

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

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## Sports shorts

### Sharks top Blues to take 3-2 lead

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Joe Pavelski scored two goals, including the go-ahead score in the opening minute of the third period, and the San Jose Sharks beat the St. Louis Blues 6-3 to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference final on Monday night.



Joel Ward also scored twice including one of two empty-netters in the final minute for San Jose, which can close it out at home on Wednesday night. The Sharks have never reached the Stanley Cup Final. Joe Thornton had three assists for the Sharks.

Pavelski leads the playoffs with 12 goals and has three two-goal games, one in each series. The Sharks' captain added an assist and is tied with teammate Logan Couture for the postseason points lead, each with a franchise-record 21 points.

### Rangers OF Hamilton to miss rest of season

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Josh Hamilton will have another surgery on his left knee and not play a game this season for the Texas Rangers.

The 2010 AL MVP and five-time All-Star slugger has already had surgery twice on his left knee the last nine months, along with cortisone shots and even a stem cell and platelet-rich plasma injection during spring training. He played in one game for Double-A Frisco on April 30 before being recalled from his rehab assignment.

Hamilton, on the disabled list all season, got another opinion from Dr. Walt Lowe in Houston. The knee specialist is scheduled to perform another surgery June 8.

Hamilton, who turned 35 on Saturday, is signed through next season. Daniels said Hamilton is fully committed to coming back in 2017.

**"God is AMAZING. Just got the call that my body is clean of cancer!!! Been a long road but God had my back."**

— James Conner  
University of Pittsburgh running back tweeted out on Monday afternoon that he is cancer-free just six months after being diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, missing all of the 2015 season. Conner, a junior, was the 2014 ACC Player of the Year when he ran for 1,765 yards and 26 touchdowns.

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1935** — In the first major league night game, the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2-1 before 25,000 fans in Cincinnati.

**1995** — Oakland's Dennis Eckersley becomes the sixth pitcher to record 300 saves, in a 5-2 win over the Baltimore Orioles.

**2009** — Brazil's Helio Castroneves becomes the ninth driver to win the Indianapolis 500 three times.

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

## State Track and Field

# Buckaroo boys shine on Saturday



Pendleton's Garison Alger, Andrew Porter and Nolan Bylenga catch their breaths after finishing the 4x400 meter relay Saturday at the Oregon State OSAA Track & Field Championships in Eugene. Pendleton and Redmond both broke the state record on Saturday, with a time of 3:20.37 and Pendleton with 3:21.63.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

## Both Pendleton relay teams reach podium, one breaks state record

By DAVID BALL  
For the East Oregonian

EUGENE — The Pendleton Buckaroos saved their best for last at the OSAA track state championships Saturday at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.

Pendleton's biggest highlights came late in the meet, starting with senior Nolan Bylenga coming in second in the 800-meter final.

Bend's Caleb Hoffman broke into the lead from the start and spent the entire race well in front of the pack. That created a tight chase for second place on the podium — a battle that Bylenga wasn't sure he wanted.

"I was a little disappointed, and I wasn't running well," he said. "There was a point where I told

myself I had already screwed it up, so what's the point? I felt myself slowing down."

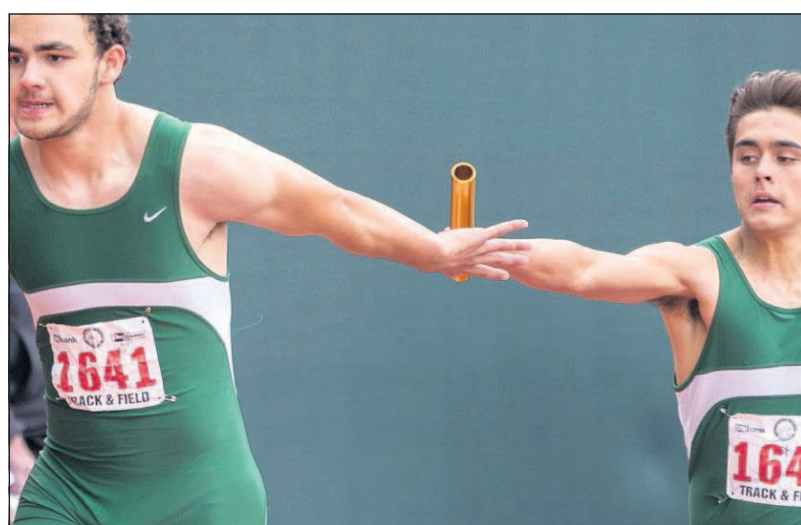
Bylenga came around the turn for the bell lap in second place, but while he was having his internal struggle, Jerik Embleton of Marist overtook him on the backstretch.

That was enough to throw cold water in Bylenga's face, waking him up for a fantastic finish that saw him streak down lane 2 and move from fourth to second over the final 50 meters.

"I got my head back into it, and realized that there were plenty of reasons to fight for second," Bylenga said.

He crossed the line in 1:56.78, edging out his two closest foes by less than a second. Hoffman won in

See TRACK/2B

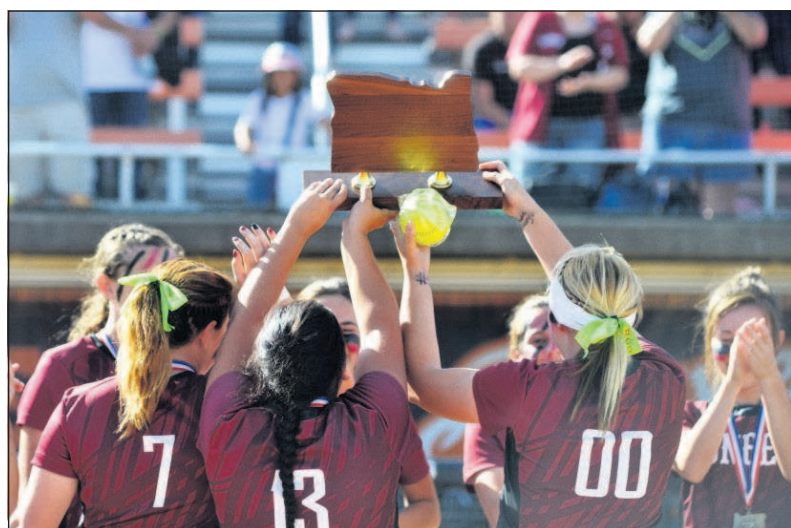


Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton's Soren Wolf hands the baton to teammate Gabe Walker during the 5A Boys 4x100 meter dash Saturday at the Oregon State OSAA Track & Field Championships at Hayward Field in Eugene.

## State Softball

# Pioneers, Rockets ready for title defenses



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In this June 9, 2015 file photo, members on the Mac-Hi softball team hold up the first place trophy for their fans after the Pioneers' 4-0 win against Banks in the 4A state softball championship game in Corvallis.

## Six area schools prepare for start of playoffs on Wed.

East Oregonian

After winning state championships in each of the past two seasons, the Mac-Hi Pioneers came into the 2016 season as a team many expected to take a slight step back.

The Pioneers had lost 4A Player of the Year and star pitcher Colette Robert to graduation and had no returning pitchers that had any meaningful experience in the circle. However, former all-state catcher Mallory Copeland stepped up to take the No. 1 slot in the Pioneers pitching staff and came through

big time, helping carry her team to a 22-5 overall record and the No. 1 overall seed in this year's 4A state bracket.

"We had to go prove ourselves this season and prove that we're just as good and we had a great year," said Mac-Hi coach Nicole Christian. "But this team earned that No. 1 seed, it wasn't handed to them for things we've done in past years and I think we're dialed in and ready to go."

But Christian and the Pioneers are aware of the size of target that adorns the teams' backs this post-season.

"Everybody always wants to take down the big dog," Christian said, "but we try to not worry about it like that."

Pilot Rock came into the 2016  
See SOFTBALL/2B

## Prep Roundup

# Irrigon claims district title behind Rice's no-hitter

## Junior lefty no-hits Dufur for second time this season in win

East Oregonian

IRRIGON — It's safe to say the Dufur Rangers are tired of seeing Irrigon's Austin Rice.

The senior left-hander threw a six-inning no-hitter against the Rangers with 14 strikeouts as Irrigon defeated Dufur 11-1 to claim the 2A/1A Special District 6 championship on Saturday afternoon. It was the third time that Rice had faced the Rangers this season, and his second no-hitter against them as well.

In a combined 15.2 innings in

those three games against Dufur, Rice has allowed just one hit, one run and five walks while striking out 30 batters. Rice's only run allowed came in the third inning when he loaded the bases with two walks and a hit-by-pitch before inducing a ground out to second base to bring in a run. He then struck out the next batter to end the scoring threat.

The win boosts Irrigon (16-5, 10-2 SD6) back into the state tournament after missing out by one spot in the district standings one season ago. With the Knights holding the No. 4 OSAA ranking as of Saturday evening, they will safely be in the higher seeds of the bracket and

Baseball	
Dufur	1
Irrigon	11

will host their first-round game, which will be released Sunday morning.

In Saturday's game, Cougar Kroske supplied plenty of offense for Irrigon as he will host their first-round game, which will be released Sunday morning.

Irrigon put the pressure on Dufur right away in the bottom of the first inning, as Henrichs ripped an RBI single to right field and Nate Verley smashed a two-run double to help the Knights to a 5-0 lead. They added three more in the second inning on a sacrifice fly from

Henrichs, an RBI single to right by Hayden White to take an 8-0 lead.

The game ended one inning early when Kroske ripped an RBI triple to left field to score Henrichs from first, and then Roa followed up with an RBI single to right to bring in Kroske and invoke the 10-run rule.

	DHS	IHS	R	H	E
DHS	001000	—	1	0	3
IHS	531002	—	11	10	1

L — Crawford, Red Cloud, Clapham. Rice. W — Rice, C — Crawford.  
2B — N. Verley, N. Gumbert (IHS). 3B — C. Kroske (IHS).

**WESTON-MCEWEN 2, PILOT ROCK 0** — At Pendleton, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots clinched a spot in the 2A/1A state tournament with a victory over the Pilot Rock Rockets in the

See PREPS/2B