

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## HERMISTON

# Bulldog trio to continue respective careers

**Hermiston seniors (seated left to right) John-Henry Line, Clarissa Nitz and Alysia Garcia sign National Letters of Intent with college programs on Thursday at Hermiston High School. Line signed with Eastern Oregon football, Nitz joined Warner Pacific volleyball and Garcia signed her letter with Southwest Oregon Community College soccer. The players' high school coaches are standing behind them (left to right) David Faateete, Elizabeth Fleming and Danielle Turner.**



Staff photo by Eric Singer

## Line, Nitz, Garcia sign to play collegiate athletics

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Hermiston senior Clarissa Nitz celebrated her birthday on Thursday, and she earned herself perhaps one of her best gifts ever.

A college scholarship. Nitz along with fellow Hermiston seniors John-Henry Line and Alysia Garcia signed their letters of intent to play college

athletics at a signing party at the Hermiston High School commons. Nitz signed to play volleyball at Warner Pacific University, while Line signed with Eastern Oregon football and Garcia with Southwest Oregon Community College women's soccer.

"This is really exciting," Nitz said while grinning ear-to-ear on Thursday. "I've wanted to play in college since the sixth grade ... I've just always loved the sport."

Warner Pacific was Nitz's first choice and the only school she really considered because of the school's Christian affiliation.

"It was really important to me because I've gone to church all my life," Nitz said,

See BULLDOGS/2B

## PENDLETON

# Buckaroos grind past Eagles

Pendleton closes league slate with win over Hood River

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

Tuesday's league title-clinching win over Hermiston was one of the most efficient, complete, and emotional games the Pendleton girls basketball team had put together all season.

Thursday's regular season finale against Hood River Valley was the opposite of that.

Pendleton shot just 27 percent from the floor and turned the ball over 19 times en route to a sluggish 48-39 victory over Hood River at Warberg Court. Buckaroos (12-7, 8-1 CRC) coach Kevin Porter said after the game that he was bracing for a possible emotionally-flat effort coming in this one.

"You're always worried about it," Porter said, "because when you have a game like (Hermiston) with the significance that it had, some times it's hard to follow up. But we knew and talked about it ahead of time."

Porter also credited some disjointedness to a shakeup in rotations and playing time, as he started the three seniors Tatum Fell, Haley Greb and Kale'a Broker — as well as sophomore guard Elli Nirschl and junior guard Jaiden Lemberger — giving the seniors as much playing time as possible in their final home regular season game.

"Sometimes when you change lineups it causes some struggles and that's what it did tonight I think," he said. "The girls knew we were going to do a senior-heavy game and they prepared for it, but for some reason we had a

See BUCKAROOS/2B

### Girls' Hoops



Hood River  
39



Pendleton  
48



Pendleton's Kalan McGlothlin grabs a rebound in front of Hood River's Emily Curtis (4) and Lauren Orr in the Bucks' 48-39 win against the Eagles on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## PENDLETON

# Bucks go undefeated in CRC

Pendleton cruises past Hood River

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Buckaroos started fast, then put it in cruise control to hold off Hood River 51-41 on Thursday in their Columbia River Conference finale.

Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder said he wasn't quite sure what led to the Bucks' fall-off after outscoring the Eagles 22-5 through the first eight minutes, but suspected it had something to do with Pendleton's 29- and 17-point wins over Hood River in their prior games this season.

"We came out hot, forcing the issue and creating turnovers, and it just went away in the

See BUCKS/2B

### Boys Hoops



Pendleton  
51



Hood River  
41

## NBA

# Lillard rallies Trail Blazers

By TERRANCE HARRIS  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Damian Lillard scored 33 points, C.J. McCollum added 22 and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Orlando Magic 112-103 on Thursday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

After trailing for much of the game, the Trail Blazers rallied in the fourth quarter behind Lillard's 17 points. Recently acquired center Jusuf Nurkic also had 12 points and 12 rebounds during

See BLAZERS/2B



Portland  
112



Orlando  
103

## Prep Basketball

# Arlington's Hauner, Patnode named to first team All-BSL

East Oregonian

Three locals were named to the All-Big Sky League girls basketball first team the league announced on Thursday.

Arlington seniors Megan Hauner and Joely Patnode, and Condon/Wheeler senior Brooke Dyer were the selections, as voted on by league coaches. Four more locals were honored with placement on the second team and honorable mention list.

It was the second time making the first team for Hauner, and the first for both Patnode and Dyer, who were second team and honorable mention last season, respectively.

Horizon Christian junior Paulina Finn, a second-team selection as a sophomore, was voted the BSL Player of the Year after leading the Hawks to first place in the district tournament.

Also garnering all-league recognition for local teams were second-teamers Annika Reitmann (Condon/Wheeler) and Shelby Collins (Arlington), and honorable mention picks Maggie Flynn (Ione) and Rileigh McClure (Arlington).

Arlington's four representative were the most of any team, and South Wasco and Horizon Christian each had three.

No locals were named to the BSL Boys All-League first team,

and Condon/Wheeler junior Bryce Harrison was the only player on the second team. Anthony Valdez and Benjamin Evans of Arlington, and Hunter Winslow of Condon/Wheeler were honorable mention picks.

Sherman senior Max Martin was voted Player of the Year, and the district-champion Huskies landed four players on the first team.

### 2016-17 Girls BSL All-League First Team

Paulina Finn, jr., Horizon Christian (Player of the Year)  
Megan Hauner, sr., Arlington  
Brooke Dyer, sr., Condon/Wheeler  
Jodee Hicks, sr., Horizon Christian  
Joely Patnode, sr., Arlington  
Second Team  
Annika Reitmann, jr., Condon/Wheeler  
Kaitlin Wenz, so., Horizon Christian  
Allie Noland, jr., South Wasco

Emily Hill, sr., Sherman  
Shelby Collins, sr., Arlington  
Alexus Outlaw, jr., Dufur  
Desiree Winslow, so., Sherman  
Honorable Mention  
Abby Birman, so., South Wasco  
Maggie Flynn, jr., Ione  
Rileigh McClure, sr., Arlington  
Anastasia Popchok, jr., South Wasco  
Jaelyn Justesen, fr., Sherman

### 2016-17 Boys BSL All-League First Team

Max Martin, sr., Sherman (Player of the Year)  
Kyle Fields, sr., Sherman  
Isaiah Coles, sr., Sherman  
Jacob Justesen, jr., Sherman  
Connor Uhalde, sr., Dufur  
Second Team  
Ian Walker, sr., Horizon Christian  
Ty Herlocker, sr., South Wasco  
Treve Martin, jr., Sherman  
Bryce Harrison, jr., Condon/Wheeler  
Bailey Keever, sr., Dufur  
Honorable Mention  
Kolbe Bales, sr., Dufur  
Anthony Valdez, sr., Arlington  
Derek Johnston, so., Horizon Christian  
Benjamin Evans, sr., Arlington  
Hunter Winslow, so., Condon/Wheeler  
Haven Stephenson, sr., South Wasco

## Sports shorts

### Broncos cut Okung after 1 season

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Russell Okung bet on himself and lost.

The former first-round pick signed what basically was a one-year tryout last year with Denver. Serving as his own agent, Okung structured his contract so that only his \$8 million salary in 2016 was guaranteed. He needed to have a big year to trigger the final four years and \$48 million.

He didn't, and on Thursday the Broncos informed the former first-round pick they wouldn't be picking up his \$1 million option bonus next month that would have guaranteed him another \$21 million.

The Broncos' decision not to exercise Okung's option saves Denver nearly \$11 million against the cap this season, giving the Broncos north of \$40 million in cap space.



Okung

"Obviously we have a great deal of interest, and we've said it for a long time, in a playmaker."

— David Griffin

Cleveland Cavaliers General Manager when asked about former All-Star guard Deron Williams, who was released by Dallas on Thursday and told ESPN he intends to sign with Cleveland after he clears waivers, which is expected to take 48 hours.

### Gonzaga clinches WCC title

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Josh Perkins and Jordan Mathews scored 15 points apiece, and Johnathan Williams had 14 points and 19 rebounds for No. 1 Gonzaga, which overwhelmed San Diego 96-38 on Thursday night to improve to 29-0 and clinch the West Coast Conference title.

The 58-point victory margin was the biggest of the season for Gonzaga, which also has won games by 47, 46 and 39 points.

And it was merely the latest laughter for Gonzaga (17-0 WCC), the only unbeaten team in Division I. It has won all 17 conference games by double digits.

Nigel Williams-Goss scored 14 points and Zach Collins had 12 for Gonzaga.

Olin Carter III scored 15 for USD (12-17, 5-12), which has lost six straight and 39 of its last 42 games to Gonzaga.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1967 — Wilt Chamberlain of Philadelphia shoots 18-for-18 from the field against the Baltimore Bullets, an NBA record for field goals in a game without a miss.

1985 — Jim Kelly of the Houston Gamblers passes for a USFL-record 574 yards and five touchdowns in a 34-33 comeback-win over the Los Angeles Express. Kelly, completes 35 of 54 passes, including three for touchdowns in the final 10 minutes.

2013 — Jimmie Johnson wins his second Daytona 500, beating Dale Earnhardt Jr., his Hendrick Motorsports teammate, Danica Patrick, the first woman to win the pole, becomes the first woman to lead the race.

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