

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Scoring up in first week of season

NEW YORK (AP) — The long ball is back. Teams averaged 1.14 home runs per game through the first week of the season, according to STATS LLC. That is up nearly 26 percent from last year's average through the first eight days and the most since 1.20 in 2006.

Teams averaged 4.43 runs per game. That marked a 6 percent increase through the same period last season and the highest opening-week average since 2011.

Scoring remains down significantly from the height of the Steroids Era. The average during the first full week peaked in 2000 at 5.34 runs per team each game.

Still, it's far above the recent low of 4.05 two years ago.

Timbers await word on Nagbe's ankle after injury

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Portland Timbers were awaiting test results on Darlington Nagbe's left ankle following a scary injury Sunday night

against the Los Angeles Galaxy. Nagbe, who also has been playing for the U.S. national team, had to be taken from the field

by stretcher after he was tackled roughly by Galaxy midfielder Nigel de Jong.

Referee Allen Chapman gave de Jong a yellow card for the challenge, but Major League Soccer's disciplinary committee could issue a suspension.

Nagbe, 25, left the match in a wheelchair.

Timbers coach Caleb Porter expressed concern after the game that de Jong was not shown a red card. If de Jong is suspended, it would mark the third straight week that Portland has seen an opposing player suspended after the fact.

The game ended in a 1-1 draw.

"I can't think of anybody else who may have had a tougher ceremony to experience."

— Jordan Spieth

Former Masters champion on having to present 2016 champion Danny Willett with the green jacket adorned by the current champion. Spieth led by five strokes during Sunday's final round but crumbled down the stretch, which included a quadruple bogey on hole 12, to lose by three strokes. The win was the first major title for Willett.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1987 — Larry Mize hits a 48-foot chip shot to defeat Greg Norman on the second hole of sudden death at the Masters.

2005 — Smithtown (N.Y.) High School's coed badminton team defeats Miller Place (N.Y.) High School 10-5 to end Miller Place's 504-match win streak, the longest sports winning streak in U.S. history. For Miller Place, it is the first loss in the program's history, which began in 1973.

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

PENDLETON

Bucks get unexpected boost



Taiwanese exchange student Sam Kung tees off on the 16th hole while playing for the Pendleton High School boy's golf team last week at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Exchange student Sam Kung helping keep Pendleton scores low

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Despite returning four golfers from a team that finished seventh at the state championships in 2015, the Pendleton Buckaroos were afraid their window was closing.

The team needed to collectively hack about 50 strokes off their 36-hole score and losing senior Dillon George, who had finished third on the team at state, seemed like a big step in the wrong direction.

They couldn't have known at

"I think we were a little worried about our scores going down, but Sam's just slotted in perfectly."

— Reilly Hegarty,
Pendleton golf senior

the time, but the foreign student exchange program was about to provide a prop to keep their window open a little longer.

Growing up in the Taiwan capitol of Taipei, a love for golf

grabbed Sam Kung at an early age. Thanks to the subtropical climate along the island nation's northern shores, it wasn't long before Kung was teeing off at every opportunity and forming big dreams about three

little letters.

"I play every day," he said during a recent Pendleton practice. "I wish I can come to America to have college here and then play the PGA Tour. I was planning to."

Kung, like all players his age, has a long way to go before the PGA comes calling. But in the present he's provided a nice boost to a Buckaroo team that hopes to be challenging for a state championship by season's end.

He shot back-to-back 83's last week to finish third on the team

See KUNG/2B

PENDLETON

Wendigos struggle in first home match

Coach Perkins encouraged about what future holds

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Plenty of excitement filled the air around Grecian Heights Park on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon.

The East Oregon Wendigos took the field against the Valley Panthers ready to make history in the first women's rugby match to take place in Pendleton. The Wendigos are in their first year of competition, following the trail of the male counterpart Sasquatch team, which is in its eighth year of competition.

Once the game started, however, the inexperience showed throughout as Valley controlled every aspect and earned the 45-5 win over the Wendigos.

Despite the loss, head coach Craig Perkins is excited about what the future holds for the team.

"There's a lot to build from here," he said. "It was pretty historic as far as rugby in Pendleton goes, and it's great we have the numbers that we do and the fact that these girls are really committed and want to come out here and do this is great."

Perkins spent the previous five years as an assistant coach with the Sasquatch team and stepped up to coach

See RUGBY/2B



Staff photo by Eric Singer

East Oregon's Lexi Bray chases down a Valley ball carrier during the Wendigos match on Saturday in Pendleton.

Prep Roundup

Bulldogs fall in extra innings to Canby in league tune-up

Hermiston softball, Pendleton baseball drop drop final non-league games

East Oregonian



CANBY — Kamryn Mobley hit a double in the bottom of the eighth inning that scored teammate Parker Allhands and lifted Canby to an 8-7 win over Hermiston in non-league play on Monday.

The teams traded the lead in consecutive at-bats before Canby scored once in the sixth to tie it up at 7-all.

Hermiston (8-5) extended its lead to 5-2 in the top of the fifth inning when Jamie Hinkley led off with a home run, then Julissa Almaguer scored from third on an infield single by Mikayla Kopacz.

But Canby (4-7) rallied for four runs in the bottom of the frame to take its first lead since the first inning.

Canby scattered three singles, a double and a triple during the spurt, but Hermiston came back undaunted with two runs in the top of the sixth to regain the lead 7-6 when Jamie and Kiley Hinkley

Softball	
 Hermiston	 Canby
7	8

scored.

A pair of singles to lead off the sixth and a sacrifice fly gave Canby the tying run in the sixth.

Mobley was 4 for 5 for Canby and

Allhands was 3 for 4. Jamie Hinkley led Hermiston going 3 for 5 with three runs and one RBI, and Kopacz was 2 for 4 with two RBI.

Hermiston opens league play on Saturday by hosting The Dalles for a doubleheader starting at noon at Rocky Heights Elementary.

HHS 111 022 00 — 7 10 4
CHS 200 041 01 — 8 14 2
J. Almaguer, T. Betz (5). Canby pitchers unavailable.

2B — J. Hinkley, M. Kopacz (HHS); K. Mobley 2 (CHS). 3B — C. Possey (CHS). HR — J. Hinkley (HHS).

Baseball

WALLA WALLA 6, PENDLETON 1 — At Walla Walla, Wash., the Buckaroos lost to the Blue Devils for the second time in seven days but were able to cut their opponent's run production in half in Monday's non-league game.

Quinn Cockburn, Jack Peterson and Kai Quinn combined on the mound as coach T.J. Haguewood looked to get his staff some last-minute work before the start of league play.

"We mainly used it as bullpen work to have them refined for Satur-

See PREPS/3B