

Prep Track & Field

Buckaroos compete well in final tuneup

East Oregonian

ONTARIO — The Heinz Invitational on Saturday afternoon was the final tuneup for the Pendleton Buckaroos track and field team before the district meet and for the most part the Buckaroos put together a solid day.

The Buckaroo girls team earned a second place finish with 96 points while the boys team finished third with 90 points, both finishing behind first-place Ontario teams.

Pendleton claimed seven victories at the meet, headlined by the girls sweeping the pole vault, high jump, long jump and triple jump events. Hailey Kendrick tied for first in the pole vault by clearing 9-feet even, while Oceane Schreier won the triple jump with a new personal record of 32-00.50.

Senior Kiara Glover won both the high jump (5-feet-4) and long jump (16-07.50).

On the boys side, Soren Wolf de Gavia took first in the 100 meter dash with a fast time of 11.46. The boys 4x100 relay team also took first, as Cade Anderson, Jon Jennings, Colin Rickman and Wolf de Gavia finished in a time of 44.84.

Mac-Hi also competed at the Heinz Invitational on Saturday, where Bianca Garcia continued her impressive season with a win in the javelin throw. Her distance of 120-02 came with a cushion of nearly 13 feet on second place.

Landon Warne also had a good day for the Pioneers, as he won the boys discus with a throw of 136-07 and then finished fifth in the shotput.

UP NEXT
Pendleton will compete in the CRC district championships on May 10-11 in Hermiston and Mac-Hi will head to the Baker Invite on Friday.

NIKE SHERMAN INVITATIONAL — At Moro, seven local schools descended on the Nike Sherman Invitational on Saturday afternoon and the Heppner Mustang boys and Pilot Rock girls finished with

the best days of the locals.

Pilot Rock girls finished in third place with 66 points on the day, behind La Grande who was first with 94.5. Pilot Rock's top performer was Abby Rigby, who took first place in the 200 meter dash with a season record 26.90 time and then took first in the 400 meter dash with a personal record time of 59.65. She also finished third in the 100 meter dash.

The Heppner boys finished in fifth with 49 points, well behind first place La Grande with 181. Heppner's top performers were distance runner Hunter Nichols and thrower Derek Howard. Nichols took first place in the 1500 meter run with a personal record time of 4:15.12 and then finished second in the 800 meter with a time of 2:08.42.

Howard then turned in a first place finish in the shot put with a personal-best throw of 48-06.25.

The Condon/Wheeler boys team had a decent day with an eighth place finish with 29 points. The Knights were paced by jumper Jake Bold, who took first in the high jump with a personal record of 6-feet-1 and first place in the pole vault by clearing 11 feet.

For the Condon/Wheeler girls team, Christine Segura took first in the high jump by clearing 5-feet-1. Pilot Rock's Olivia Warner finished second to Segura by jumping 4-feet-6.

And finally, Irrigon sprinter Ana Zacarias also had a notable day, as the sophomore finished top five in the 100 meter (4th, 13.35), 200 meter (3rd, 27.68) and 400 meter dashes (2nd, 1:02.85).

Boys Team Scores

1. La Grande	181
5. Heppner	49
8. Condon/Wheeler	29
9. Irrigon	26
11. Ione	20
12. Pilot Rock	14
14. Helix	8
16. Echo	7

Girls Team Scores

1. La Grande	94.5
3. Pilot Rock	66
5. Helix	56
6. Irrigon	46
12. Condon/Wheeler	16
14. Echo	13
15. Ione	9
18. Heppner	2

Stanfield athletes make college decisions

STANFIELD

Gadsden heads to Treasure Valley, Gonzales stays home with BMCC

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

March 23, 2017 will be a day that Stanfield seniors Maya Gadsden and Kenzie Gonzales will remember for a long time.

It was the day that both ladies took a big step toward achieving one of the biggest goals of their respective athletic careers. In a ceremony at Stanfield Secondary School, the duo signed National Letters of Intent to play college athletics, with Gadsden signing with Treasure Valley Community College for volleyball and Gonzales with Blue Mountain Community College for softball.

"I remember feeling very happy and excited for the next chapter in my life," Gadsden said. "It was relieving that all my hard work payed off, that it wasn't for nothing."

"I'm just super stoked to know that I can play at the next level," Gonzales added.

Gadsden, who lines up at outside hitter/middle blocker on the court, started playing volleyball



Photo contributed by 60 Minute Photography

Stanfield Secondary School seniors Maya Gadsden, left, and Kenzie Gonzales, right, pose before signing their National Letters of Intent on March 23, 2017. Gadsden signed with Treasure Valley CC volleyball, and Gonzales signed with Blue Mountain CC softball.

in eighth grade, but didn't start to think about possibly playing in college until her sophomore year of high school. She gathered more attention on the recruiting circuit by playing club volleyball, playing on Club Gold based out of Richland, Washington.

The senior, who will study nursing, said she had interest from three community colleges and a few Division III colleges. But in the end, Treasure Valley stood out to her and made itself the obvious choice.

"I liked that it's a small school with an excellent coaching staff," Gadsden said. "They have the same philosophy as my club team which is a really

easy transition. And I was looking to go somewhere that offered on-campus living so I could have a total college experience."

Gadsden will join a Treasure Valley program that went 10-23 overall in 2016 and finished eighth in the NWAC East region. The Chukars have averaged just over 11 wins per year in the past four seasons, and have not had a winning season since 2009, but Gadsden hopes to help fix that.

For Gonzales, who also plans to study nursing, Blue Mountain was the only college she set her sights on.

"It's close to home, the girls I was able to meet were great and the coach was awesome," Gonzales said.

The right-handed thrower has a chance to make an immediate impact at Blue Mountain, with the Timberwolves losing two of the three pitchers on its roster after this season. Gonzales will also be teaming up with Pilot Rock pitcher Tehya Ostrom at BMCC next season, and the idea of a locally-dominated pitching staff is something that Gonzales is looking forward to.

"I don't know her personally, but we've competed together on the field for a long time," Gonzales said. "I'm very excited to call her my teammate and hopefully lead the pitching staff with her."

She does know that her and Ostrom will have their work cut out for them, though, as they are joining a BMCC program that, just like Gadsden with TVCC, has not had a winning season in several years. But Gonzales, too, is looking forward to the challenge.

"I would love to say that I was a part of the change in the program," she said, "and that I am helping turn around a softball team around to build a better program."

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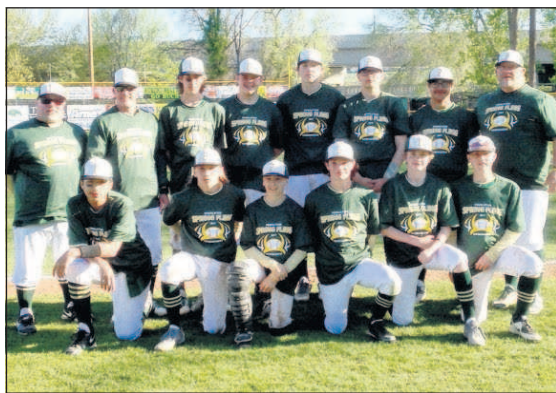


Photo courtesy of Travis Zander

The Pendleton 14U Bucks pose together after winning the Spring Fling baseball tournament on Sunday in Pendleton.

PENDLETON

Bucks win Spring Fling Tourney

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Bucks 14U team beat the Kennewick Heat 10-5 on Sunday for the championship at the Spring Fling baseball tournament held over the weekend in Pendleton.

Bucks coach Travis Zander said Curtis Simons and Colby Evens made game-saving defensive plays while Parker Persinger and Kyle Field combined on the mound to

lead the team against Kennewick. Jimmy Jones and Ty Beers each had two hits to pace the offense.

Also Sunday, the Bucks beat the Columbia Crushers 5-4 in the semifinals with back-to-back singles in the bottom of the seventh inning by Persinger and Jordan DeGeer, then a walk-off single by Tucker Zander for the win. DeGeer had two hits, and Beers got the win on the mound.

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