

Through non-league play Hood River (8-5) is one of two teams with a winning non-conference record and the lone club with more runs scored than allowed. While their offensive or defensive numbers aren't those of world-beaters — they don't rank in the top 10 in the state in either stat — their offense (5.2 runs per game) has been the second most potent, their defense (4.0) the strongest of any in the CRC.

See CRC/2B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Hermiston's Daniel Gossler slides into second base as Parkrose's Marc Weeks goes for the ball in the first game of a baseball doubleheader Friday, April 10 in Hermiston.**

## Prep Tennis

# Doubles doom Buckaroo boys

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton boys tennis team won three of four singles matches, but were swept on the doubles courts, falling 5-3 to The Dalles Thursday at West Hills.

Top singles player Gareth Haug had little problem taking down Riverhawks Christian Munoz in 6-3, 6-4 straight set fashion. Henry Holdman and Lincoln Johnson duplicated Haug's efforts with wins.

Buckaroo senior Jeremy Cochrane was the only singles players to fall. Cochrane, the team's No. 2 player, was recovering from a shoulder injury that he suffered over the weekend. He double-faulted on 21 serves during two sets, taking a

See TENNIS/2B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

**Pendleton senior Gareth Haug returns a volley from The Dalles' Christian Munoz in a tennis match on Thursday in Pendleton.**

## HERMISTON

# Suns stop Bulldogs in preseason finale

East Oregonian

The Bulldogs struck first, but couldn't keep its offense rolling as Southridge (WA) came from behind for a 6-1 win in non-league softball action on Thursday.

It was Hermiston's final league tune-up, and there were positives despite the outcome, said coach Kylee Lete.

Bunting was one of them, and the Bulldogs (6-7) scored their only run in the first inning on a squeeze play that brought Kaleen Wheeler in from third.

SOFTBALL	
S	H
Southridge (WA)	Hermiston
6	1

Julissa Almaguer and Taylor Betz also pitched well, said Lete, but were let down by a defense that committed five errors.

"(Southridge) had some good hard hits, but errors were definitely a big factor to this game," she said. "(Almaguer and Betz) threw the

ball well, we just made too many errors behind them and left some runners on base."

Hermiston had its three-game winning streak snapped, and will look to get back above .500 when it travel to The Dalles on Saturday to take on the Riverhawks in a league-opening doubleheader that starts at noon.

#### SOUTHBRIDGE (WA) 6, HERMISTON 1

	S	R	H	E
SHS	021010	1	6	9
HHS	100000	0	1	5

Sydney Stoner and Ryan Mullaly, Julissa Almaguer, Taylor Betz (3) and Kaleen Wheeler. W — Stoner. L — Almaguer.  
2B — Breyanna Naylor (Hermiston).

## PENDLETON

# BMCC player inks with Wolves

## Gerlinger signs with Western Oregon hoops

East Oregonian

Riley Gerlinger penned her name to a Letter of Intent to continue her collegiate basketball career at Western Oregon Thursday at Blue Mountain Community College's Mosby Court.

Gerlinger, a 5-foot-10 forward, played a key role in the BMCC women's basketball team's fifth-place at last month's N W A C tournament. She averaged 13.7 points per game and grabbed 5.7 rebounds per game, and was selected to the All-East Region second-team.

"It's way closer to home so my family can come and watch. They're incredibly excited and proud," Gerlinger, a Forest Grove native



Gerlinger

See GERLINGER/2B