

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, MAY 16-17, 2015

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Sports shorts

WNBA hands out record suspensions

NEW YORK (AP) — WNBA stars Brittney Griner and Glory Johnson were suspended seven games each Friday for their domestic violence arrest last month — the league’s longest ban in its 19-year history.



WNBA President Laurel Richie said the league “takes all acts of violence extremely seriously” in handing down a suspension that represents more than one-fifth of the 34-game regular season. Richie called the players’ actions “unacceptable.”

“Brittney and Glory’s conduct is detrimental to the best interests of the WNBA and violates applicable law,” Richie said in a statement. “We also understand that people make mistakes, and that education and training are as important as imposing discipline.”

Busch speedy in return to racing

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — Walking gingerly, his mood upbeat, Kyle Busch climbed back into his race car for the first time in almost three months.

FACES



Busch

He quickly settled into the No. 18 Toyota, got used to his new seat, and ripped the fastest lap in Friday’s practice session for the All-Star race.

Make no mistake, Rowdy has officially returned.

“I didn’t sleep all that great last night and I was wondering why — I wasn’t sure if my body was just thinking I would miss an alarm,” Busch said Friday.

Busch broke his right leg and left foot when he crashed into a concrete wall during the Feb. 21 Xfinity Series race at Daytona. He missed the Daytona 500 the day after the accident and 10 other races, but had his eye on returning for Saturday night’s \$1 million All-Star race during his recovery.

“That horse didn’t really get his A game together in the Kentucky Derby, and he still won. That’s a scary thought.”

— D. Wayne Lukas

Horse racing hall of fame trainer on Kentucky Derby winner American Pharoah, who is also favored to win Saturday’s Preakness Stakes, the second jewel in horse racing’s triple crown.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

May 16, 1916 — Damrosch, ridden by Linus McAtee, takes the early lead, gives it up in the stretch, and comes back to beat Greenwood by 1 lengths in the Preakness Stakes.

May 17, 1979 — Dave Kingman of the Cubs hits three home runs and Mike Schmidt of the Phillies hits two, as Philadelphia beats Chicago 23-22 in 10 innings at Wrigley Field. The game includes 11 home runs, 50 hits and 109 at-bats.

1988 — John Stockton of Utah ties Magic Johnson’s NBA playoff assist record with 24 in a 111-109 loss against the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals.

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

WAR ON 84

Smith shuts down Dawgs

Senior brings best on senior night

By ERIK SKOPILO
East Oregonian



PENDLETON — Brady Smith was in a familiar jersey for Friday’s senior night, it just wasn’t his own.

The senior right-handed pitcher traded his No. 12 for his father and Pendleton assistant Bobby Smith’s old No. 9 jersey for his final Columbia River Conference outing at

Bob White Field Friday.

“I figured it’s senior night. It’s kind of a cool thing to do,” Smith said.

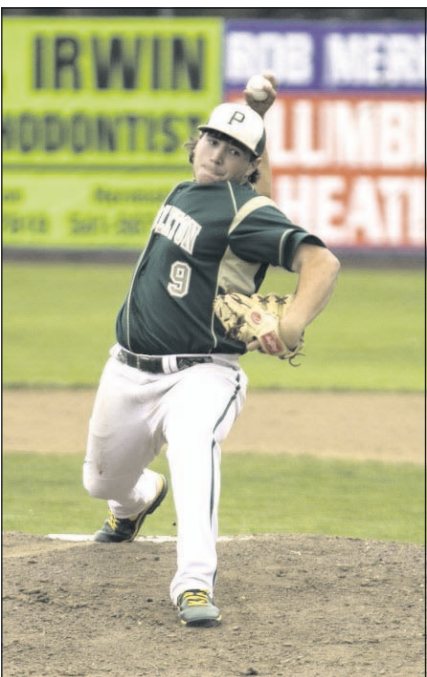
What he did on the mound Friday night against rival Hermiston was equally cool. Smith tossed a gem versus rival Hermiston. He went the duration for the first time all

season, throwing a three-hit shutout as the Buckaroos defeated the Bulldogs 7-0.

“That was by far his best (game),” Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said. “That’s what I was expecting him to do all year.”

Prone for bouts of inaccuracy, the righthander had ample command of his fastball and curveball Friday, throwing each for strikes, while walking only two. While not overpowering — he struck out just one batter — he kept the ball in

See BASEBALL/2B



The Bucks’ Brady Smith pitches during the first inning of Friday’s game against Hermiston at Bob White Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

WAR ON 84



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton’s Ellie Richards slides head first into third base as Hermiston’s Ellery Jones attempts the tag on Friday in the Bucks’ 3-1 win against Bulldogs in Pendleton.

Bucks complete sweep

Hermiston pushes Pendleton in close league finale

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After rolling through their first 11 games of league play, the Pendleton Buckaroos finally found themselves in nail biter on Friday when rival Hermiston came to town.

Pendleton’s high-scoring offense was held to its lowest total in Columbia River Conference play, but the Bucks got another solid outing from pitcher Kiersten Murphy and held on for a 3-1 win.

After winning their other league games by an average of seven runs, Pendleton head coach Tim Cary said it was good to see his team close out a close one.

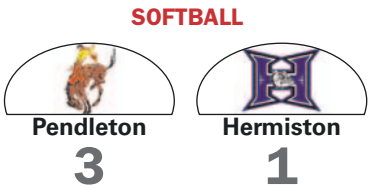
“It’s obviously been fun scoring a lot of runs, but I am glad that we played a very close game today because when we get into the play-offs we have to be able to handle



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton’s Kiersten Murphy throws from the pitching circle in the Bucks’ 3-1 win against Hermiston on Friday in Pendleton.

some pressure — where we know we can’t make mistakes, Kiersten knows she can’t afford to make mistakes and the defense also has a little added pressure on them,” he



said. “That was that type of game today, where it was close enough that it could have gone either way, so I’m glad we had this game. This is very good for us, this is a learning situation and I don’t know if could have planned it any better heading into the playoffs to have a good tight game like this.”

The Bucks got a great reminder of how mistakes can influence the scoreboard when Hermiston took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning.

Jamie Hinkley hit a two-out single that escaped the glove of a diving Alexis Morrison in left to bring in Taylor Betz from third, but wouldn’t have even gotten to the plate in the inning had it not been for Pendleton’s only fielding error

See SOFTBALL/2B

Prep Roundup

Tigers top district

Stanfield girls win first track title in decades

EO Media Group

STANFIELD — The host Tigers won their first girls district title in several decades Friday, nearly doubling up the competition despite not owning a single individual champion at the Columbia Basin District meet.

The Tiger long relay team provided the lone Stanfield win, once exhibiting the depth of athletes.

Kelly Wilson was the top performer on the girls side. The Heppner senior won three events, the shot put, long jump and triple jump. Madison Carlin was the only other individual to double up wins, taking victories in the 100 meters in the pole vault.

Irrigon took the boys crown behind strong sprints, jumps and throws. Carlos Zacarias swept the short sprints, Xavier Rambo took wins in the long and triple jumps and Adrian Romero and Oscar Romero won discus and shot put crowns. The Knights also won both relays.

Stanfield’s Hunter Braithwaite was another regular podium participant. The Tiger senior took titles in the 400 meters and the high hurdles.

The top two athletes from each event qualify for next week’s state track and field meet at Heyward Field in Eugene.

See PREPS/2B

CRC Track

Lots of locals headed to state

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — Hood River Valley won boys and girls team titles at the Columbia River Conference track and field championships on Friday in The Dalles.

Hermiston’s boys were second, and Pendleton’s girls also took second, placings that came along with several state qualifications for the local programs.

None were happier than Pendleton’s Taryn Sokolski after she grabbed on her team’s 14 state berths by placing second in the 800-meter run.

“She has never been to state and she was so overjoyed that she as crying tears of joy today because she was just so overwhelmed with happy emotion,” Pendleton head coach told Mike Weber after the meet. “Everyone

on our team had an awesome performance today.”

Fellow distance runner Delaney Clem added a win in the 3,000 to her 1,500 championship from Wednesday, and teammate Hannah Boozer won both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles as well as running legs for the relay teams, which both qualified as well.

Keagan Utter was another two-time state qualifier for the Pendleton girls. She won the discus with a throw of 117 feet, nine inches, and finished second in the shot put.

Hattie Thomson and Kristin Williams (javelin), Kiara Glover (high jump), Hailey Kendrick (pole vault) and Jackie Talbot (triple jump) also punched state tickets for the Bucks.

Hermiston’s girls placed fourth as a team, but still made state in five events.

Audrey Lincoln earned three of their berths and placed second in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes. Joining her at state will be shot put champion Jazmin Gutierrez (38-1.5) and discus runner-up Valerie Beas.

Lincoln won’t be the only Bulldog competing in multiple events next weekend at Hayward Field in Eugene.

Sprinter Chris Behrendt could be entered in up to four events after he ran for both of Hermiston’s champion relay teams, then won the 400 and placed second in the 200.

The Bulldogs’ throwers and jumpers also fared well, and Trey Neal made the state field thrice by winning in javelin (155-2) and placing second shot put and discus. Nathan Hunsaker

See TRACK/2B



Photo by Mike Weber for the East Oregonian

Pendleton’s Andrew Thomas took second place in the boys triple jump at the CRC district track meet Friday in The Dalles.