

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### NFL commissioner to hear Brady suspension appeal

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday night he will personally hear the suspension appeal of Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, who challenged the league's punishment for his role in using deflated footballs during the AFC championship game.



The NFL Players Association filed the expected appeal about an hour before a 5 p.m. deadline on Thursday, asking for a neutral arbitrator to hear the case. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello confirmed about six hours later that the commissioner had rejected the request.

"Commissioner Goodell will hear the appeal of Tom Brady's suspension in accordance with the process agreed upon with the NFL Players Association in the 2011 collective bargaining agreement," he said.

### Hall of Famer Bobby Bell gets degree at age of 74

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Bobby Bell is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He played in two Super Bowls and won a national championship at the University of Minnesota.

#### FACES



Bell participated in graduation ceremonies at his alma mater after getting his degree 56 years after he left the school.

Bell was a two-time All-American as an offensive lineman and defensive end for the Golden Gophers. But he left school before finishing his education when he was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1963.

He finally re-enrolled last summer and picked up the last 13 credits he needed to get his degree in recreation, park and leisure studies through the College of Education and Human Development.

"I get my Vitamin D year round, which is nice. I get to be tan all year, which is also nice. But I'm somebody who loves changes."

— **Michael Phelps**  
Olympic champion on decision to move his training from Baltimore to Tempe, Arizona.

Phelps made the decision in part because his longtime coach Bob Bowman was hired to coach the Arizona State men's and women's swimming teams.

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1993** — Prairie Bayou, ridden by Mike Smith, rebounds from a second-place finish in the Kentucky Derby to become the first gelding to win the Preakness in 79 years.

**2004** — With one breathtaking surge, Smarty Jones posts a record 11½-length victory in the Preakness. Rock Hard Ten, in his fourth start, finishes strong for second ahead of Eddington.

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

## WAR ON 84

# Murphy, Bucks firmly on winning line

### Tweak makes big impact for defending champs

By **MATT ENTRUP**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Just prior to the start of league play, Pendleton pitching coach Rod Hillmick noticed something off about pitcher Kiersten Murphy's delivery.

The right-handed junior had a habit of setting up on the edge of the pitching rubber, causing her to over-stride and disrupting her entire motion.

"In pitching, everything goes off of power line and line of force," said Hillmick, explaining that all it took to get Murphy back in line was centering her stance on the rubber. "Getting your foot where it's supposed to be on the rubber is huge for mechanics and hitting spots."

"We've worked on all kinds of stuff, but that was the main thing."

That one seemingly minor change has made all the difference for Murphy, and just may be the key to another deep run for the Buckaroos in the state playoffs.

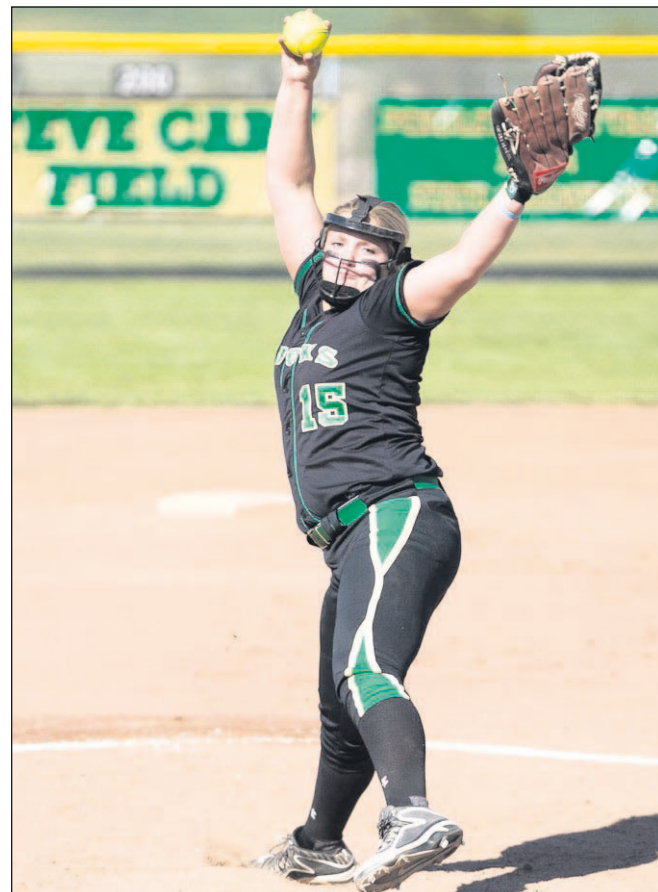
Despite what has turned into a dominant Columbia River Conference campaign for Murphy, which finishes today when the Bucks host rival Hermiston, her accom-

plishments are often overshadowed by an offense that churns out a classification-high 9.8 runs a game (12.5 in CRC play). But Pendleton knows from recent experience how quickly a seemingly never-ending source of runs can dry up in the face of postseason pitching.

The defending 5A state champions entered the 2014 postseason putting up 8.6 runs a game, but after brushing off Corvallis 10-0 in the opening round won their next three games by a combined score of 9-4. Starting pitcher Hailey Kline, now a freshman at Blue Mountain Community College, didn't allow more than two runs in any game and out-dueled Putnam's Sarah Abramson 2-1 for the Buckaroos' second championship in three seasons.

After emerging from an extended pre-season derby to replace Kline in the circle, Murphy is filling her shoes quite nicely.

Entering today's game at Steve Cary Field, Murphy is 8-0 in league play while posting a 1.54 earned run average and .197 opponent's batting average. In 50 innings



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Pendleton pitcher Kiersten Murphy winds up for a pitch last week at Steve Cary Field against Hermiston.



**Hermiston Bulldogs**  
(7-17, 1-10)

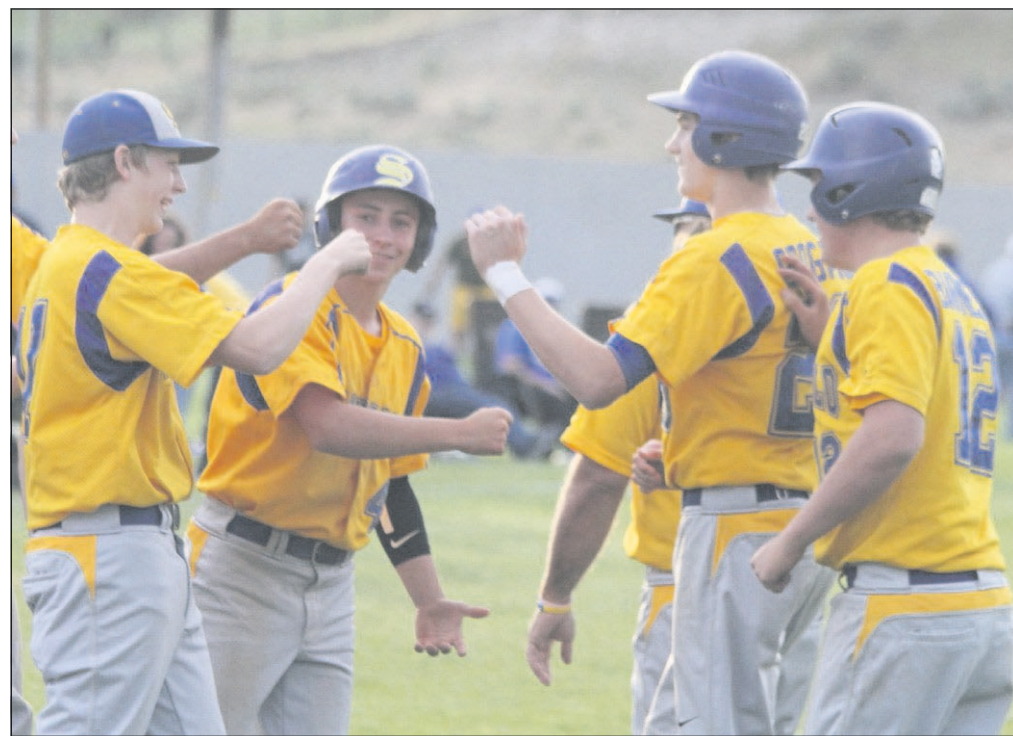


**Pendleton Buckaroos**  
(17-7-11-0)

• Today, 4:30 p.m.  
• at Steve Cary Field

See MURPHY/2B

## STANFIELD



Sam Barbee photo  
Stanfield teammates greet Dylan Grogan (center) after the sophomore hit a walk-off single to beat the McLoughlin Pioneers 6-5 Thursday in Stanfield.

# Grogan walks off Mac-Hi

### Tigers finish regular season unbeaten at home



By **SAM BARBEE**  
EO Media Group

Before Stanfield hosted Mac-Hi Thursday, a solitary figure stood in front of the dugout with flowers. It was Steven Allan, the lone senior on the Stanfield baseball team.

His last regular season game sent him home smiling when Dylan Grogan drove in Tony Flores with one out in the bottom of the seventh to

give the Tigers a 6-5 come-from-behind, walk-off win.

Stanfield (16-7, 7-1 EOL) has now won six of seven and has already clinched the 3A Eastern Oregon League title. Mac-Hi (5-17, 0-10) has lost four of five. Hunter Barnes got the win on the hill, tossing 4 1/3 innings, allowing five earned on ten hits, walked and struck out one. Mac-Hi pounded out 12 hits, but left ten men stranded. Klay

Jenson led the way offensively, going 2-for-3 with a triple, two runs scored and two steals.

"It means a lot," Allan said of a win in his final regular season home game, but he was quick to look ahead. "Hopefully we can get a state playoff game at home."

Allan was a celebrity Thursday night. He played seven positions — catcher, second base, shortstop, first base, third base, left and right field — and each time he moved, the public address announcer let the crowd know.

See STANFIELD/2B

## WAR ON 84

# Masked man leading Bucks late charge

### Alex O'Rourke back from injury in time for Pendleton postseason push

By **ERIK SKOPIL**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When the incoming pitch didn't break Alex O'Rourke knew he was in trouble.

The head high fastball from Vallivue's Tyler Laird collided just there — with his head — and with it dropped the Pendleton senior to the batter's box dirt.

The subsequent moments are fuzzy. But, once his hands came away from his face doused in red, his mind raced.

"My teammates were crowding around me and I think the first thing I asked was 'Is my nose crooked?'" he remembered from the incident at the Boise tournament on March 26.

It turned out it was. That wasn't where the damage ended, either. Along with the broken nasal bridge and caved in left cavity, his left eye socket and orbital floor were fractured, as well.

The recovery time was estimated at a minimum of six weeks, or in other words, the season's remainder.

"I fully expected not to have him all year when the injury happened and with the prog-

See O'ROURKE/2B



**Hermiston Bulldogs**  
(11-11, 4-7)



**Pendleton Buckaroos**  
(10-14, 6-5)

• Friday, 4:30 p.m.  
• at Bob White Field

## MLB

# Boston rallies in the ninth to down Mariners

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Brock Holt doubled and scored the go ahead run on Rickie Weeks' error with one out in the ninth inning, Shane Victorino hit his first home run of the season and the Boston Red Sox beat the Seattle Mariners 2-1 on Thursday night for their fourth win in five games.

Holt lined the second pitch of the ninth from Seattle closer Fernando Rodney (1-2) into left-center and was easily safe at second when Weeks' throw sailed



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren  
Seattle Mariners' Chris Taylor is out on a double play at first base after Boston Red Sox first baseman Mike Napoli (12) made the catch and Taylor couldn't get back to the base in time after Justin Ruggiano flew out to right field in the seventh inning of a baseball game, Thursday in Seattle.

over Robinson Cano's head. Holt was sacrificed to third by Xander Bogaerts and pinch-hitter Pablo

Sandoval was hit by a pitch. Mookie Betts followed with a flyball that was likely deep enough

for Holt to score anyway. But Weeks closed his glove too soon and everyone was safe on the error.

Matt Barnes (2-0) allowed two hits in the eighth but escaped without giving up the lead. Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

While Holt got Boston's ninth-inning rally started, the Red Sox were in position because of Victorino. Boston's right fielder homered in the fourth off Seattle starter Roenis Elias and made a tremendous running catch on the warning track in the seventh to start a double play and likely save a run.

With Chris Taylor on first and running on the play, Justin Ruggiano hit a drive deep to right that Victorino was able to reach over his head and catch just before

See MARINERS/2B