

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Kane leads Chicago to 3-0 series lead

CHICAGO (AP) —Patrick Kane scored in the first period for Chicago, and Corey Crawford and the Blackhawks made the superstar’s goal stand up for a 1-0 win over the Minnesota Wild on Tuesday.



Chicago took a commanding 3-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series. Game 4 is in Minnesota again on Thursday.

Kane has six goals and five assists in nine playoff games, bouncing back just fine from the broken collarbone that kept him out of the last quarter of the regular season.

Crawford made 30 saves, giving him 90 on 94 shots in the three games. Stifled time after time on chance after chance, the Wild have scored just once over their last 150-plus minutes on the ice.

Grizzlies even series with top-seeded Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mike Conley returned just eight days after having facial surgery to score 22 points, and the Memphis Grizzlies used a smothering defensive effort to beat the Golden State Warriors 97-90 on Tuesday night, evening the Western Conference semifinals 1-1.



Wearing a clear mask to protect his swollen face and red left eye, Conley stole the spotlight from newly minted MVP Stephen Curry. He made his first four shots to get the Grizzlies going, and his teammates did the rest on defense.

Zach Randolph had 20 points and seven rebounds, and Marc Gasol and Courtney Lee scored 15 points each to help Memphis end Golden State’s 21-game home-winning streak. The Warriors dropped to 42-3 this season at rowdy Oracle Arena, losing for the first time at home in more than three months and for the first time this postseason.

Game 3 is Saturday in Memphis.

“Without a doubt, I’m the fastest player in the NFL. If somebody feels foggy about that, we can [race]. I’m never going to back down from competition.”

— Mike Wallace

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver proclaimed himself the NFL’s fastest player in an interview with Minnesota media on Tuesday. Wallace added that his fastest 40 yard dash time is 4.21 seconds, which would eclipse the time set by Chris Johnson (4.24) at the 2008 NFL Combine.

**THIS DATE IN SPORTS 1991** — Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union breaks his world outdoor pole vault record and Seppo Raty of Finland smashes the world javelin record during the Toto International Super Track and Field Meet in Japan.

**1998** — Rookie Kerry Wood ties the major league record with 20 strikeouts in a nine-inning game, pitching a one-hitter to lead the Chicago Cubs over the Houston Astros 2-0.

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

WAR ON 84

Bucks race back for pivotal win



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton’s Caden Smith steals second base as Hermiston’s Daniel Gossler mishandles the throw in the Bucks’ 6-5 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Pendleton moves into second in CRC on Cockburn heads-up play

By ERIK SKOPIL  
East Oregonian

Quinn Cockburn hesitated on the base path in the first inning. A single stutter step rounding second base robbed him of a triple and resulted in the Buckaroos third out.

So, with the game on the line seven innings later, the junior was unflinching. Seeing Hermiston pitcher Chase Root’s pitch sail into the dirt, he darted for from second to third and when he saw Root stationary at the mound, he turned for home. His aggressiveness appeared to get the better of him when catcher Landon Gammel retrieved the ball and threw for third, but the ball bounced off the

retreating Cockburn’s helmet and into left field. From there it was a 90-foot jog home for the win.

“I didn’t really comprehend what was happening I guess, I was just kind of watching it. Then he scored and we won,” senior Tony Papol said of Cockburn’s walkoff run to give Pendleton a 6-5 victory in eight innings Tuesday at Bob White Field.

“It’s quite a wild way to win, but we’ll take it,” Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said.

The victory gives Pendleton (9-13, 5-4 CRC) a 2-1 edge in the rivalry series with Hermiston



(9-10, 2-7 CRC) and moves them into sole possession of second place in the Columbia River Conference with three league games remaining.

Three first inning Bulldog runs put the Buckaroos behind the eight ball, but they responded with three of their own in the bottom of the frame. Hermiston took the lead back in the fifth and seventh innings, but Pendleton found an answer each time.

Cockburn’s run on the passed ball and throwing error provided the Buckaroos with their only lead of the game.

“Realistically we’re playing for

second (behind Hood River Valley in league) and this puts us in a really good spot to get second in the league,” Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said.

Faulty base running cost the Buckaroos three times in the early innings. Two batters before Cockburn was caught at third, teammate Brandon Hergert did the same trying to leg out a triple that scored two runs. Two innings later Papol was thrown out by a handful of steps heading home by left fielder Michael Gossler.

“We just got a little bit over-aggressive and it bit us early, but at this point in the season we’re doing whatever we can do score runs. We

See **BASEBALL/2B**

WAR ON 84

Grass homers twice in rout

Bucks clinch fourth straight league crown

East Oregonian

Tiah Grass hit dingers No. 7 and No. 8, including a mercy-rule walk-off, as Pendleton eased to a program-best ninth consecutive Columbia River Conference victory 13-1 over rival Hermiston Tuesday in Pendleton.

The senior hit a solo shot in the fourth as part of an eight-run inning and then ended it with one swing of the bat in the bottom of the sixth inning, plating three for Pendleton (15-7, 9-0 CRC). She finished with four RBIs.



The victory, along with Hood River Valley’s loss to The Dalles, clinches Pendleton a share of the CRC title for the fourth straight season.

Ellie Richards, Alexis Morrison and Payton Hergert each joined Grass with multiple hit days.

The Bulldogs (7-15, 1-8 CRC) scattered nine hits over six innings, but scored just once. Twice Pendleton pitcher Kiersten Murphy worked out of jams with minimal damage. In the fourth, she put two on with no outs before retiring three of the next four to keep Hermiston scoreless.

In the fifth, she relented one, but recored consecutive outs after putting runners on the corners.

“It’s good to have some of those situations to see how she responds,” Pendleton coach Tim Cary said. “I thought she responded really well.”

After struggling to sort out their pitching situation in non-league play, Murphy, a junior, has risen to the challenge.

“She’s our ace. There’s no question about it. She’s done a great job,” Cary said.

Pendleton scored runs in the second and third inning before plating eight in the fourth to take a stranglehold on the contest.

“They had one big inning,” Hermiston coach Kyle Letee

See **SOFTBALL/2B**



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton’s Tiah Grass exclaims to Coach Tim Cary as she rounds third base after an unusual home run. Hermiston center fielder Ashley Moser leaped up to catch the ball and almost made a spectacular snag, but the ball bounced off the tip of the mitt and over the fence. Pendleton won Monday’s game at Steve Cary Field by a score of 13-1.

Prep Roundup

Grogan goes yard, Tigers cruise to non-league victory

By SAM BARBEE  
EO Media Group

Up 2-1 in the bottom of the third inning with two outs, the Stanfield bats came to life.

The Tigers strung together six consecutive hits with two outs — including a two-run shot to left-center field into the wind from Dylan Grogan — and the Tigers downed the Tri-Cities Prep Jaguars 9-5 Tuesday behind nine strikeouts from Tony Flores.

Stanfield (13-6, 7-1) maintains a one-game lead over Vale for first place in the 3A Eastern Oregon

League. The Tigers have now won three straight.

“We’re happy with where we’re at,” head coach Bryan Johnson said. “If we can just stay healthy, we know we’ve at least clinched a state playoff birth. Now we want to finish it and host districts.”

Hunter Barnes singled home Flores and Klay Jensen in the first inning to take a quick 2-0 lead. TCP came right back in the top half of the second, however, when Greg Coverdell hit his first of two doubles. Sam Harlow then dinked one into center field, plating Coverdell for TCP’s first run.

Then, Stanfield broke it open in the third. With one out, Flores walked, bringing up Grogan. On the second pitch of the at-bat, Grogan lined one into the wind and over the fence in left center field. It cleared about 10 feet left of the 365-foot sign and was estimated to be about 370 feet in total. It was Grogan’s second dinger in a week and third on the season. Johnson said Grogan has been hitting more line drives lately, as opposed to early in the season when he was popping up too much.

“He can generate some power,” Jensen said.

“He was in a little bit of a slump (earlier),” Johnson added. “Now he’s in a groove. ‘I said, ‘I bet the ball looks pretty big right now,’ and he said it does when you’re hitting well.”

Grogan finished 2-for-4 with three RBIs, a double and a home run, increasing his season average to .407, good for second best in the club. Bailey leads the Tigers with a .420 clip.

After Grogan’s home run, the Tigers then broke open the game when Hunter Barnes singled, Allan doubled to plate Barnes and then

See **PREPS/2B**