

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, MAY 28-29, 2016

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

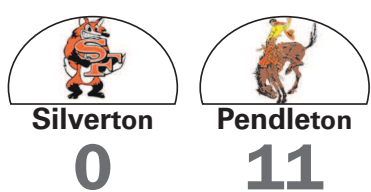


Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Aspen Garton makes a leaping catch on Friday in Pendleton.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Lauren Richards fist bumps coach Tim Cary while rounding third base after hitting a solo home run in the Bucks' 11-0 win against Silverton on Friday in Pendleton.

5A Softball Quarterfinals



ANOTHER KNOCKOUT

Pendleton ousts Silverton in five innings to move to the state semifinals

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Buckaroos continued to tear through the 5A softball state bracket with another five-inning win at Steve Cary Field on Friday.

Their latest victim was the Silverton Foxes, and the Bucks dispatched them 11-0 to reach the semifinal round for the third straight season.

It was the second shutout in a row for Pendleton, which is the only team to have won both of its playoff games via the mercy rule and has outscored its entire half of the bracket 28-27.

"We're playing well right now, we're on a roll," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. "It's all about getting hot at the right time in the playoffs, and thank goodness we're hot right now."

The key to Pendleton's success is no secret, and once again the Bucks were led on the day by a lock-down performance from sophomore pitcher Lauren Richards and a pair of home runs to highlight a 10-hit game for the offense.

Richards, who threw a perfect game in Pendleton's first-round win, saw her bid for a repeat broken up on her second pitch when Silverton's Maggie Buckholz blooped a single into shallow right field. However, she never advanced past first, and Richards didn't allow another base runner until the fifth inning. She finished with two hits allowed, seven strikeouts and one walk.

"I thought I threw good, not as good as last game obviously, but my defense was there to back me up and I love that I can always count on them to be there for me," Richards said.

Richards also hit the eventual game-winning home run in the bottom of the first inning. After Alexis Morrison gave the ball a ride to the warning track to open the at-bat with a long out, Richards came up and crushed the first pitch she saw from Silverton's Alex Molloy over the fence in center field for a 1-0 lead.

"I just walked up ready, knowing what I want," she said. "It's like any other at-bat — it just has to be the right time, everything has to be good, and it was at that time."

Kalan McGlothan followed Richards with a single to jump start her 3-for-3 day at the plate, and then scored from second when Silverton's outfield let a hard-hit ball by Ellie Richards sneak through and roll to the fence.

Richards, a senior, was taking her first swings of the postseason

after sitting out the team's first-round game with a knee injury. She went 2 for 3 with three RBIs as the designated player.

"I was excited. I really wanted to play and do whatever I can for my team," Richards said.

"It's fun to see Ellie back in the lineup, see her smiling again," Cary said. "That's just exciting we can get her in there, get her a few at-bats."

Another Silverton error on a hard grounder by Kiersten Murphy scored courtesy runner Aspen Garton to give Pendleton a 3-0 after one inning, and Richards struck out the side in the second to get them right back to the plate.

Tatum Fell led them off with a single, and another error gave Pendleton two one with two outs when McGlothan came up for her second at-bat and slipped a

See BUCKS/2B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Lauren Richards throws from the pitching circle on Friday in Pendleton.

Pioneers keep eyes on the prize

Mac-Hi makes early lead stick, downs Douglas in quarterfinals

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Mac-Hi Pioneers scored six runs in the first inning and continued to add to the lead from there for an 11-2 win over Douglas on Friday in the 4A softball state quarterfinals.

Mac-Hi pitcher Mallory Copeland retired the Trojans in order to open the game, then hit a two-RBI double in the first to give the Pioneers a lead they would never relinquish.

Rachael Lyon and Shannon Carter both slap-bunted their way on to open Mac-Hi's first at-bat, then after a ground-out Copeland batted them in with a hard-hit grounder to left field.

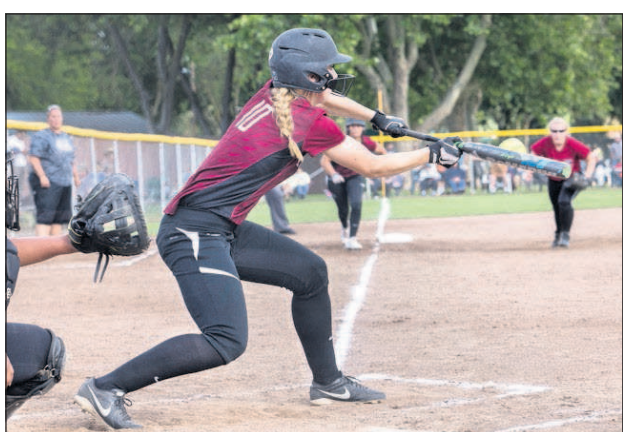
Sydney Richwine added a run-scoring single, and the Pioneers made it 4-0 on a bases-loaded ground-out by Kaitlyn Susarenko.

Jenny Field followed with a two-RBI single to make it 6-0.

Every Pioneer to make a plate appearance found their way into the statline either by getting a hit, an RBI or scoring a run. Lyon, Carter and Field led them with



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Micha Fortune, of Mac-Hi, keeps her eye on the ball all the way to the pitcher's mitt during Friday's state playoff game against Douglas in Milton-Freewater. On the next pitch, Fortune got a walk.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Sydney Richwine, of Mac-Hi, bunts the softball during Friday's state playoff game against Douglas in Milton-Freewater.

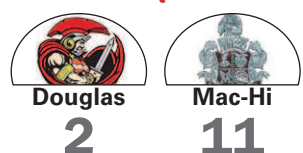
two hits apiece and Fortune drove in a team-high three runs. Abi Biggs and Lyon scored twice to lead that category.

Copeland only allowed

four hits from the pitcher's circle, and finished with five strikeouts and one walk.

Mac-Hi led 8-0 before Douglas scored its first run on a solo home run by

4A Softball Quarterfinals



Taylor Holcomb in the top of the fourth inning.

Next up for the No. 1 Pioneers, who are making their fourth-straight semifinals appearance, is No. 4 Gladstone.

The teams will meet on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at Yantis Park. Gladstone beat No. 5 Henley 1-0 in 10 innings in its quarterfinals game.

DHS	000110	0	-	2	4	1
M-H	602021	X	-	11	12	0
W	- M. Copeland, L - C. Dupper.					

2B — M. Holcomb, R. Holcomb (DHS); M. Fortune, M. Copeland (M-H). HR — T. Holcomb.

Rockets shut out Loggers

Pilot Rock makes second-straight semis

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — Even a day when their offense struggled, Pilot Rock found a way to get it done and punched their ticket back to the 2A/1A state semifinals with a 7-0 win over Vernonia on Friday.

Coming off a 16-hit outpouring in its first-round game, Pilot Rock found the hits tougher to come by against the Loggers' Cassidy Fetch, who retired the Rockets in order in their first two at-bats.

Kayla Deist remedied that by leading off the bottom of the third with a single, and Bekah Roe also added a single during the three-run at-bat.

No Rocket recorded more than one hit, and Jacey Wilson was the only player

to score twice. The Rockets finished with just five hits in the game, but had already done enough on offense to win with Tehya Ostrom controlling the Loggers from the pitcher's circle.

Ostrom gave up just three hits, struck out seven, walked none, and didn't allow a runner to advance past first base all game.

The defending state champion, No. 1 Pilot Rock will have to go through No.5 Kennedy to make its second state final in a row.

The teams will play on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Pilot Rock. Kennedy beat No. 4 North Douglas 9-1 in the quarterfinals.

2A Softball Quarterfinals



VHS	000000	0	-	0	3	0
PR	003022	X	-	7	5	0
	K. Fetch and P. Cook, T. Ostrom and R. Oates, W — Ostrom, L — Fetch, 2B — M. Dave (PR), HR — S. Fitzpatrick (PR).					

More inside

3A Baseball: Stanfield 17, Catlin Gabel 1
2A Baseball: Irrigon 12, Kennedy 3
2A Baseball: Monroe 21, Weston-McEwen 4
2A Softball: Pleasant Hill 5, Weston-McEwen 4
See Page 2B