

# SOFTBALL: Echo/Stanfield ends solid season with five first team selections

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RBI), and outfielder Amie Coffman (.412 avg., 26 runs, 13 stolen bases).

Making second team for the TigerScots were second baseman Bailey Hillmick (.456 avg., 40 runs), outfielder Char-mayne Bennett (.439 avg., 4 HR, 31 runs), and utility player Ashley Hill (.345 avg., 1 HR, 19 RBI).

The Echo Cougars also had a tremendous season in the Eastern Oregon League, finishing third in the EOL with a 19-9 overall record, which earned them a trip back to the state tournament. The Cougars were also

well represented in the all-league teams, earning five first team selections, one second team selection and one honorable mention.

The first team selections were junior pitcher MacKenzie Gonzales (11-8, 2.49 ERA, 122 K's, 117.2 IP), senior catcher Erika Parks (.301 avg., 19 RBI, 27 runs, 19 stolen bases), senior first baseman Kenzie Blankenship (.402 avg., 7 HR, 32 RBI, 10 doubles), junior outfielder Hannah McCarty (.400 avg., 37 runs), and senior designated player Raychal Campana (.391 avg., 12 RBI).

Senior infielder Chey-

enne Hilliard was Echo's lone second team selection (.402 avg., 25 RBI, 27 runs) and senior outfielder Jamie Christopher was named honorable mention (.253 avg., 19 RBI, 33 runs).

The Riverside Pirates were represented by sophomore pitcher Skylar Wightman on second team and junior first baseman Sadie Hasbell an honorable mention.

Umatilla senior utility player Bridgett Dunham was also picked as an honorable mention.

**EOL All-League 2016**  
Player of the Year: Jessica Lambert, sr., Weston-McEwen  
Pitcher of the Year: Jessica Lambert, sr., Weston-McEwen

**Coach of the Year:** Jeff Griggs, Weston-McEwen

**FIRST TEAM**

- Pitchers**  
MacKenzie Gonzales, jr., Echo/Stanfield  
Jessica Lambert, sr., Weston-McEwen
- Catchers**  
Erika Parks, sr., Echo/Stanfield  
Sydney Peal, jr., Weston-McEwen
- Infield**  
Isabelle Dillow, sr., Weston-McEwen  
Jordyn Lambert, fr., Weston-McEwen  
Hannah Mizuta, jr., Vale  
Asucena Trujillo, sr., Nyssa
- Outfield**  
Amie Coffman, fr., Weston-McEwen  
Hannah McCarty, jr., Echo/Stanfield  
Lexi Mulvaney, jr., Vale
- First Base**  
Kenzie Blankenship, sr., Echo/Stanfield
- Utility**  
Marian Moulton, so., Grant Union
- Designated Player**  
Raychal Campana, sr., Echo/Stanfield

**SECOND TEAM**

- Pitchers**  
Kelsey Hawley, jr., Vale  
Skylar Wightman, so., Riverside
- Catchers**  
Gracie Jacobs, fr., Vale  
Brianna Zweygardt, so., Grant Union
- Infield**  
Cheyenne Hilliard, sr., Echo/Stanfield  
Bailey Hillmick, jr., Weston-McEwen  
Amanda Trenkel, jr., Vale

- Rayvn Walker, jr., Grant Union
- Outfield**  
Char-mayne Bennett, so., Weston-McEwen  
Darby Gassett, jr., Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa  
Jocelynn Smith, sr., Grant Union
- First Base**  
Natalie Williams, sr., Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa

- Utility**  
Ashley Hill, jr., Weston-McEwen
- Designated Player**  
Natalie Stearns, jr., Grant Union

**HONORABLE MENTION**

- Pitcher**  
Cody Madden, so., Grant Union
- Catcher**  
Madison Mitchell, jr., Nyssa
- Infield**  
Madison Plew, so., Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa
- Outfield**  
Jamie Christopher, sr., Echo/Stanfield  
Whitney McClellan, so., Grant Union  
Sicily Simpson, jr., Elgin/Imbler  
Kelsey Weber, sr., Vale
- First Base**  
Sadie Hasbell, jr., Riverside
- Designated Player**  
Olivia Olvera, sr., Nyssa



Staff photo by Sam Barbee  
In this Mar. 30, 2016 file photo, Echo's MacKenzie Gonzales delivers a pitch during a game in Echo.

# PIONEERS: Five seniors depart, but young talent leaves future looking bright

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for a single.

"It was great to start that off and get it going. Us five seniors really went out with a bang in that last inning," Biggs said. "We spent a good half an hour before warm-ups just talking about how this was our last game, and how we've got to do something."

"What a game for her," Christian said. "Three hits, senior year blowout. She was just crushing the ball and having fun and that's what it's all about."

Senior Brittney Erb followed with a pinch-hit double, and then senior Jenny Field put the Pioneers on the scoreboard with an RBI single to center. A sacrifice fly by Rachael Lyon brought Erb in to make it 5-2 with one out, but Shaw finished off the Pioneers with a strikeout and a groundout. "I was super proud, and all the girls showed a lot of heart," said senior Shannon Carter. "We weren't going to go down without a fight."

Shaw finished the game with two earned runs allowed on eight hits, three strikeouts and no walks.

Mac-Hi pitcher Mallory Copeland started the game by striking out Banks' MaKenna Partain and the Pioneers retired the Braves in order in the first, but Banks quickly got to Copeland in the second and had chased her from the circle by the fourth with a 5-0 lead.

The Braves scored four in the second inning, which was led off with a single to left field by Shakayla Snyder (3 for 4). One of Mac-Hi's three errors to advance pinch runner Destiny Maller, and

**Mac-Hi's Sydney Earls throws from the pitching circle in the Pioneers' 5-2 loss to Banks in the state 4A championship softball game Saturday in Corvallis.**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



after a groundout, another Mac-Hi error allowed two runs to cross the plate after a grounder by Alyssa Rogers. A fly to right gave the Pioneers their second out, but Partain then hit a triple to the wall in right-center for an RBI, and Keegan Wise followed with an RBI single before getting caught trying to stretch it to a double for the third out.

After Shaw kept Mac-Hi searching for its first hit in the bottom of the frame, the Braves jumped right back on Copeland in the third and plated one more run.

Mary Schorn (4 for 4) led that at-bat off with a double, the Snyder hit her in with a single to right.

Sydney Earls relieved Copeland in the fourth, and allowed just one hit between the fourth and fifth, then struck out Partain swinging to strand two in the sixth inning and keep the score at 5-0.

The Pioneers brought the top of their lineup up in the sixth, and a swinging bunt

by Carter was followed by Micha Fortune beating out a bunt in a cloud of dust to put two on with no out. Both runners moved up on a pitch in the dirt with Copeland at the plate, and the Pioneers rally took a devastating blow when Carter was called out at home plate trying to score on a grounder to second.

Carter appeared to slide under the tag from Shakayla Snyder, but home plate umpire Gary Taylor saw it differently, and third base ump Michael Lieuallen agreed with his call when Christian protested.

The Braves killed the rally there and got the next two batters out to put the Pioneers down to three outs left in their season.

"That would have been a huge momentum for us," Christian said, "but it shouldn't come down to one call. We had a couple errors that were uncharacteristic today. I told the girls if we did lose we lost to a good team. (Banks) hit the ball well, they hit the gaps, and

ours went right to somebody. That's how it goes sometimes."

Banks threatened in the seventh, but left two runners stranded as Earls finished with a line of no runs allowed on four hits, one strikeout and no walks.

"I thought Sydney Earls did a great job to come in and shut them down," Christian said. "Some hitters hit certain pitchers really well and I think (Copeland) was more like what they'd seen all year. Earls came in with a little bit different look and was able to keep us in it."

Mac-Hi was making its fourth-straight championship game and had beaten Banks 5-4 on April 2 in Milton-Freewater.

It was her second straight year the Pioneers and Braves met in the championship and the third time in the last four years. Banks beat Mac-Hi 1-0 in 2013 for the second of its back-to-back titles, and the Pioneers won their second-straight title 4-0 over the Braves last season.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
McLoughlin loses to Banks 5-2 in the state 4A state championship softball game Saturday in Corvallis.

The Pioneers will lose five seniors (Biggs, Carter, Erb, Field and outfielder Brooke Kralman), but bring up a lot of younger players that should keep them bracket-bound for at least a few more seasons. Banks graduates just two (Partain and first baseman Gabby Eckhardt). Christian said she expects the Pioneers to make another run at the title in 2017, and wouldn't be surprised in the least to meet Banks there.

"We're going to have to

fill some gaps and see where we need to go to reload," Christian said. "We have some great talent (coming up). ... Banks is always solid. I think people just look at us and think, 'Oh great, here they are again.' Definitely, I could see us back here."

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M. Shaw and S. Snyder. M. Copeland, S. Earls (4) and J. Lesko. W — Shaw. L — Copeland.  
2B — M. Schorn, S. Snyder (BHS); A. Biggs, B. Erb (M-H). 3B — M. Partain (BHS).

# ENTRUP: Tigers team, championship game will be talked about for a long time

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The game was a minute shy of three hours, which actually ended up being a good thing as well.

I had just come from watching the Pilot Rock Rockets beat the Union Bobcats for the 2A/1A softball title in true-champion form. There would be no Rocky Balboa story for the Eagles, as the Rockets beat them mercilessly, 9-2, for the fifth time this season.

With just enough time to make the drive from Corvallis to Keizer for the start of Stanfield's game, that left me transcribing interviews with the Rockets' Tehya Ostrom and Bekah Roe as Stanfield took a 2-0 lead in the first inning on a single by Ryan Bailey and sacrifice fly from Brody Woods.

The Tigers came out hitting Bobcats ace Draper hard, a good sign after he'd gone the distance and held them to one run in their last meeting.

Monkus was hit by a pitch in the game's first at-bat, and Tony Flores followed with a double to put runners in scoring position right away. A rare strikeout by Grogan followed (he more than made up for an 0-for-3 day at the plate later), then the first of Bailey's four hits gave the Tigers the lead. Woods came next with a sacrifice fly to center, and it appeared the Tigers just might continue their high-scoring romp through the postseason after all.

Should have known better. Although Stanfield would

chase Draper from the mound after three innings, the Eagles' bullpen proved up to snuff and lefty Hunter Bain gave his team four scoreless innings of relief to keep the Tigers within striking distance.

Stanfield added its third run in the third when Grogan hit a sacrifice fly to bring Monkus in, and Monkus then made a nice double play in the bottom half of the inning by catching a popped-up bunt and then slinging the ball to first just ahead of a sliding Chance Ottinger.

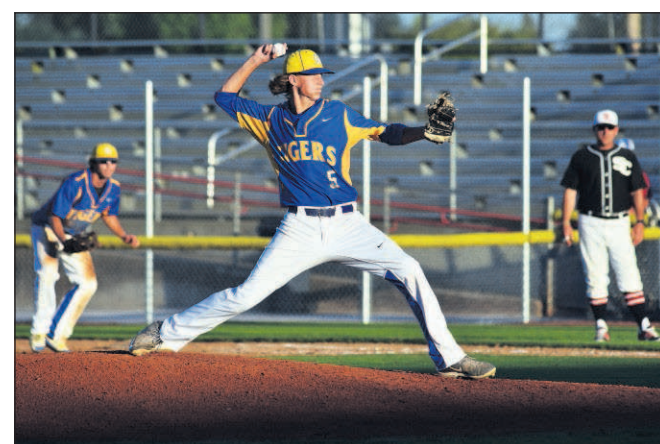
As I rushed to get the Rockets' game story written and delivered, Bain stranded a pair of Tigers in both the fourth and fifth innings, and Grogan had a pair of strikeouts to go with a pickoff at first by Monkus to highlight two more scoreless innings by the defense.

But then in the sixth, the Eagles sucked the excitement from Stanfield's dugout with a three-run surge led by (who else?) Draper, who finished the game 2 for 4 with three RBIs. After a Stanfield error gave the Eagles a new lease on life, the Tiger killer appeared to have done it again with a bases-clearing double into the gap that tied the score 3-3 and flipped the momentum back to Santiam Christian.

"We had to take a minute because we kind of topped off there and stopped tapping in the dugout," Woods said.

"The fans are great. They were so loud. They helped us get back into the game," Bailey said.

Grogan got the Tigers out of the inning with a fly



Staff photo by E.J. Harris  
Stanfield defeats Santiam Christian 5-4 in extra-inning of the state 3A championship baseball game on Friday in Keizer.

ball to right field, where Jason Fitzpatrick was having a good game as the team's only senior starter. Fitzpatrick went 2 for 5 at the plate and in the seventh inning had a sliding catch in foul territory near the dugout called off (some would argue wrongly) for being out of play.

Grogan pitched out of a jam again in the seventh and stranded Ottinger at second with a fly to Justin Keeney in center. Keeney would come up big for the Tigers later in the game.

The top of the eighth started off great for the Tigers as Bailey singled to lead off, stole second and went to third on a fly-out by Renner.

But with one out and third runners on second and third (Woods had walked and also advanced on Renner's fly), Johnson made his first risky call of the game with Fitzpatrick at the plate.

Having already put down a perfect bunt for a single

earlier in the game, Fitzpatrick was asked to do it again with the added pressure of sending Bailey on the pitch. The pitch came in low and outside, and when Fitzpatrick was unable to make contact a rundown ensued that ended with Bailey tagged out at home by pitcher Daniel Hendrix.

Fitzpatrick then grounded out to the pitcher for the third out, and the writing was starting to appear on the wall for the Tigers.

Two quick outs in the bottom of the eighth on fly balls were a positive sign, but then Macal singled to bring up Draper.

Again, Draper delivered in the clutch, and Macal was off on the crack of the bat with the speed to bring home the title for the Eagles.

"When I saw that kid coming up again I was like, 'ah'" Bailey said.

"Everybody thought the game was over right there," Monkus said.

At least three people in

Volcanoes Stadium weren't thinking that. Keeney tracked the ball down at the wall and relayed it Flores who spun and put the ball on a line to Monkus at home plate, beating Macal by a step with his perfectly placed throw for the third out.

It wasn't until the 10th that the Tigers were able to take advantage of the sudden momentum swing as Hendrix struck out Flores swinging to end Stanfield's ninth with Damien Curriel on second.

Woods relieved Grogan to start the ninth after 123 pitches, nine strikeouts and four walks from the junior.

Grogan moved over to third, and had to make the long throw to first on the Eagles' first at-bat in the 9th, and Bailey had a nice scoop to finish the out. Woods struck out the next two batters just three days after a six-inning outing against Rainier in the semifinals. Woods was the pitcher of record for three of the Tigers' four postseason wins.

"Three wins in the postseason. Three out of four wins as a sophomore, that's stepping it up," Johnson said.

Grogan took a pitch to the shoulder to lead off Stanfield's 10th, and then took off for the most exciting 270-foot sprint in the Tigers' season when Bailey sliced a two-strike double into the corner.

Grogan slid across home well in front of throw and Bailey followed him in when Woods hit a single to center. Hendrix retired the next three batters, and the Tigers

headed out into the field to face the Eagles' No. 9, 1 and 2 batters in the lineup. Waiting menacingly in the five-hole was Draper, who no doubt was just itching to have another chance at dealing a death blow to the Tigers.

Grogan went deep into the hole behind third for the first out, but then Brady Patterson put down a perfect bunt to get an infield single and bring the tying run to the plate.

Josh Swigart put the tying run on base with a single, and then another Stanfield error allowed Patterson to score while keeping a runner on first with two outs for Macal. Draper on deck.

But that's where he would stay as Woods got Macal to ground up the middle to Flores, who fielded the ball cleanly and made an effortless throw to first for the final out.

And after the game as I quickly tried to track down players on the field for one last interview of the season, I got to witness the cycle starting again as young boys, probably 10 years old, looked for autographs from their favorite players.

"It's definitely way better from this side," Grogan said. "It was a fun game, those are the games you want to watch."

I didn't get to witness Stanfield's first state title, but I'm glad I saw their latest, because this is sure to be a game that's talked about for a long time. Way to go Tigers, way to go.

Contact Matt Entrup at [mentrup@eastoregonian.com](mailto:mentrup@eastoregonian.com) or (541) 966-0838.