

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, APRIL 29-30, 2017

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1B

HERMISTON

Split rivalry

Baseball

Pendleton
5-10

Hermiston
10-8

Bucks, Dawgs each win one

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Any time Pendleton and Hermiston teams meet up for a sporting event, it is sure to be an action-packed clash between the geographic rivals. Friday's battle on the baseball diamond between the Bulldogs and Buckaroos was just that, as both

See BASEBALL/2B



Wyatt Noland, of Hermiston, slides into third as Pendleton third baseman Jared Beveridge fields the ball during Friday's Columbia River Conference game at Armand Larive Middle School. Noland made it safely to base.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

IRRIGON

Knights without a castle

Irrigon track teams don't let adversity hold them back

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

A big yellow bus pulls up outside Irrigon High School, spurring a swarm of eager bodies into motion.

Though much smaller than the mass exodus that occurs with the final bell each afternoon, it's still an impressive sight as youngsters emerge from all corners of the sports facility that sits behind the school and funnel toward the bus's open and waiting side door.

It's time for the Knights track and field team to go to practice.

One look at the gravelly track, lumpy jumping runway and weather-worn pads is all it takes to understand why second-year Irrigon track and field coach Ken Thompson doesn't exactly consider anything that occurs on campus as a proper practice.

"We have probably some of the worst conditions of any team in the state, at least at our level or above, for anybody to have to deal with," he said.

So twice a week he loads his entire team on a bus and heads for a nearby facility at either Riverside or Umatilla High Schools, where they are able to graciously get in about an hour of work once the home team is finished.

Thompson, who's admittedly unpolished in even the basics of the sport he's coaching, said with the challenges his athletes face

See KNIGHTS/2B



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— Ken Thompson,
Irrigon track coach

HERMISTON

Bucks take two from Bulldogs

Pendleton keeps pace in CRC title race

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Pendleton softball team kept pace in the Columbia River Conference title hunt with a pair of wins over Hermiston on Friday.

The Buckaroos, which are tied with Hood River for first with five games left in the regular season, came out hitting the ball consistently for a 13-4 win in Friday's opener, then scored a pair of runs in the first inning and held on behind a strong defensive performance to win 3-0 in Game 2.

Lauren Richards earned both wins in the circle, but wasn't her typical dominant self as the Bulldogs' smart plate approaches forced Pendleton's defenders to make plays in the field.

They failed to do that in the Bulldogs' four-run third inning in Game 1, but the offense was clicking and Pendleton still led 6-4 coming into the dugout.

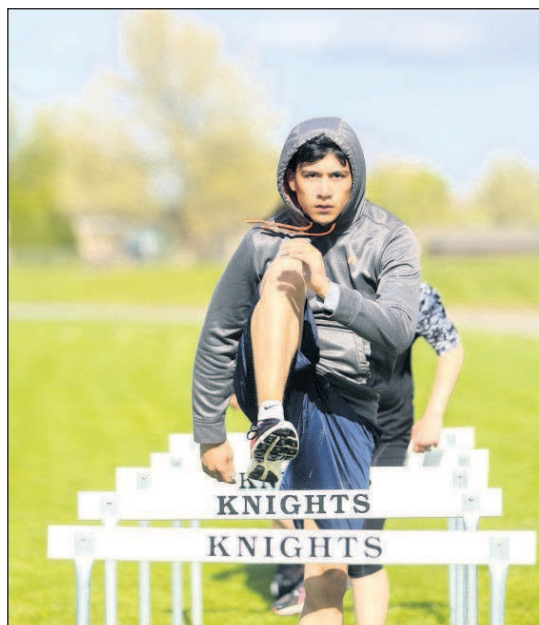
See BUCKS/2B

Softball

Pendleton
13-3

Hermiston
4-0

Staff photos by Kathy Aney
MAIN PHOTO: An Irrigon High School long jumper sprints down a runway constructed from an old potato conveyor belt Wednesday before boarding a bus and traveling to Umatilla for the main practice. The jumpers use the runway for warmups only.
BOTTOM LEFT: Irrigon hurdler Jose Romero warms up Wednesday by stepping over hurdles placed on the grass rather than the school's gravel track.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Cynthia Nava carries her shot put as the Irrigon track team unloads from the bus Wednesday at Umatilla High School.



NFL Draft
Seahawks finally make a pick! **PAGE 3B**



DT Malik McDowell, Mich. St.

Sports shorts

Kenseth wins pole at Richmond

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Matt Kenseth won the pole position for Sunday's Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Richmond International Raceway.

The 2003 series champion needed only four laps in three rounds of qualifying Friday, outrunning final-round qualifiers like Joey Logano, who was fastest in each of the first two rounds, and Dale Earnhardt Jr., who made it to the final round, but will start 12th.

"I don't get a lot of poles so any time I get a pole, it's pretty special," Kenseth said.

The pole was just the 19th for Kenseth, who will make his 623rd career start this weekend, and his second at Richmond. He and teammates Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch and rookie Daniel Suarez will be trying to give Joe Gibbs Racing its first victory of the season at a track where they have been dominant in recent years.



Kenseth

"I just feel like if you've got a taco, you can't go wrong. ... I can't wait to get out there and try all the different tacos. I heard this is the place to be for tacos, so I can't wait to try some."

— Taco Charlton

Dallas Cowboys first-round draft choice on his new city. Charlton, a defensive end from Michigan whose given name is Vidauntae, has already heard from companies about endorsement deals. Restaurant chain Taco Bueno issued a statement welcoming him to Texas on Friday.

PGA penalizes slow players

AVONDALE, La. (AP) — The first team event on the PGA Tour in 36 years has produced the first penalty for slow play since 1995.

PGA Tour officials say Miguel Angel Carballo and Brian Campbell were penalized one shot on the 14th hole of the opening round at the Zurich Classic for their second bad time. They opened with a 74 in foursomes.

They were on the clock when Carballo went over his allotted time on the 12th hole. Then, Campbell had a bad time on the 14th hole.

Typically, a player receives a warning after the first bad time and a one-shot penalty after his second. Because they were a team in foursomes, however, rules specify that a "player" includes his partners.

Until Thursday, the last time a PGA Tour player was penalized one shot for pace of play was Glen Day in the third round of the 1995 Honda Classic.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1986 — Roger Clemens set a major league record by striking out 20 batters as the Boston Red Sox defeated the Seattle Mariners 3-1.

1998 — For the first time in the 124-year history of the Kentucky Derby, a redraw is ordered during the post position draw. Churchill Downs officials allowed ESPN to control the announcing of the draw. Commentator Chris Lincoln called the No. 15 pill twice while picking the draft order for post positions.

2010 — The NCAA's Board of Directors approve a 68-team format for the men's basketball tournament beginning next season. It's the first expansion since 2001 when the tourney went from 64 to 65 teams.

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