

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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HERMISTON

Senior Bulldogs make college decisions



Photo courtesy of Hermiston Athletics/Lindy Thompson

Hermiston senior Slade Gritz, second from right, shake hands with Hermiston assistant baseball coach John Christy after signing a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Blue Mountain Community College next season during a ceremony on Thursday at Hermiston High School.



Photo courtesy of Hermiston Athletics/Lindy Thompson

Hermiston senior Rileigh Andreason, second from right, signs her National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Lane Community College next year during a ceremony on Wednesday at Hermiston High School.

Gritz signs with Blue Mountain

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Slade Gritz did not want his baseball career to end in high school.

But as the days of his senior year of school began to dwindle and his senior season churned away, Gritz was left wondering if he would get a chance to continue his career in college. This season he not only improved his hitting, but he further entrenched himself as one of the best defensive catchers in the region.

Yet, the college offers weren't there. He had shared some communication with

coaches and shown interest in some programs, but that's as far as it had gotten. Until one day, Blue Mountain Community College coach Brad Baker invited Gritz out to a practice for a chance to check out the program and meet the team, and then offered him a chance to play for the Timberwolves.

Gritz accepted the offer and made his pledge to BMCC official on Thursday as he signed his National Letter of Intent at a party at Hermiston High School on Thursday afternoon.

"It's awesome," Gritz said of the opportunity. "I was just waiting for the opportunity ... I like BMCC,

I like the guys, they're a bunch of good dudes and coach Baker is a great guy."

Baker said that he has had his eye on Gritz since last season, and the Bulldog came with glowing recommendations from Hermiston coach Lance Hawkins as well as several other coaches from the area.

"We were in need for a catcher who is solid defensively," Baker said in an email. "He has a plus arm and a quick release behind the plate. When recruiting catchers we look for kids who are tough, smart and can help control the run

See GRITZ/2B

Andreason follows pipeline to Lane

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

With 16 straight tournament appearances, the Lane Titans women's basketball team has won an NWAC-leading 83.7 percent of its games going back to the 2001-02 season.

Maintaining that level of success, especially in the junior college ranks where players are granted a maximum two years eligibility, is no easy task. So when coaches find high school programs that continually produce college-ready athletes, they pump that well until it goes dry.

One of the Titans' trusted

pipelines leads back to Hermiston High School, and on Wednesday they added another Bulldog to their ranks when guard Rileigh Andreason signed her National Letter of Intent.

"It was kind of scary but exciting at the same time, I get to try something new," said Andreason, who established herself as a dangerous jump shooter early in her Bulldog career and added a tenacious defensive mentality as a senior.

She's the fourth Bulldog to sign with the Titans in recent years, and will join 2016 HHS grad Kiana Heehn, who played in 18 games her freshman season

at Lane.

Courtney Walchli was the first Bulldog to head to Lane and gave the Titans about seven points and five rebounds a game during the 2011-13 seasons that produced one of the program's four 30-win campaigns. Then the Titans hit big with Gabby Heehn, who capped her career with a school-record 125 threes during the Titans' championship run in 2015-16.

Andreason said she's eager to follow in those footsteps.

"I want to shoot a high percentage of shots so I can

See ANDREASON/2B

MLB

Mariners pull out series win versus Tigers

Gamel's single in ninth lifts Seattle

By DAVE HOGG
Associated Press

DETROIT — Kyle Seager and Ben Gamel lifted Seattle past Detroit — at closer Francisco Rodriguez's expense.

Seager doubled off Rodriguez with one out in the ninth, and Gamel followed with an RBI single to right-center field in the Mariners' 2-1 victory Thursday.

"Kyle had a great at-bat, and I got a good look at what K-Rod was throwing," Gamel said. "I knew he was going to throw me a changeup on 2-2, and that's what I got."

Rodriguez (1-2) has a 6.23 ERA in nine games this season.

"You saw exactly what happened," he said. "I couldn't get anybody out and it cost us the game."

Tony Zych (1-0) was the winner, and Edwin Diaz pitched the ninth for his third save.



AP Photo/Carlos Osorio

Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Edwin Diaz, right, greets catcher Mike Zunino after the last out in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Thursday, April 27, 2017, in Detroit. The Mariners won 2-1.

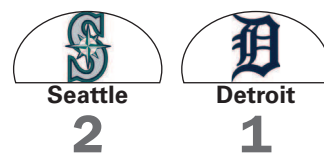
The Mariners closed the series with two one-run victories after falling 19-9 in the opener.

Detroit starter Justin Verlander allowed one unearned run on five hits and two walks in seven innings. He struck out eight after allowing 13 runs in his past two games.

"I knew right out of the gate

that my arm felt cleaner than it has in the last couple starts," Verlander said. "Everything was coming out better. I made an adjustment a couple starts back and it clicked today."

Seattle starter Hisashi Iwakuma gave up an unearned run in 5 2/3 innings. He allowed three hits and a walk and struck out three.



"There were obviously two great pitching performances going out there," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "Verlander was outstanding, but Hisashi matched him."

Seattle broke a scoreless tie in the sixth. Nelson Cruz reached when center fielder Tyler Collins was given a two-base error for running into Jim Adduci as the right fielder was about to catch a routine fly ball. Seager followed with an RBI single for the first run.

Collins countered in the bottom of the inning, doubling and scoring when Robinson Cano misplayed Victor Martinez's grounder.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Mariners: RHP Steve Cishek (hip) is scheduled to pitch an inning for Double-A Arkansas,

See MARINERS/2B

NFL Draft

Browns make Myles Garrett No. 1 pick

Six trades, offensive skill highlight busy first round

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With defensive studs everywhere in this draft, NFL teams turned offensive. With an emphasis on quarterbacks.

Hardly stunning in a pass-happy league, except that no quarterbacks in this crop have been highly touted. Yet three went in the first dozen Thursday night, with two whopping trades putting the Bears and Chiefs in position to grab QBs.

Chicago paid a whopping price to move up one spot to second overall for North Carolina's Mitchell Trubisky. Kansas



Garrett

See NFL DRAFT/2B

Sports shorts

Heppner alumnus wins golf title

TEMPE, Ariz. — Heppner High alumnus and current Lewis Clark State golfer Chris Lien shot a final round 69 to win top medalist honors in the NAIA Frontier Conference tournament on Thursday afternoon.

Lien, who shot a pair of 73s in the first two rounds, held off his teammate Brandon Barnes by three strokes to win the title. Lien's win also helped the Warriors (893) run away with the team title over Montana Tech (924) by 31 strokes.

With his win, Lien will now head to the NAIA men's championship at TPC Deere Run in Silvas, Illinois on May 16-19.

Blake Greenup, also a Heppner alum, finished fifth in the women's standings after a final round 84. She will compete in the women's national championships in May as LCSC won the women's team title as well.



Lien

"Sometimes guys have a little leg thing and you know it's going to be four or five days. You're weighing, 'Do I go without this guy for five days? Now you're quicker to put a guy on [the DL]. To me, it's better."

— Don Mattingly

Miami Marlins manager voicing his support of the new 10-day disabled list over the older 15-day list that MLB is using this season, which has resulted in a 12 percent increase of disabled players over the first 25 days of the season.

Timbers unveil new plans for Providence Park expansion

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Timbers have unveiled plans for a privately funded addition to Providence Park that would add 4,000 seats.

The estimated cost of the expansion project is \$50 million, paid for by the Timbers. It would add four levels to the east side of Providence Park.

The Timbers are popular in Portland with 112 straight sellouts of their downtown stadium that seats 21,144. There are 13,000 fans on the season ticket waiting list.

"For the last several years we've been studying how we can expand Providence Park, and keep this amazing essence and environment that we've built, but also allow more fans to attend our games on a regular basis. Timbers President of Business Mike Golub said.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1966 — Boston edges the Los Angeles Lakers 95-93 in Game 7, giving the Celtics and coach Red Auerbach eight straight NBA titles.

1987 — The NBA awards expansion franchises to Charlotte, N.C. and Miami for 1988, and Minneapolis and Orlando, Fla., in 1989.

1995 — Michael Jordan, in his first playoff game since his return from retirement, scored 48 points as the Chicago Bulls beat the Charlotte Hornets 108-100.

2011 — The Carolina Panthers select Auburn quarterback Cam Newton with the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft.

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