

**BRIEFLY**

**Entry deadline nears for HHSGA scramble**

UMATILLA — The early entry deadline for the Hermiston High School Golf Association spring fundraiser tournament is approaching.

Costs go up \$5 per player for any registrations received after Saturday. Registrations can be turned in at Big River Golf Course in Umatilla.

The two-person scramble tournament will be played April 23 beginning with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

There will be a barbecue after the round which is included in registration costs.

For more information call tournament directors Bob Brinkley, 541-571-4647, or Karl Adams 541-561-7044.

**EOU men's soccer to host fundraiser**

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University men's soccer team will hold its first 'Mountie Pong' fundraiser at Quinn Coliseum on April 20.

The alcohol-free tournament includes a double-elimination format, and all proceeds will benefit the Mountaineer men's soccer team. The pong action will kickoff at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20.

Teams are required to have at least two participants, and are encouraged to wear a costume that reflects their team name. The cost is \$10 per team.

To register, email jela\_80@yahoo.com or call 503-572-3072.

—East Oregonian

**BEAVERS: Rueck is Naismith finalist**

Continued from 1B

wins, the highest total in program history, including an impressive seven victories over ranked opponents. Along the way, the Beavers won their second-straight Pac-12 regular-season title, cutting down the nets as the best team in the nation's top league. They followed that up with another championship ceremony a week later when they earned the program's first ever Pac-12 Tournament title.

The Beavers entered the NCAA Tournament as a No. 2 seed, the highest seed in school history. After sweeping a pair of games at Gill Coliseum to open the tournament, Oregon State earned possibly the biggest win in program history in the Elite Eight, knocking off perennial powerhouse Baylor to earn a spot in the Final Four.

The outstanding season on the floor was spearheaded by the team's five seniors: Jamie Weisner, Ruth Hamblin, Deven Hunter, Samantha Siegner and Jen'Von'Ta Hill.

Weisner led the way, earning

WBCA All-America honors, as well as Pac-12 Player of the Year recognition. She also added Dallas Regional Most Outstanding Player and Pac-12 Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors to her resume.

Hamblin's outstanding career was rewarded with a number of awards for her accomplishments. The Houston, B.C. native notched her second-straight Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year nod, as well as her second All-Pac-12 honor. The conference's career record holder for blocked shots, Hamblin made her mark in the Pac-12 Tournament Championship game, notching the third 20-20 game in OSU history, going for 23 points and 20 rebounds.

Hunter was a rock for the OSU program throughout her career, making 132 starts and appearing in all 135 games the Beavers played over the course of her four years. A dynamo on the glass, the Keizer native wraps up her career fourth in OSU history in rebounds.

Siegner will be remembered as

OSU's most versatile player. The 6-foot-3 West Albany High graduate played every position but point guard over the course of her career, and appeared in all but three games in the last four seasons.

Hill, who transferred into the OSU program last year, continued her winning ways with the Beavers. Hill's teams went 130-12 in her collegiate career, as she went 71-2 at Hutchinson Community College, before helping OSU to a 59-10 record over the last two seasons.

Scott Rueck earned some recognition of his own for the turnaround he has engineered. The OSU alum was named one of four finalists for the Naismith Coach of the Year Award, joining the outstanding trio of Geno Auriemma (Connecticut), Dawn Staley (South Carolina) and Muffet McGraw (Notre Dame).

He also hit a pair of milestones this season, notching his 100th win with OSU, as well as his 400th overall career win (George Fox + OSU).

**MASTERS: Fowler has career-worst round at Augusta National**

Continued from 1B

ment if I can, and be patient with myself, and hopefully I'm there by Sunday," Day said. "But it's a major championship. Things happen. And unfortunately, it happened at the wrong time today."

Right when Day was falling apart, McIlroy holed an 18-foot eagle putt on the 13th and looked to be on his way in his bid to win a green jacket and complete the career Grand Slam. He was within two shots of the lead until he three-putted the 16th for bogey and missed the 18th green to the right, was plugged in a bunker and dropped another shot for a 70.

"If somebody had given me a 70 on the first day, I would have taken it," McIlroy said. "I'm a little disappointed in the way I finished."

It could have been worse.

Bubba Watson, a two-time champion, had a 41 on the back nine and shot 75. He wasn't even

low Watson — 66-year-old Tom Watson, in his last Masters, shot 74. Adam Scott, coming off two victories in Florida last month, opened with a 76.

Rickie Fowler had his worst score ever at Augusta National by posting an 80, with 44 of those shots coming on the back nine.

Spieth simply picked up where he left off a year ago.

Never mind that he discovered a hairline crack in his driver during Wednesday practice and had to find a backup for the opening round. Or that he was hearing questions about what was wrong with his game from not having seriously contended in the last two months.

Spieth was at Augusta National, a course that feels like home for the 22-year-old Texan.

"I would have signed for 2 under today and not even played the rough, knowing the conditions that were coming up," Spieth said. "Just scored extremely well, which is something I've been struggling with this season. If I can

kind of straighten out things with the iron play, hopefully we'll be in business. But yeah, I'm extremely pleased with that round today. I felt like we stole a few."

For all the birdies — none longer than 12 feet — the pars make Spieth look so tough to beat.

He settled himself early with a beautiful pitch across the first green to 2 feet. He pumped his fist with a tough pitch over the bunker and to the upper tier on No. 4. He gambled with a 4-iron through a tiny gap in the trees on the 11th and made it pay off with another par. On 16, he kept his card clean by rammng in a 15-foot par putt.

By the end of the day, no one could do better.

Nine players couldn't break 80, a group that included Els, who took six putts from 2 feet on the opening hole for a 9. He played the rest of the day at 1 over.

"It wouldn't matter if I putted with a stick," Els said. "When snakes are going off in your brain, it's difficult."



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, chips out of a bunker on the 18th hole during the first round of the Masters golf tournament Thursday, April 7, 2016, in Augusta, Ga.

AP Photo/Matt Slocum

**HOFFERT: Ready to enjoy time with family**

Continued from 1B

on January 15, 2013 on the road the Dalles. Hoffert also led the Bulldogs to an unbeaten record against their rival Pendleton Buckaroos.

Hermiston athletic director Blaine Ganvoa said that the school would like to have a quick search for the new coach, but the school is still awaiting the official resignation before the position can be posted.

Hoffert believes the school

shouldn't look to far as he has recommended long-time assistant Juan Rodriguez for the position. But whomever takes over as the next coach, Hoffert said he will make himself available for the new coach for any tasks except making decisions.

"I've always believed that if you retire you need to step away and let the new coach do things their own way," he said. "I'll still be at games and help out if I'm needed, but that's it."

Hoffert also recently retired from his teaching position at Hermiston, and will now focus on running his home inspection business and spending plenty of time with his family. Hoffert's daughter Jeni just completed her junior season on the basketball team at Northwest Christian University in Eugene, while his twin nine-year-old boys are getting heavily involved with youth sports.

But while he soaks up retirement, Hoffert said it

will take some time for him to get over the feelings of not coaching basketball.

"I really enjoyed the day-to-day coaching, strategizing against other coaches, and building the relationships over the years," he said. "I've been blessed with great groups of girls that made the job that much easier."

Contact Eric Singer at [esinger@eastoregonian.com](mailto:esinger@eastoregonian.com), (541) 966-0839 or on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

**Athlete of the Week**

**Twenty questions with Kiara Glover**

- East Oregonian: Favorite sports team?**  
*Kiara Glover: Washington State Cougars*
- Favorite athlete?**  
*Usain Bolt*
- Favorite memory as a Buckaroo?**  
*Competing at districts with a torn calf and getting my PR in the high jump.*
- Favorite track event?**  
*High jump*
- Favorite movie?**  
*Too many to choose*
- Favorite TV show?**  
*Private Practice*
- Favorite music genre?**  
*R&B*
- Hobbies?**  
*I like to ride horses*
- Favorite restaurant in Pendleton?**  
*El Charrito's*
- Favorite food?**  
*Spaghetti*

- Favorite family recipe?**  
*My uncle's homemade four-cheese macaroni*
- Favorite candy bar?**  
*Snickers*
- Gatorade or Powerade?**  
*Powerade*
- Favorite class in school?**  
*Algebra*
- Dream job?**  
*OB-GYN*
- Dream vacation spot?**  
*Italy*
- Favorite color?**  
*Blue*
- Favorite thing to do on weekends?**  
*Go to the movies or just hang out with friends*
- Something people might not know about you?**  
*I like to draw*
- Biggest influence on your life?**  
*My father because he pushes me a lot to be the best I can.*

**PREPS: Pendleton and Irrigon baseball get non-league wins**

Continued from 1B

us last time, that says a lot about our pitchers' focus," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary, "especially in a game where it can be hard to keep focus with the slow pace of the game."

The reason the game had a slow pace was the control issues of La Grande's pitchers. The Bucks (10-2) on had four hits in the game, two of them doubles by Alexis Morrison and Ellie Richards.

"Not a whole lot of offense out of either group but their pitchers issued six walks and six hit batters so it was kind of hard to get anything going with the bat," Cary said. "It was a lot of being patient at the plate, so I thought we did a good job of being patient."

For their part, Murphy and Lyon kept the ball down and pitched to contact and Murphy had the game's only strikeout.

"They got a lot of ground balls which is what we ask our pitchers to do," Cary said. "Both pitchers did very well today. I was very pleased with the pitching today."

Pendleton's next game will be against defending 4A state champion Mac-Hi at Steve Cary Field on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

on Thursday to wrap up their second win of the season against La Grande.

Kai Quinn and Jack Peterson each led the team with two hits in the game, and Peterson also added two runs scored and an RBI while Quinn contributed a pair of RBIs.

Quinn also got the start on the mound for Pendleton (9-3), tossing three shutout innings allowing just one hit to go along with two strikeouts. "The pitchers threw the ball extremely well today," said Buckaroos coach T.J. Haguewood. "You can win a lot of games with pitching and defense and that's what we did."

Pendleton got the scoring started in the top of the first inning when Quinn smacked a single into right field to score Peterson from second base to hand the Buckaroos the 1-0 lead. Pendleton scored twice more in the inning as James Bradt drove in Devon Roe and Nick Lani with a single to center field to push the lead to 3-0.

And then in the second inning, Pendleton scored one run off of an infield single by Peterson that scored Shaw Jerome from third, and then added a fifth run on a sacrifice fly by Roe to score Morris for the 5-0 lead.

Pendleton added its sixth and final run in the seventh inning on Quinn's second RBI single of the day, scoring Peterson for the second time for the 6-1 lead.

Lani and Morris both pitched in relief on Thursday, as Lani allowed one hit and one run over two innings, while Morris tossed two perfect frames with two strikeouts to end the game.

Pendleton next plays at Walla Walla on Monday with a 4 p.m. first pitch.

PHS	320	000	1	—	6	7	0
LHS	000	100	0	—	1	2	1

Quinn, Lani (4), Morris (6) and Russell, Jacobs, Gonzalez (3), and Blackman (6). W — Quinn, L — Jacobs.

**IRRIGON 22, MAC-HI 1 (5 innings)** — At Milton-Freewater, the Knights produced back-to-back eight-run innings to bring an early end to Thursday's non-league game against the Pioneers.

Irrigon (5-3) started hot and never let up, plating four runs in the first inning. Mac-Hi (2-3) pitcher Adrian Martinez hit Fredy Vera to lead off the game, and walked Austin Rice on the next at-bat. Vera stole third base, and Zach Henrichs then hit a first-pitch single to bring him in. Rice then stole third and would score on an infield single by Adrian Roa. Mac-Hi made matters worse trying to salvage and out from the play and Henrichs scored on an error. Roa later scored on a passed ball.

Irrigon added two in the second innings, and piled on with eight runs in each the

third and fourth. Six Knights had multiple hit days to reach the team's 18 total, led by Roa (4 for 4, 4 RBI, 3 runs), Henrichs (3 for 3, 3 RBI, 3 runs) and Rice (3 for 4, 2 RBI, 3 runs, 2 steals).

Rice threw 3 1-3 innings and allowed no runs on one hit with seven strikeouts and two walks. Nate Verley got his first appearance in relief and struck out four while allowing one run on one hit.

"The boys are hitting the ball extremely well for us," said coach Jason Dunten. "They're being very disciplined at the plate. We're putting in a lot of time and effort in practice and that's what's making a huge difference for us right now."

Mac-Hi opens Greater Oregon League play on Saturday at Ontario in a doubleheader starting at noon. Irrigon also heads into league play and will host District 6 foe Dufur on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

IHS	428	80	—	22	18	1
M-H	000	01	—	1	2	3

A. Martinez, D. Zitterkopf (3), J. Carlson (3), Z. Hodgen (4), A. Rice, N. Verley (4). W — Rice, L — Martinez.  
2B — F. Vera, A. Roa, A. Rice (IHS). 3B — C. Kroske (IHS).

PHS	410	132	—	11	4	0
LGHS	000	000	—	0	4	2

K. Murphy, G. Lyon (5) and K. Solomon. Bell, Avila (5) and Avila, Lester (5). 2B — A. Morrison, E. Richards (PHS).

**Baseball**

**PENDLETON 6, LA GRANDE 1** — At La Grande, the Pendleton Buckaroos put together five runs through the first two innings

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**KIARA GLOVER**

**Pendleton Junior Track**

Glover had a strong showing at the Mac-Hi Carnival of Speed on Friday taking first place in the long jump, high jump and the 100 meter hurdles.

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