

# Buckaroos look to continue title trend

**PENDLETON SOFTBALL**

**COACH:** Tim Cary, 12th year  
**2015 season:** 22-8, 12-0 CRC (1st)

**POSTSEASON STORY:** The No. 2 seed Bucks finished as the 5A runners-up after losing to Putnam 3-2 in the state title game.

**LOSSES:** INF Darian Lindsey, OF Tiah Grass, C Mykal Weissenfluh, OF Shelby Harris, INF Shelby Spriet

**KEY RETURNERS:** OF Alexis Morrison, sr.; INF Ellie Richards, sr.; P Kiersten Murphy, sr.; OF Peyton Hergert, jr.; INF Lauren Richards, soph.

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Buckaroos have been one of the best teams in 5A over the last several seasons, appearing in the state title game four times in the last five years and winning titles in 2013 and 2014.

But this year’s team has a long road to travel if it wants to reach that level again. The Bucks must replace five seniors, including three big ones in Tiah Grass (11 home runs, 38 RBI), Mykal Weissenfluh (.329 avg., 15 RBI), and Darian Lindsey — who was the 5A Player of the Year in 2015 after hitting .606 with 13 home runs.

Bucks coach Tim Cary said the team is shaping slowly but surely with several spots on the field



Ellie Richards eyes a pitch last season in the firduring a game at at Steve Cary Field.

up for grabs. Sophomores Kalan McGlothan and Rylee Gentner are getting long looks to replace Lindsey at third base (“I don’t know if you truly can replace someone like Darian,” Cary said), and freshman Kila Solomon is expected to fill the catcher spot vacated by Weissenfluh.

In those state finalist teams, the Buckaroos calling card was their tremendous power on offense and the ability to hit home runs with ease. In

2015, the Buckaroos averaged more than nine runs per game and won games by an average of almost six runs apiece. While Cary expects the power to still be a strength in 2015, he believes it won’t be as prevalent as in those past teams.

“Hitting will be our strength, no doubt, but it will probably be more doubles and extra base hits rather than home runs,” he said.

Pendleton returns two Division I signees and all-state players in

senior shortstop Ellie Richards and senior outfielder Alexis Morrison who will likely carry the offensive load in 2016. Richards hit .487 with 13 doubles, 35 RBI and 52 runs scored, while outfielder Morrison hit .453 with nine home runs.

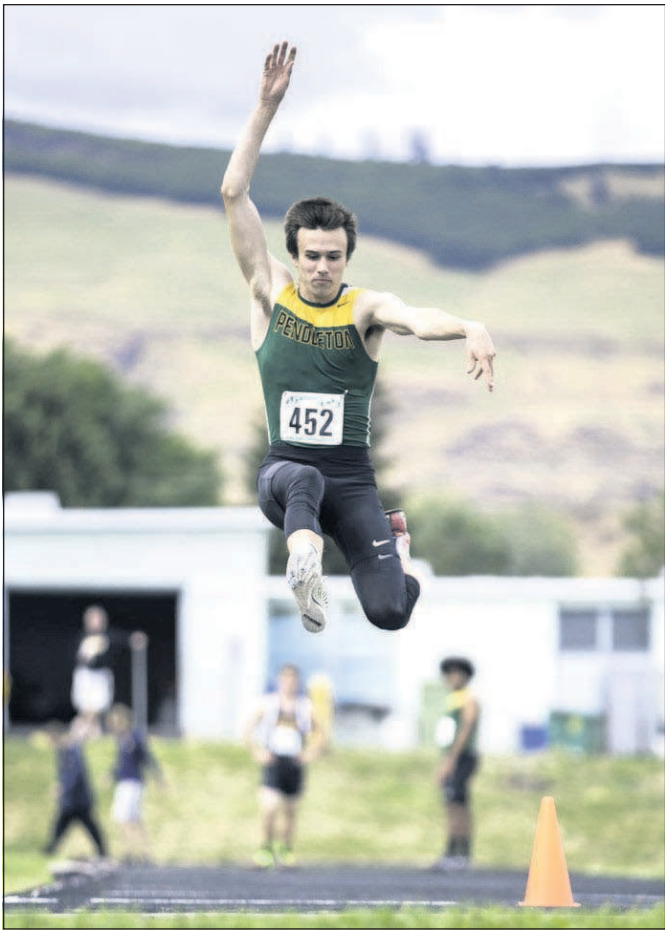
Another strength for Pendleton will be on the pitching rubber, as senior Kiersten Murphy returns after a 2015 season that landed her on the third team all-state and first team all-CRC rosters. She led the

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                               |           |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Mar. 15       | vs. Hanford                   | 4 p.m.    |
| Mar. 18       | vs. Kamiakin (DH)             | 3 p.m.    |
| Mar. 21       | vs. Century (at Putnam)       | Noon      |
| Mar. 21       | vs. Oregon City (at Putnam)   | 4 p.m.    |
| Mar. 22       | vs. Central Cath. (at Putnam) | Noon      |
| Mar. 22       | at Rex Putnam                 | 2 p.m.    |
| Mar. 23       | at Sandy                      | TBD       |
| Mar. 29       | vs. La Grande                 | 4:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 4        | vs. Walla Walla (DH)          | 3 p.m.    |
| Apr. 7        | at La Grande                  | 4:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 12       | vs. Mac-Hi                    | 4:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 16       | at Hood River* (DH)           | Noon      |
| Apr. 19       | vs. Hood River*               | 4:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 23       | at The Dalles* (DH)           | Noon      |
| Apr. 26       | vs. The Dalles*               | 4:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 29       | vs. Hermiston* (DH)           | 3 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

Dylan Clemons long jumps Wednesday at the Columbia River Conference district track and field meet in The Dalles.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



## PENDLETON TRACK & FIELD

**COACH:** Larry Brizendine and Dustin Breshears, 1st year

**POSTSEASON STORY:** The Buckaroos finished the season in the middle of the pack at the state meet, with the boys finishing 15th and the girls 16th.

**RETURNERS:** (BOYS) Nolan Bylenga, sr.; Andrew Porter, sr.; Johnny Stuvland jr.; Dylan Clemons, sr.; (GIRLS) Delaney Clem, sr.; Keegan Utter, sr.; Kiara Glover, jr.; Taryn Sokoloski, jr.; Jackie Talbot, jr.



the pack.

Stuvland is not expected to join competition until close to districts, as he is still recovering from a knee injury suffered in early February during basketball.

The coaches are also excited for the first meet, when they host the Buck Track Classic on Mar. 17.

“I’m excited to see how they do in competition,” Brizendine said. “It’ll be fun to see who steps up and see who’s hard work paid off the most.”

The Pendleton Buckaroos have a big group of runners, throwers and jumpers for the 2016 season with 113 athletes participating so far.

Those numbers excite co-coaches Dustin Breshears and Larry Brizendine on the potential of this years’ team.

“We’re hoping with as many as we have out this year we can have a strong shot at a district crown,” Brizendine said. “We have 34 seniors, too, so we’re hoping that experience helps lead the way.”

The Buckaroos return several participants from state competition from one year ago, with Nolan Bylenga (2nd place, 800M), Johnny Stuvland (2nd place, high jump), Taryn Sokoloski (9th place, 800M), and Kiara Glover (4th, high jump) leading

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                            |           |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Mar. 17       | Buck Track Classic         | Noon      |
| Apr. 1        | Mac-Hi Carnival of Speed   | Noon      |
| Apr. 8        | at River’s Edge (Umatilla) | TBD       |
| Apr. 9        | at Oregon City             | 10 a.m.   |
| Apr. 15       | Green and Gold Invite      | 3 p.m.    |
| Apr. 16       | at Pasco Invite            | 9:30 a.m. |
| Apr. 23       | at Hermiston Invite        | TBD       |
| Apr. 30       | at Ontario Invite          | 11 a.m.   |
| May 6         | at Hood River              | 4 p.m.    |
| May 11        | Districts (at Hermiston)   | TBD       |
| May 12        | Districts (at Hermiston)   | TBD       |

## PENDLETON GOLF

**BOYS COACH:** Nels Nelson, 33rd year

**POSTSEASON STORY:** Pendleton finished fourth in the new 5A Special District 2 tournament to qualify for the state tournament, where they finished seventh out of 10 teams.

**RETURNERS:** Reilly Hegarty, sr.; Brayden Pulver, jr.; Nathan Som, jr.; Jared Geier, soph.



**GIRLS COACH:** Teri Prouse, 21st year

**POSTSEASON STORY:** The Buckaroos finished in fourth place at the 5A Special District 2 tournament to qualify for the state tournament, where they also turned in a fourth place finish.

**RETURNERS:** Haley Greb, jr.; Shelby Greb, sr.; McKenna Pratt, sr.

With one year under their belts in the OSAA’s new district format, the Pendleton Buckaroos believe they can make some noise in year two.

“It’s such a different format,” said coach Nels Nelson. “Having so many teams in your district now, it really forces you to turn it on at the end.”

Pendleton returns four state qualifiers from the varsity roster last season, led by senior Reilly Hegarty and junior Brayden Pulver. Hegarty finished tied for 13th at the state tournament last season, while Pulver finished tied for 30th. Both Nathan Som and Jared Geier finished tied for 38th.

The Buckaroos kick off the season at the nine-hole The Dalles Country Club course, which coach Nels Nelson said can be a tough course to start the season off on.

“It can be a real difficult if the conditions are right,” he said. “I’d like to see the guys play well there and at Eagle Ridge before we come home where we can hopefully display our talents well at Wildhorse.”

Just like their boys counterparts, the Buckaroos girls golf team returns three out of five varsity starters from the state qualifying team from 2015.

The team is headed by sisters Haley and Shelby Greb, who each turned in top-10 finishes at the state tournament a year ago. Haley, a junior, finished third in the 5A state tournamnet last season after shooting a two-round total of 147 to sit just three shots above par and seven shots out of first place, which has led to some high expectations from Prouse for the coming season.

Pendleton also returns senior McKenna Pratt who finished 38th at the state tournament.

The team will have to replace starters Whitney and Britney Bahrns, and Prouse has several players competing for their spots with two seniors, two juniors, one sophomore and three freshmen competing against each other.

Prouse also stated that she’s intrigued to see how the team performs at Indian Creek Golf Course on Apr. 6, which is the same course where the district tournaments will be held on May 9-10.

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                     |            |
|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| Mar. 18       | at The Dalles CC    | 10 a.m.    |
| Apr. 1        | at Eagle Ridge GC   | 8 a.m.     |
| Apr. 4        | at Wildhorse Resort | Noon       |
| Apr. 6        | at Indian Creek GC  | 10 a.m.    |
| Apr. 11       | at Bend CC          | 10:40 a.m. |
| Apr. 14       | at Pendleton CC     | Noon       |
| Apr. 18       | at Tetherow GC      | 10 a.m.    |
| Apr. 21       | at Big River GC     | 9 a.m.     |
| Apr. 25       | at Meadowlakes GC   | 11 a.m.    |
| Apr. 27       | at Trysting Tree GC | TBA        |
| May 6         | at Eagle Ridge GC   | 11 a.m.    |
| May 7         | at Eagle Ridge GC   | 10 a.m.    |
| May 16        | at Trysting Tree GC | TBA        |
| May 17        | at Trysting Tree GC | TBA        |

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                             |           |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Mar. 15       | at The Dalles CC            | 10 a.m.   |
| Apr. 1        | at Eagle Ridge GC           | 1:30 p.m. |
| Apr. 4        | at Wildhorse Resort         | Noon      |
| Apr. 6        | at Indian Creek GC          | 10 a.m.   |
| Apr. 12       | at Awbrey Glen GC           | TBA       |
| Apr. 18       | at Bend CC                  | TBA       |
| Apr. 26       | at Pendleton CC             | Noon      |
| Apr. 28       | at Quail Valley GC          | TBA       |
| May 9         | Districts (at Indian Creek) | TBA       |
| May 10        | Districts (at Indian Creek) | TBA       |
| May 16        | State (at Quail Valley GC)  | TBA       |
| May 17        | State (at Quail Valley GC)  | TBA       |

## PENDLETON TENNIS

**BOYS COACH:** Chris Holdman, 6th year

**POSTSEASON STORY:** The Buckaroos did not advance past the district tournament.

**RETURNERS:** Henry Holdman, sr., Lincoln Johnson, jr.

**GIRLS COACH:** Rocky Dillenburg, 12th year

**POSTSEASON STORY:** The Buckaroos lone representative at the state tournament was Matilde Cittadini, who lost both of her matches.

**RETURNERS:** Anna James, sr.; Julia Livingston, sr.; Jenna Senter, jr.

Buckaroos coach Chris Holdman said that 2016 could be a ‘learning season’ for his team as he tries to replace four seniors with years of experience under their belts with a several inexperienced underclassmen.

Pendleton’s returning players are senior Henry Holdman and junior Lincoln Johnson who should be the Buckaroos’ top two singles players. On the doubles side, Peter Wallace and Silas Johnson are expected to be the top pair for the team as well.

The Pendleton Buckaroos lineup is wide open heading into the 2016 season as the team tries to fill the holes left by five top players from 2015.

Seniors Anna James and Julia Livingston move up into the teams’ top doubles pair this season, and junior Jenna Senter moves up from the No. 3 doubles team into the No. 1 singles player to start the season. Hannah Flanagan was expected to move into the No. 1 singles spot, but she is expected to miss the entire the season with a knee injury.

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                          |        |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Mar. 29       | vs. Baker                | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 1        | at Mac-Hi                | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 4        | vs. La Grande            | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 6        | vs. Hood River           | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 8        | at Baker                 | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 12       | vs. Hermiston            | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 14       | at The Dalles            | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 18       | vs. Mac-Hi               | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 20       | at Hood River            | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 22       | at La Grande             | 4 p.m. |
| May 3         | vs. The Dalles           | 4 p.m. |
| May 5         | at Hermiston             | 4 p.m. |
| May 10        | vs. Umatilla             | 4 p.m. |
| May 13        | Districts (at Hermiston) | TBD    |

| 2016 SCHEDULE |                     |        |
|---------------|---------------------|--------|
| Mar. 29       | vs. Baker           | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 1        | vs. Mac-Hi          | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 4        | vs. La Grande       | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 6        | at Hood River       | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 8        | at Baker            | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 12       | at Hermiston        | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 14       | vs. The Dalles      | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 18       | at Mac-Hi           | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 20       | vs. Hood River      | 4 p.m. |
| Apr. 22       | at La Grande        | 4 p.m. |
| May 3         | at The Dalles       | 4 p.m. |
| May 5         | vs. Hermiston       | 4 p.m. |
| May 10        | vs. Umatilla        | 4 p.m. |
| May 13        | Districts (at Bend) | 4 p.m. |

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