

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Sports shorts

### Pac-12 gets four in women's Sweet 16

It was a record 24 hours for the Pac-12 as the conference has four teams in the Sweet 16 for the first time ever.

Oregon State advanced Sunday night and then Washington got Monday started with an upset of Maryland, 74-65. UCLA and Stanford kept the strong night for the conference going.



The conference had three teams reach the regional semifinals three times, in 1988, 1992 and 2009.

Making the Sweet 16 is nothing new for Stanford, but UCLA and Washington are back for the first time in a while. The Bruins haven't made it this far since 1999 and the Huskies since 2001.

### James enters playoff mode, steps back from social media

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron's locked in already. Now he's got to get the Cavs to, ahem, follow him.

Following a personal rite of spring he began several years ago, LeBron James has begun preparing for the upcoming NBA playoffs by limiting his access to social

media in order to avoid outside distractions as he and the Cavaliers make another run at an NBA title. James, who has coined his social media

blackout "Zero Dark 23,"

took some early steps toward sharpening his focus by unfollowing the Cavaliers' account — and those of some media members — on Twitter. That click, which coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the online social networking giant's launch, caused a seismic wave on the Internet at nearly the same time James and the Cavs were clinching their second straight Central Division title.

And while the four-time league MVP didn't offer any specifics Wednesday, he did acknowledge that he's shifted into playoff mode with several weeks still left in the season.

"We don't have that knowledge and background, and scientifically, so there's no way in the world to say you have a relationship relative to anything here."

— **Jerry Jones**  
Dallas Cowboys owner saying he doesn't think there is enough evidence to link playing football to the brain disease CTE.

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1974** — N.C. State ends UCLA's streak of seven national championships with an 80-77 victory in double overtime of the NCAA Tournament semifinals. David Thompson leads the Wolfpack with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

**1994** — Wayne Gretzky scores his 802nd goal, passing Gordie Howe as the greatest goal-scorer in NHL history. The Los Angeles Kings center scores in the second period for his 62nd NHL record.

**2010** — The NFL changes its overtime rules for playoff games to give both teams an opportunity to get the ball.

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

## PENDLETON

# Buckaroos split at Spring Break Bash

## Morrison racks up four hits and two home runs on the day

East Oregonian

HAPPY VALLEY — The Pendleton Buckaroos hit the dirt at Hood View Park for day two of the Putnam Spring Break Bash tour-

nament on Tuesday afternoon, where they split a pair of games with a 11-4 win over Central Catholic and a 5-2 loss to Rex Putnam.

The loss to Putnam marks the first loss of the season for the Buckaroos (6-1) and it came in a rematch of the 5A state championship game where Putnam

Softball	
Pendleton	Putnam
2	5

bested the Bucks 2-1 last June.

Pendleton head coach Tim Cary said Tuesday's match up simply came down to clutch hitting on behalf of the King-

timely hitting and a few more base runners," he said.

Kingsmen pitcher Sarah Abramson out-duced the Bucks' Lauren Richards in the game, allowing four hits with seven strikeouts and two walks, while Richards allowed 10 hits with seven strikeouts as well.

Pendleton's lone runs came in the first inning off of a first-pitch  
**See BUCKAROOS/2B**

## Pro Baseball

# Game of diplomacy



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais  
President Barack Obama, center, talks with first lady Michelle Obama as they sit with Cuban President Raul Castro during an exhibition baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National team at the Estadio Latinoamericano, Tuesday, March 22, 2016, in Havana, Cuba.

## With presidents watching, Rays beat Cuban team

By PETER ORSI  
Associated Press

HAVANA — When Kevin Kiermaier slid into home for the Tampa Bay Rays' first run of the day, President Barack Obama flung his arms wide in the sign for "safe."

Then he turned to his left and shook the hand of his seatmate and Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro.

The scene was a remarkable milestone for sports diplomacy as the two presidents try to set aside more than 50 years of Cold War hostility during which about the only thing the countries agreed on was a shared love of baseball.

Obama and Castro even joined in when fans were doing "the wave."

In the landmark game, the first visit by a major league team to the

communist island since 1999, the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Cuban national team 4-1 on Tuesday.

James Loney homered and drove in three runs, and Matt Moore and the Tampa Bay pitchers shut out the Cubans until Rudy Reyes homered in the ninth inning.

But the day will be remembered less for the final score than for the two  
**See DIPLOMACY/2B**

## PENDLETON

# Mota takes leash for T-Wolves soccer

## BMCC hires coach for men's, women's programs

East Oregonian

If you're going to get one coach to do two jobs, you'd better get a good one.

That's the approach Blue Mountain Community College took to fill its position for women's and men's soccer, new programs that will begin play in 2016 for the women and 2017 for the men.

Leading the Timberwolves on the pitch will be former NWAC South Coach of the Year Art Mota, whose hiring was announced Tuesday.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," Mota said in comments distributed by BMCC. "It doesn't happen often when you get to start a college program and lay the foundation for the future. My top priority will be to recruit student-athletes who are determined in earning a degree and moving on to a university. I am just as competitive as any other coach, but academics will always be first and foremost."

Mota, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, has also served as head coach at Linn-Benton Community College. In addition, he was the head coach of the Capital Timbers Under-18 girls team, as well as assistant women's coach at Willamette University in Salem.

"This first season will be very challenging," Mota said. "The NWAC is a strong conference in soccer, and what incoming players have to prepare for is the speed of play and physical/mental demands of the college game. Student athletes coming to BMCC will quickly find out that expectations are high, fitness and fundamentals will be emphasized, respect towards officials and opposing teams at all times, and conduct yourself in a manner that positively represents BMCC."

The soccer program received a boost with grant awards from the Wildhorse Foundation and the Pendleton Foundation Trust to help fund start-up costs. The Pendleton Foundation Trust awarded the program \$14,000, while the Wildhorse Foundation granted \$5,000 for equipment. In addition, Pendleton Bottling Company, which runs the local Pepsi distribution, will donate funds to purchase and install a scoreboard on the soccer field.



Mota

## HERMISTON

# Hermiston splits at Putnam tournament

## Bulldogs go 2-2 at Spring Break Bash

By SAM BARBEE  
East Oregonian

HAPPY VALLEY — At the Spring Break Bash at Rex Putnam High School in Milwaukie, the Hermiston softball team split four games with 6A opponents on Monday and Tuesday.

The Bulldogs split their match-ups on both Monday and Tuesday. On Monday, Hermiston

Softball	
Aloha	Hermiston
2	10

beat Madison 10-2, then lost 10-5 to a talented Franklin team. On Tuesday, Hermiston beat Aloha 7-4, then dropped its final game of the tournament 9-0 to David Douglas.

"We're leaving spring break with our heads held high," Hermiston coach Kate Greenough said.

Against Franklin (4-1), Herm-

iston (4-3) endured constant rain on a turf field, leading to some turf-related miscues. Batted balls skipped on the turf unfamiliarly, and girls slid past bases, only to be easily tagged out after initially reaching safely.

"It doesn't turn out that way if the weather (is better)," Greenough said. "All things that could go wrong weather-wise did. We were right there with them. I would live to play them again."

"We learned a lot from it. We had opportunities to be successful. It wasn't a discouraging loss."

**See HERMISTON/2B**

## Prep Roundup

# Pirates gun down Trojans for first win

## Riverside beats Kennedy in Columbia Bash

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Riverside third baseman Jesus Onate threw out the tying run at home plate in the top of the seventh inning as the Pirates held on to beat the Kennedy Trojans 6-5 for their first win of the season on Tuesday in the Columbia Bash Tournament.

Derek Bingaman tossed 5 1-3 innings and struck out six, walked two and allowed two runs to get the win.

No Riverside (1-2) batter had more than one hit, and coach Jarret Thompson said his team created most of its runs by taking advantage of opportunities on the base paths.

"It was passes balls, wild pitches, fielder's choice type situations," he said. "We were just being aggressive and forcing them to make a play."

"Because we were aggressive we dictated the tempo if the game."

Riverside will play Kennedy again today at 1 p.m., but first faces Stanfield at 11 a.m.

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RHS	132	000	X
	5	4	4
	6	6	3

J. Suing, J. Valladares (5) and D. Arritola, D. Bingaman, A. Corpus (6) and S. Bither. W — Bingaman. L — Suing.

**STANFIELD 11, WESTON-MCEWEN 4** — At Irrigon, the Stanfield Tigers scored eight runs in the third and fourth innings to distance themselves from the Weston-McEwen TigerScots on Tuesday at the Columbia Bash.

Tony Flores (2 for 4) hit a bases-loaded double in the third and Ryan Bailey followed with an RBI single before Dylan Grogan's (3 for 4) sacrifice fly made it 4-0.

The TigerScots (1-2) fought back with three runs in the bottom of the frame scoring on an error and a Hunter Sater two-RBI single, but the Tigers (4-0) added four more in the fourth.

**See PREPS/2B**