

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015

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Sports shorts

Newton lands record contract

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina general manager Dave Gettleman believes Cam Newton can lead the Panthers to “the Promised Land” so he made the fifth-year quarterback the highest-paid player in franchise history. Newton signed a franchise record \$103.8 million, five-year contract extension on Tuesday, capping 11 days of negotiations.

He will earn \$67.6 million over the first three years, the most money ever paid to an NFL player during the first three years of a contract, said a person familiar with negotiations. Newton’s contract is the largest ever doled out by Panthers owner Jerry Richardson since the team started in 1995 and will keep the 26-year-old quarterback under contract through the 2020 season.

FIFA president stepping down

ZURICH (AP) — The end for Sepp Blatter came suddenly, just days after he had seemingly solidified his hold on FIFA.

The 79-year-old leader of the world’s most popular sport defied global animosity last week to win four more years in office. But his re-election only increased the pressure from colleagues, sponsors, athletes and fans for Blatter to step down as FIFA’s president.

At a hastily arranged news conference Tuesday, Blatter announced he would leave office within months and called for a fresh election to appoint a successor.

“I cherish FIFA more than anything and I want to do only what is best for FIFA and for football,” said Blatter, who could still be a target of U.S. investigators delving into decades of corruption and bribery accusations against FIFA officials.

“I made a mistake. I’m not taking it lightly at all. It’s something I regret. My son knows that.”

— **Adrian Peterson** Minnesota Vikings RB in his first interview after returning to team activities on Monday. Peterson, who was placed on commissioner’s exempt list last season after he whipped his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch. Peterson has gone through counseling and therapy sessions as part of his plea agreement. He had been holding out of team activities, and said he considered retirement and switching to track before deciding to return to the NFL.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1992 — Chicago’s Michael Jordan scores a record 35 points, including a record six 3-pointers, in the first half as the Bulls beat Portland 122-89 in the opening game of the NBA Finals. Jordan finishes with 39 points and Chicago is only two points shy of the largest victory margin in the finals.

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

MILTON-FREEWATER

Pioneers bury Tigers in semis

Mac-Hi’s Rachael Lyon slides safely into home Tuesday against Yamhill-Carlton in Milton-Freewater.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Mac-Hi breaks state record with blowout win

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

Even the Yantis Park scoreboard couldn’t keep up with Mac-Hi Tuesday.

Unable to count past 19, the centerfield-stationed run counter fell behind the Pioneers’ pace in the fourth inning. The end tally was 24, the most ever scored in a semifinal softball game in Oregon high school history, and plenty to dismantle third-

4A Softball: Semifinals

 Mac-Hi	 Yamhill
24	0

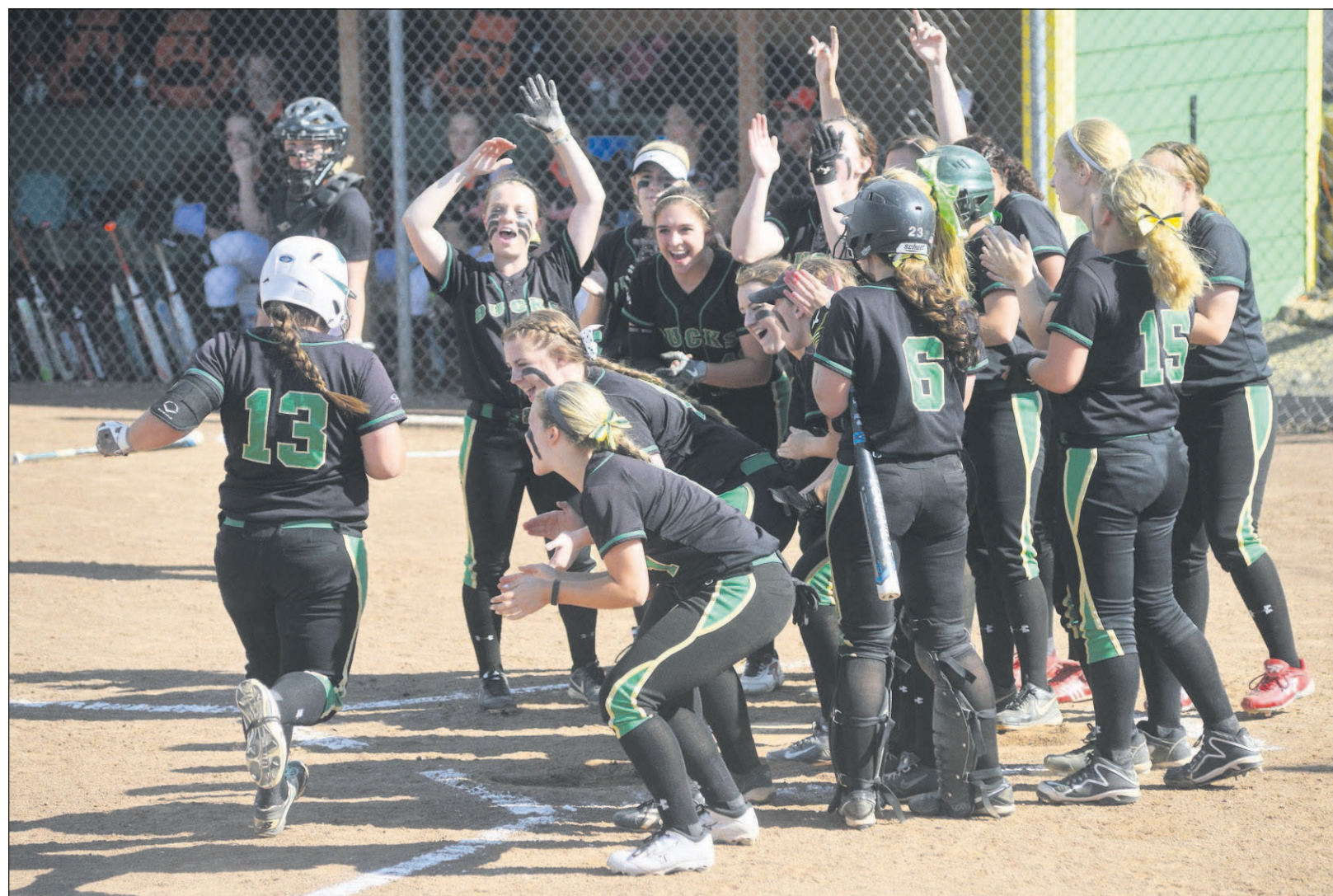
seeded Yamhill-Carlton 24-0 to advance to the school’s third consecutive Class 4A state championship game.

It was nothing anyone could’ve anticipated when they turned in to watch two of the state’s top softball programs compete in with a title berth on the line.

“Did I think that would ever happen today? No. I See PIONEERS/2B

PENDLETON

Bucks blast into finals



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton’s Tiah Grass is greeted at home plate by her teammates after hitting a home run in the Bucks’ 10-0 win against Silverton on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Pendleton continues postseason tear, beats Silverton in five

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Buckaroos announced their return to the state championship loud and clear.


The defending 5A softball champions outclassed the Silverton Foxes in all phases for a 10-0 win in five innings on Tuesday at Steve Cary Field.

Alexis Morrison, Tiah Grass and Darian Lindsey all hit home runs

to re-write the state record book, and Kiersten Murphy was backed by nearly flawless defense for a no-hitter.

“We have a lot of quality hitters out there that love to hit the ball,” said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. “They do take a lot of batting practice and they do compete with each other to see how many they can hit out of

5A Softball: Semifinals

 Pendleton	 Silverton
10	0

the yard. It’s just fun to watch them go out and have fun playing softball.”

Morrison and Grass bombed Silverton pitcher Daisy Hernandez back to back in the bottom of the first inning, the second time in as many games they’d accomplished the act, and pushed Pendleton’s season total past the record 36 long

balls it hit last season.

“Once Alexis gets one of those great hits, either on the ground, in the air or out of the park, it gets me pumped,” Grass said. “It’s just one of those things where it’s a duo for us. Once she hits one, it’s just, ‘Oh, I bet Tiah will hit one.’”

Morrison’s was a two-run shot that scored Payton Hergert, who had just driven in the eventual

See BUCKS/3B

PENDLETON

Hood River eliminates Pendleton on walk-off

Harvey breaks up scoreless game with extra-inning single

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — Patrick Harvey halted Pendleton’s string of postseason upsets with an extra inning walk-off single Tuesday.

Harvey’s hit brought Kam Walker home for the game’s only run, sending Hood River Valley to the Class 5A state championship game with a 1-0 victory and the Buckaroos back to Pendleton for the summer.

Pendleton was seeded fourteenth in the 4A tournament, but knocked off better-seeded Corvallis and Crescent Valley before meeting

defeat at the hands of the league rival Eagles (21-8). The loss concluded the Buckaroos’ (14-15) season one game short of the state championship game for the fourth time in 10 seasons.



“The turnaround in postseason was amazing,” Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said. “We played some great baseball this postseason — today included.”

Pitchers Quinn Cockburn and Ryan Ward kept the opposition off the board through seven innings to force extra baseball.

Each pitcher ran into trouble in extras.

Ward allowed consecutive hits to Jack Peterson and then Wyatt Morris to open the eighth. Morris’

5A Baseball: Semifinals

 Hood River	 Pendleton
1	0

hit was a double to the right field fence. The smack brought Peterson around second and then third, but the junior was thrown out at home by Walker’s

heave from second base. “The way the Ward kid was pitching we thought we had to take the chance,” Whitten said of the decision to send him home. “In hindsight, you say you might do it differently, but we probably do the same.”

Pinch hitter TJ Hancock walked to put runners on first and second with one out, but neither Kyler Lunny or Tony Papol could bring them home.

Cockburn failed to get an out in his portion of the eighth, loading

the bases by hitting a batter, over-throwing Devon Roe at first on a sac bunt attempt and then an intentional walk.

Harvey took three balls and a strike before sending the fifth offering to right field for the game winning run.

“It was a well-played intense high school game,” Whitten said. “Really tough to lose it, but really well played by both teams.”

Neither side truly threatened during the opening seven innings. Kyler Lunny got to third in the first, but that was the only Buckaroo in scoring position.

Cockburn was the hard-luck loser, going the distance, while allowing just four hits and walking three. He struck out six batters.

See PHS BASEBALL/3B