

Sports shorts

Walker solid, Mariners win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Taijuan Walker thought he was done when he saw Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon walking toward the mound.



Instead, McClendon was informing the young right-hander that he was facing his last hitter. Walker then needed only one more pitch to end the seventh inning with two runners stranded in the Mariners' 3-1 victory over Texas on Monday night.

"Those type of moments can build character in a pitcher," McClendon said. "The only way you can learn to deal with that type of adversity and that type of situation is to go through it."

Walker (1-2) allowed only an unearned run in seven solid innings. Nelson Cruz had an RBI single and Seattle won the rain-delayed series opener.

Hamilton traded back to Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Josh Hamilton is back with the Texas Rangers after two troubled seasons with the Los Angeles Angels filled with poor performance, injuries and an alcohol and drug relapse.

Less than halfway through a \$125 million, five-year contract, Hamilton was traded Monday by the Angels to their AL West rival for

a player to be named or cash. The Angels and owner Arte Moreno, wanting to rid himself of Hamilton, agreed to pay most of the remaining \$80 million Hamilton was owed under the contract, which runs through 2017.

"I played, and played hard when I was there," Hamilton said during a news conference. "I worked my butt off to be that guy this year going into this season for the Angels. They just didn't want that to happen for some reason."

On the 15-day disabled list while recovering right shoulder surgery on Feb. 4, Hamilton took a physical and will report Tuesday to the Rangers' spring training complex in Surprise, Arizona.

"As long as we can hit him and then move, Mayweather can't touch us."

— **Freddy Roach**
Manny Pacquiao's trainer, in advance of Saturday's fight, the first between the two boxers.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1966 — Boston edges the Los Angeles Lakers 95-93 in Game 7, giving the Celtics and coach Red Auerbach eight straight NBA titles. Auerbach, who announced his retirement earlier, is replaced by center Bill Russell, the first black head coach of a major U.S. sports team.

1967 — Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the U.S. Armed Forces. He is arrested and the New York State Athletic Commission suspends his boxing license and strips him of his heavy-weight title.

1995 — Michael Jordan, in his first playoff game since his return from retirement, scored 48 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Charlotte Hornets 108-100.

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



Darian Lindsey, of Pendleton, rounds third base after hitting a home run Saturday against The Dalles at Steve Cary Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Lindsey, Pendleton blast The Dalles

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Buckaroos are in danger of making a mockery of the Columbia River Conference.

After Saturday's run-rule wins over The Dalles, the defending champions have yet to be challenged and have won each of their last four softball games by 10 runs or more.

Even more impressive than the lopsided scores, however, is the manner in which they're reached.

Pendleton continued to feast on the long ball Saturday, hitting three home runs in each half of their doubleheader to win 13-1 and 12-2.

Senior Mykal Weissenfluh hit a walk-off grand slam to end Game 1 in the sixth inning.

The shot to center field came with two outs and was the first home run of her

Softball



Pendleton
13, 12



The Dalles
1, 2

career. "I was just trying hit a line drive or a hard-hit grounder to move runners because bases were loaded," she said after going 3 for 4 in the game. "I was actually really surprised that I hit it."

Darian Lindsey also hit a two-run home run in Game 1 for the Bucks (11-7, 5-0 CRC), then added her second career grand slam in Game 2 that came during Pendleton's seven-run fifth inning — a line drive just right of center that put the Bucks up 9-2.

It was nearly identical to her first career grand slam against Hood River Valley last weekend.

See BLAST/2B

Blazers keep season alive

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard had 32 points and the Portland Trail Blazers avoided elimination from the playoffs with a 99-92 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

Memphis led by as many as 10 points in the fourth quarter, but Portland rallied to deny the Grizzlies their first-ever playoff sweep.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 12 rebounds for Portland.

Game 5 is Wednesday in Memphis. The winner of the series goes on to face the Golden State Warriors in the second round.

Memphis was playing without point guard Mike Conley, who was inadvertently elbowed in the face in the third quarter of Game 3 and underwent surgery on Monday morning. His status for the rest of the playoffs is uncertain.

Marc Gasol led the Grizzlies with 21 points.

CJ McCollum added 18 points for the Blazers, who snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Grizzlies — including all four regular-season meetings.

The Blazers closed to 80-76 with 6:30 left on Lillard's 18-foot pull-up jumper. After Gasol's reverse layup, Aldridge made four straight free throws to further narrow the margin and McCollum's layup with 4:50 left knotted it at 82.

Gasol's hook shot on the other end denied Portland the lead but McCollum made another layup to tie it again with 2:36 to go.

Gasol made two free



AP Photo/Don Ryan

Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge shoots over Memphis Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph during Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Monday in Portland.

throws but Lillard hit a 3-pointer and a free throw to make it 88-86 with 1:58 left. Zach Randolph's layup tied it again for the Grizzlies before McCollum's 3-pointer put the Blazers up 91-88.

Courtney Lee's layup closed the gap to 92-90 with 19 seconds left. Lillard added two free throws before Gasol dunked, but Lillard and Batum each made two free throws before Aldridge's

layup at the buzzer.

Nick Calathes started for the Grizzlies in Conley's place. It was his first career playoff start and first of the season. He finished with 12 points on four 3-pointers.

Throwers lead way for Dawgs at Kiwanis

Umatilla sprinter Zitterkob sets school record

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

Before the 2015 track and field season began, Trey Neal had never held a shot put. He had never thrown a javelin or picked up a discus.

None of that mattered Saturday at the 30th Annual Kiwanis Invitational at Kennison Stadium as Neal gave a glimpse of what he's capable of.

Neal won the shot put with a toss of 49 feet, 4.25 inches, more than three feet further than The Dalles' Riley Bardes. In the discus, on a slick ring due to heavy late-morning showers, Neal tossed a 143-01, good for second place but three feet shorter than Wyatt Musser of Kamiakin. In the javelin, which Neal said was his worst event and worst of the day, he fired 131-10, placing him ninth.

His 10 points in the shot put helped the Bulldogs claim third place in team points on the boys side with 116. Kamiakin (WA) took the team title with 122.5 points and Southridge (WA) finished second with 121.5. On the girls side, Kamiakin dominated with 203, and Hermiston finished a distant second with 73.25.

But Neal wasn't the only Hermiston thrower to have

See TRACK/3B

Bucks caught in split

Cockburn and Smith strong on mound

By ERIK SKOPIK
East Oregonian

Quinn Cockburn and Brady Smith turned in stellar starts from the mound in Saturday's doubleheader versus The Dalles, unfortunately the Buckaroo bats were unable to pay the efforts off with a much-needed sweep.

Behind Cockburn's complete game two-hitter the Bucks snared a 4-1 victory in the opener, but the Riverhawks rallied in game two to pull out a 3-1 win and even the Columbia River Conference weekend series at Bob White Field.

Considered the team's most glaring weakness all season, the Buckaroo (6-12, 2-3 CRC)

Baseball



Pendleton
4, 1



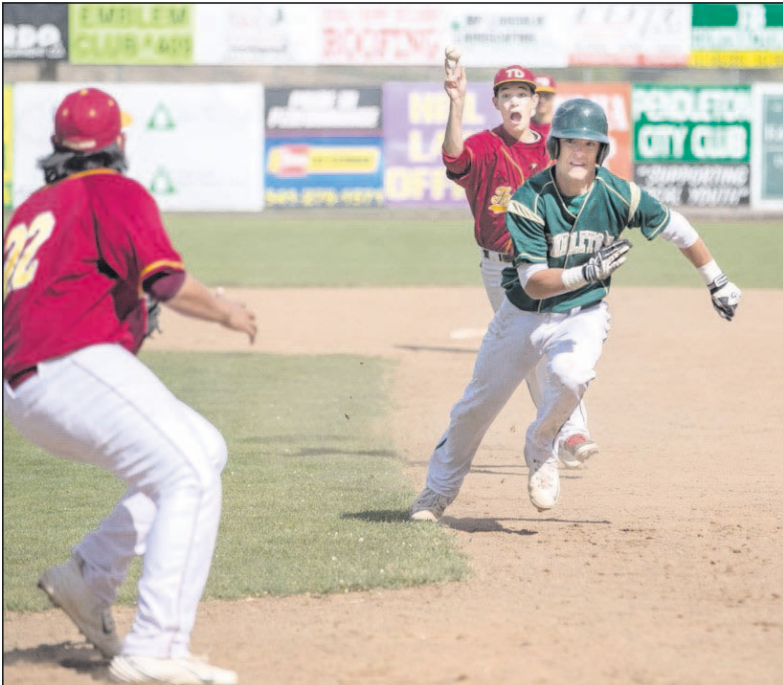
The Dalles
1, 3

pitching rotation seems to have turned a corner. Combined with Caden Smith's outing in Tuesday's loss at Hood River, the Buckaroo arms have recorded three consecutive quality starts — but, have just one win to show for it.

"We just can't put it all together," Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said. "We pitch well and then something else falls apart. We just can't put all aspects of the game together."

The struggles at the plate and in the field were most evident in the Saturday's second game defeat to the Riverhawks (9-9, 3-2 CRC).

See SPLIT/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton's Quinn Cockburn is caught between first and second base Saturday in the second of two games against The Dalles-Watnoka at Bob White Field as Dawson Hoffman throws to Boston Bate. Cockburn made it safely back to first.