

Buckaroos confident under new coach

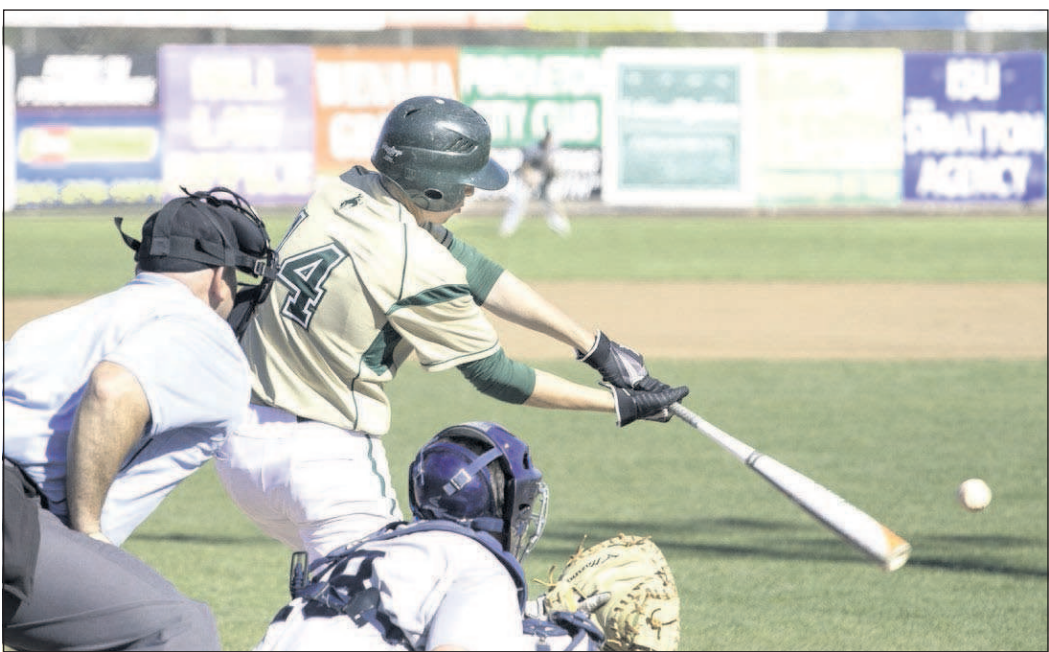
PENDLETON BASEBALL
COACH: T.J. Haguewood, 1st year
2015 SEASON: 14-15 overall, 7-5 CRC (2nd)
POSTSEASON STORY: The No. 14 seed Buckaroos lost to Hood River 1-0 in the semifinals of the 5A state tournament.
RETURNERS: Quinn Cockburn, sr., P; Caden Smith, jr., INF; Kai Quinn, sr., OF; James Bradt, sr., INF/RHP.

By **ERIC SINGER**
East Oregonian

In 2015, the Pendleton baseball team became a Cinderella story in the 5A state tournament as the No. 14 seed Buckaroos knocked off the No. 3 seed Corvallis and the No. 6 seed Crescent Valley to earn a trip to the semifinals. The Bucks nearly made it to the state championship game, losing 1-0 to the eventual state champion and league rival Hood River Valley.

But with that loss ushered in a new era in Pendleton baseball, as long-time coach Greg Whitten stepped aside after 10 years. In his place is assistant and former Western-McEwen head coach T.J. Haguewood, who says that program expectations shouldn't change moving forward.

"There's always expectations for playoffs and to compete for the state title," he said. "We've had decades of successful base-



In this April 21, 2015 file photo, James Bradt, of Pendleton, makes contact in a bases loaded situation against Hood River at Bob White Field.

ball not because of one man but because of the community that supports the teams and develops the kids each year."

The 2016 Buckaroos are built just like the 2015 version — a good pitching staff with good hitting and great defense.

"We should be real solid defensively and we should put some pressure on our opponents by bringing good approaches to the plate," Haguewood said. "We should have a solid staff as long as they keep the ball down and let the defense do the work."

Pendleton will have to fill in the holes left by the departures of six seniors including all-league selections in outfielder Kyler Lunny, infielder Tony Papol, infielder Brady Smith, and catcher

Alex O'Rourke. In their place, Haguewood says he's intrigued to see how some of the younger players step in and develop over the course of the season.

"We have several guys that are looking to crack the varsity lineup, and we've seen guys in a lot of different positions at practice which has been interesting," he said. "Guys like (sophomore) Nick Bower, (junior) Austin Zaugg, and (sophomore) Shaw Jerome could break in quick and get a lot of varsity playing time ... we have some holes but we have plenty of guys back to help."

Pendleton will lean heavy on returners such as senior outfielder Kai Quinn, infielder James Bradt, and junior infielder Caden Smith — who was a first team all-con-

ference selection after hitting .298 with two home runs, five doubles, and 17 RBI.

On the mound, the Bucks will once again lean on senior pitcher Quinn Cockburn to carry the load at the front end of the rotation. He turned in a solid season with a 5-5 record and a 2.25 ERA which was good enough to land on the second team all-CRC. After Cockburn, Haguewood mentioned that the rotation is still being hammered out, but guys like senior James Bradt and Wyatt Morris will be leading candidates to round out the staff.

As the first pitches are about to be thrown, Haguewood knows there are still areas of his squad that need shored up.

"As a coach I always see

2016 SCHEDULE		
Mar. 15	vs. Southridge (WA)	4 p.m.
Mar. 18	at Hanford (DH)	3 p.m.
Mar. 21	vs. Roseburg (DH)	12 p.m.
Mar. 24	vs. Madison (at Boise, ID)	Noon
Mar. 25	vs. Skyline (at Boise, ID)	9:30 a.m.
Mar. 25	vs. Jerome (at Boise, ID)	2:30 p.m.
Mar. 26	vs. Canyon (at Boise, ID)	9:30 a.m.
Mar. 29	vs. La Grande	4 p.m.
Apr. 4	vs. Walla Walla	4 p.m.
Apr. 7	at La Grande	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 11	at Walla Walla	4 p.m.
Apr. 16	at Hood River* (DH)	Noon
Apr. 19	vs. Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 23	at The Dalles* (DH)	12 p.m.
Apr. 26	vs. The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 29	vs. Hermiston* (DH)	4 p.m.
May 3	at Hermiston*	4:30 p.m.
May 6	vs. Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
May 10	vs. The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
May 13	at Hermiston*	4:30 p.m.
May 16	vs. Baker	4:30 p.m.

*league game

PENDLETON

Good Luck!

Mc LAUGHLIN LANDSCAPING

Quality & Service from the ground up!

1160 Tutuilla Rd., Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-5945 • (541) 567-3660
McLaughlinLandscaping.com

PHILIP W. REEVES, D.C.

CHIROPRACTOR

310 SE 2ND STREET, SUITE 201
PENDLETON, OREGON 97801

541-278-2225

You're the Best, Pendleton!

Mc LAUGHLIN LANDSCAPING

Quality & Service from the ground up!

1160 Tutuilla Rd., Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-5945 • (541) 567-3660
McLaughlinLandscaping.com

GOOD LUCK!

OSO KLEEN

CLEANING & RESTORATION

541-567-3781
905 Diagonal • Hermiston
www.osokleen.com

Go Bucks!

RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Member FINRA/SIPC

305 SW Dorion Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801
8797 W. Gage Blvd., Ste. C-103
Kennewick, WA 99336
541-276-9184 • 800-276-9184
www.RaymondJames.com/JohnCimmiyotti

Good Luck Bucks!

Pendleton Book Co.

125 S. Main St.
Pendleton
541-276-9292

BAARSTAD'S GENERAL CONTRACTING

Residential • Commercial
Larry Baarstad
Owner

541-276-7235

Construction Contractors Board #104698
Manufactured Dwelling Installer 1303 MDI

EASTERN OREGON PHYSICAL THERAPY

1100 Southgate
Suite #15
Pendleton
541-276-4011

4th Street Speedwash Coin-Op Laundry

We should've gone to 4th Street Speedwash

Open 7AM - 9PM Daily
415 SE 4th St., Pendleton
KAREN & CARL SHODIN, OWNERS
541.969.8554 or 541.969.8330

GO BUCKS!

Gordon's ELECTRIC, INC.

ELECTRICAL • COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL • INDUSTRIAL

214 SE Emigrant, Pendleton
541-276-3154

Arne's

- Septic Pumping and Service
- Sewer and Drain Cleaning
- Royal Thrones

Why Pay More?
541-276-6595

CCR031723 DEC03082

ECHO HOHE BIKE & BOARD

253 S MAIN ST.
PENDLETON, OR 97801

541.376.8500
W-F: 12-6 Sat 10-6

Go Bucks!

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC.

Insuring Eastern Oregon
For Over 30 Years

www.wheatlandins.com

Pendleton • Athena • Hermiston
Heppner • Ione • La Grande • Enterprise
Elgin • Baker City • Condon

Go Bucks!

PENDLETON ATHLETIC

Don't miss 35 YEARS 1980 2016

249 S. Main, Pendleton
541-276-6988
Carl Broker

www.deansathletic.com

Go Bucks!

MID COLUMBIA BUS

276-5621 • 73458 BUS BARN LANE

Go Bucks!

MID COLUMBIA BUS

276-5621 • 73458 BUS BARN LANE

Go Bucks!

Western Auto Home & Appliance

320 SW Emigrant
Pendleton
541-276-3534
1-800-580-3534

Pendleton & Boardman TIRE FACTORY

25 Hwy 11, Eastgate Pendleton
541-276-2774

101 SE Front St., Boardman
541-481-5455

Pediatric Specialists of Pendleton, LLC

Go Bucks!

541-276-0250
2461 SW Perkins Ave
Pendleton, OR 97801

Go Bucks!

Mc LAUGHLIN LANDSCAPING

Quality & Service from the ground up!

1160 Tutuilla Rd., Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-5945 • (541) 567-3660
McLaughlinLandscaping.com

Hallman Law Office

W. Eugene Hallman Trial Attorney

**Practicing Law in Pendleton since 1975*

104 SE 5th St. • Pendleton • (541) 276-3857

Go Bucks!

Go Bucks!

OLSEN'S AUTO PARTS

814 SW Emigrant Ave.,
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-276-6990
olsensautoparts@gmail.com

Good Luck Bucks!

CHI St. Anthony Hospital

Imagine better health.™

2801 ST. ANTHONY WAY, PENDLETON, OR 97801
WWW.SAHPENDLETON.ORG