

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

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1B

Sports shorts

Capitals first NHL team to clinch playoff berth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored in overtime and the Washington Capitals picked up their 50th win of the season and became the first NHL team to clinch a playoff spot as they beat the Carolina Hurricanes 2-1 Tuesday night.

Ovechkin scored his seventh game-winner of the season 1:38 into overtime after the Capitals clinched a playoff spot by picking up a point.

It's their eighth playoff appearance in nine seasons and one that has been inevitable for a long time as they've skated away from the rest of the field.

Justin Williams also scored for Washington, which got 25 saves from Braden Holtby.



Seattle signs OL J'Marcus Webb to 2-year contract

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks continued to address their offensive line by agreeing to a \$6.25 million, two-year contract with J'Marcus Webb.

Webb posted pictures from the Seahawks facility on social media Tuesday.

Webb started all 16 games last season for Oakland as a guard, but has played tackle in the past and could be an option for Seattle at that position depending on what happens with free agent Russell Okung.

His versatility to play both guard and tackle is important for Seattle as it retools its offensive line with the uncertainty around Okung's future and with guard J.R. Sweezy signing in Tampa Bay.

FACES



Webb

"If I could just get Andre McGee in a room for 10 minutes, I would say to him: 'Why would you do this? What purpose did it serve? We didn't need this to get recruits ... It didn't make any sense what was going on.'"

— **Rick Pitino**
Louisville men's basketball coach speaking on ESPN's 'Mike and Mike' on Tuesday about the schools' recruiting scandal involving former graduate assistant and assistant coach Andre McGee and the resulting postseason ban.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1938 — Temple defeats Colorado 60-36 in the first National Invitation Tournament and the first major postseason basketball tournament.

2001 — A record number of low-seeded teams advance in the men's NCAA Tournament. Indiana State, Butler, Temple, Charlotte and Fresno State join 12th-seeded Gonzaga in advancing, meaning 13 of the tournament's 32 first-round games were won by underdogs.

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

PENDLETON



Pendleton players crowd around home plate to cheer Alexis Morrison after she hit a home run Tuesday against Hanford.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Bucks launch into season



Kiersten Murphy, of Pendleton, pitches during Tuesday's game against Hanford at Steve Cary Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton hits two home runs, shuts out Hanford

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Like the rest of her teammates, Pendleton's Alexis Morrison was anxious to take some cuts against live pitching when the Buckaroos hosted Hanford for their season opener Tuesday at Steve Cary Field.

Leading off the bottom of the first inning, Morrison watched two balls and a strike cross the plate before

Softball	
Hanford	Pendleton
0	6

Hanford's Nikki Redfield gave her a pitch she liked.

With her first swing of the season, Morrison launched the offering high into the air and Hanford's outfielders didn't even bother giving chase as the ball easily cleared the fence in left-center to give the Bucks all the cushion they would need to beat the Falcons.

Tatum Fell also hit a home run and three pitchers combined for a shutout as Pendleton cruised 6-0.

See BUCKS/2B

PENDLETON

Pendleton struggles, falls to Southridge in debut

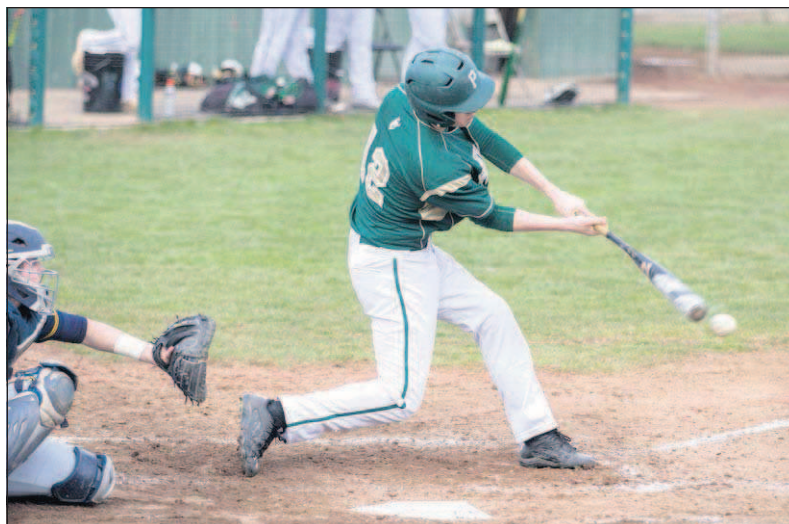
Pendleton registers just four hits, racks up four errors in season opener

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The Pendleton Buckaroos kicked off the 2016 baseball season on Tuesday afternoon, dropping an 8-2 contest with the Southridge (WA) Suns at Bob White Field.

The end result may not have been what they wanted, but in the end the Buckaroos (0-1) were just happy to be back on the confines of Bob White Field.

"It's definitely good to get in game action," Pendleton coach T.J. Haguwood said. "You can't beat baseball; the sounds, the smell and look of the grass, and a bunch of kids running around having a good time playing baseball."



Austin Zaugg, of Pendleton, swings and misses in Tuesday's game against Southridge at Bob White Field.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Senior Quinn Cockburn got the opening day nod on the mound for the Buckaroos, and pitched a solid 4.2 innings while allowing seven

hits, five runs (one earned), with three strikeouts. Haguwood said aside from some first-game jitters, he was pleased with Cockburn's

Baseball	
Southridge	Pendleton
8	2

performance. "He's our go-to guy and I thought he threw it well today," he said. "A couple of things didn't go his way here and there but he came right back and got guys out and that's what you ask for in a pitcher. You can't have every situation be manageable, you have to handle adversity and I thought he did a good job with that."

Southridge (1-0) netted its first run in the top of the first inning as Bucks' second baseman Jack Peterson couldn't handle a hard grounder from Kyle Harvey and booted it into right field, scoring

See PENDLETON/2B

HERMISTON

Ravens peck Bulldogs in first game

Offense comes out flat in loss to Ridgeview

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

The Hermiston baseball team's pitching staff struck out 10 Ridgeview batters, but the offense couldn't capitalize and the Ravens sent the Bulldogs packing with a 3-1 win Tuesday in Redmond.

"We looked good," assistant coach John Christy said. "It was just the first game, getting it out

Baseball	
Hermiston	Ridgeview
1	3

of the way."

Senior lefty RJ Robles started and went two innings, allowing two runs in the process. Big righty Tyler Sexton threw the next three innings, and Chase Root finished up.

Between them they allowed just the three runs while striking out 10, allowed just two hits, but walked six. Christy lamented the

walks, saying it forced Ridgeview (1-0) runners into scoring position.

Offensively, Hermiston (0-1) rolled over too many ground balls, eliminating opportunities.

Hayden Edmiston and Slade Gritz each doubled for the Bulldogs.

Hermiston's home opener is Friday when the Bulldogs host Central Catholic. First pitch is set for 2 p.m.

				R	H	E
HHS	000	001	0	1	5	0
RHS	110	010	0	3	2	1

R. Robles, T. Sexton, C. Root, S. Gritz and K. Caldwell. T. Wilson and T. Zampelli. W. — Wilson. L. — Robles.
2B — H. Edmiston, S. Gritz (HHS), R. Barber (RHS).

HERMISTON

Dawgs drop opener

Hermiston softball not concerned with lopsided score

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

The spread of the score might be large, but that isn't cause for concern for the Hermiston softball team.

Ellery Jones and Mikayla Kopacz each hit doubles,

James Hinkley had two hits and scored two runs, but the Ridgeview Ravens came away with a 10-3 win Tuesday in a varsity softball game at Sunset

Elementary School.

"We didn't get hammered at all, and that was a really cool thing," first-year coach Kate Greenough said. "We got outplayed in innings, some innings we definitely lost. And some innings we won. But we didn't get hammered, and that was cool. We hung with them. We made a couple mistakes that cost us a little more runs than they gave up."

The Ravens (1-0), a playoff team in last year's 5A state bracket, scored six runs in the first two innings, four of which were unearned. Of Ridgeview's four first-inning runs, all were unearned.

After Hermiston (0-1) starting pitcher Julissa Almaguer started the initial frame with two groundouts, Brook Herrington and Alex-See DAWGS/2B

Prep Roundup

Buckaroos cruise to win at The Dalles

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Pendleton Buckaroos girls golf team kicked off its 2016 slate with a big win at The Dalles Country Club on Tuesday afternoon.

The Buckaroos combined for a team score of 383 and blew away the competition as Clackamas drew in at second place with a team score of 454. Hermiston scored a 488, and

See PREPS/2B