

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

PENDLETON

## Fighting the right way



Abraham Campos, left, warms up with sparring partner Justin Milani on Monday at Solid Base Jiu-Jitsu while preparing for a fight later this week in Boise. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Campos finds positive outlet for aggression in MMA

By WILL DENNER  
East Oregonian

Nearing the most important fight of his career to date, Abraham Campos said he's now making the right choices.

Training out of Pendleton mixed martial arts gym Solid Base Jiu-Jitsu, Campos has dedicated himself to eating healthy, and improving his stamina and technique in preparation for a bout with Idaho's Andrew Cruz. Campos and Cruz will square off at Front Street Fights 9 in Boise on Friday.

The stakes of this fight are unlike any Campos has faced previously.

Front Street Fights is a feeder organization to Bellator MMA — widely considered the most elite circuit below UFC. If Campos beats Cruz, who owns a 2-0 professional record, he could gain significant momentum in his



Abraham Campos, left, practices a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu move called a triangle with Justin Milani on Monday in Pendleton. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

fighting career.

"I look at it like the most important fight of my career and I take it very seriously," he said.

Campos, 22, has come a long way professionally and personally

since he first set foot in an MMA gym seven years ago.

Johnny Picard, owner of Solid Base, met Campos in December 2009 when both started training the same week at Straight Blast

Gym in Umatilla.

Campos came in a scrawny, tall and troubled kid. Picard heard stories from Campos involving him packing weapons and often getting into fights to fend for himself. He was raw, both in skill and attitude, and didn't stick around for long.

As he continued getting into trouble at school, his parents grew increasingly worried. At their urging, Campos eventually agreed to attend Oregon Youth Challenge Program, an alternative school and boot camp program in Bend. He spent 22 weeks there, and returned home determined to get his life on track.

"I started thinking about the decisions I was making that were not just affecting me, they were affecting my family and everybody else around me," Campos said. "That's when I started focusing."

Campos enters Friday's feath-

See CAMPOS/2B

Olympics



AP Photo/Andrew Medichini  
Ibtihaj Muhammad of the United States salutes the referee prior to competing with Olena Kravatska of Ukraine in the women's individual saber fencing event at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Aug. 8, 2016.

## Fencer's notable first:

Muhammad only athlete to ever compete in hijab for United States

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The third day of Olympic competition featured a couple of notable firsts: Rafaela Silva captured host Brazil's initial gold medal of the Rio Games and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad became the only American ever to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab.

The U.S. men's basketball team surged after a slow start, beating Venezuela 113-69 on Monday night and Serena Williams struggled before beating France's Alize Cornet 7-6 (5), 6-2 in her bid for a second consecutive singles gold medal.

Silva, who grew up on one of Rio's hillside shanty towns, won judo's 57-kilogram division, then, overwhelmed with emotion, performed the Brazilian version of the Green Bay Packers' "Lambeau Leap" to celebrate with her compatriots Monday.

It was, at the least, a momentary reprieve for the host country bracing for what once seemed unthinkable: an early exit by its men's soccer team from the Olympic tournament.

See OLYMPICS/2B

HERMISTON

## Talley brings momentum into Farm-City Pro Rodeo

In this Aug. 13, 2015, file photo, Timber Moore of Aubrey, Texas, ropes his calf in 8.5 seconds in tie-down roping at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston. Moore isn't the only defending Farm-City champion entering the week ranked No. 1 in the PRCA world standings.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Past Hermiston winners performing well on tour

PRCA Media & East Oregonian

DODGE CITY, Kan. — Jacob Talley's 2016 season has officially gone from a dream to a reality.

The 25-year-old steer wrestler from Keatchie, Louisiana, won the 40th annual Dodge City Roundup Rodeo Aug. 7, continuing his career-best

year. He clocked a time of 4.2 seconds to win the short round, and took the average title with a time of 13.6 seconds on three head.

"I knew I had a good steer drawn — they had been 3.8 and 4.4 on him this week — so I just had to score well," Talley said of his run in the short go. "He did exactly what I thought he would do, and he was outstanding on the ground."

Talley's emergence into the

See FCPR/2B

28th FCPR

WHAT: One of the final stops on the PRCA's Wrangler Million Dollar Tour

WHEN: Wednesday-Saturday, 7:25 p.m. (Specialty act Metal Mulisha begins at 6:45 p.m. the first two nights)

WHERE: Farm-City Arena at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds  
COST: \$17 general admission, \$20 reserved, \$5 children

Sports shorts

### Congeaed field cancels NFL game

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — The Pro Football Hall of Fame will issue refunds to ticket buyers who went home from the NFL's annual preseason kickoff without having watched any football.

The competitors for roster spots with the Colts and the Packers won't get the game back, though.

After Brett Favre stole the show with a humorous, insightful and moving speech during the induction ceremony for his class on Saturday, the talk of league turned the next night to the field. That's because part of it was congealed, rendering the Indianapolis-Green Bay game unplayable.

The traditional exhibition in Canton, Ohio, an extra preseason contest for each team and source of local pride, was canceled when NFL and team officials deemed the turf unsafe due to hardened paint and loosened rubber pellets.



"In this offense, the quarterback is the point guard, and a point guard who looks for assists. The quarterback is not a position where you can really do anything by yourself. It's cool to play quarterback in an offense with this many weapons around it."

— Dakota Prukop

One of three quarterbacks competing to be Oregon's starter this season. The Ducks opened fall practice Monday morning.

### Kennewick team falls to Japan in Cal Ripken championship

ABERDEEN, Md. (AP) — Kennewick American's run at the Cal Ripken 12s World Series ended Saturday with a 7-0 loss to Japan in the championship game in Aberdeen, Md.

"I'm pleased as punch," Kennewick coach Bryan Knapik told the *Tri-City Herald* via telephone. "We had a great tournament. We are No. 1 in the nation. Japan was by far the best team we have ever played."

It was the first time a team representing the Pacific Northwest had reached the title game. Kennewick American ended its season with an impressive 36-5 record.

Adding to the accolades, Kennewick's Simeon Howard doubled in his first at-bat, breaking a World Series record for hits in a tournament with 13. Howard also was named MVP of the U.S. side of the bracket.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1936 — Jesse Owens becomes the first American to win four Olympic gold medals as the United States sets a world record in the 4x100 relay at the Berlin Games. The record time of 39.8 seconds lasts for 20 years.

1992 — The Summer Olympics ends with the Unified Team holding a 112-108 lead in medals over the United States, the closest race since America won 90-86 in 1964 at Tokyo.

2012 — Maggie Steffens scored five times and the U.S. women's water polo team beat Spain 8-5 to take the Olympic tournament for the first time.

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