

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

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1B

OSAA Baseball & Softball State Playoffs

Buckaroos, Eagles set for Round 5

Pendleton hosts conference foe in quarterfinals

East Oregonian

The Pendleton Buckaroos and the Hood River Valley Eagles took the field together four times during the regular season, and today the teams will do so again though this time there are bigger stakes.

The No. 3 seed Buckaroos (24-4) and No. 6 Eagles (18-10) meet up today in the 5A quarterfinals after both teams had to grind out victories against their lower-seeded opponent. Pendleton held on for a 4-0 shutout against Corvallis while Hood River won 3-2 over No. 11 La Salle Prep on Wednesday.

The two Columbia River Conference foes split their season series two games to two, with Hood River winning the last installment 3-2 on May 9.

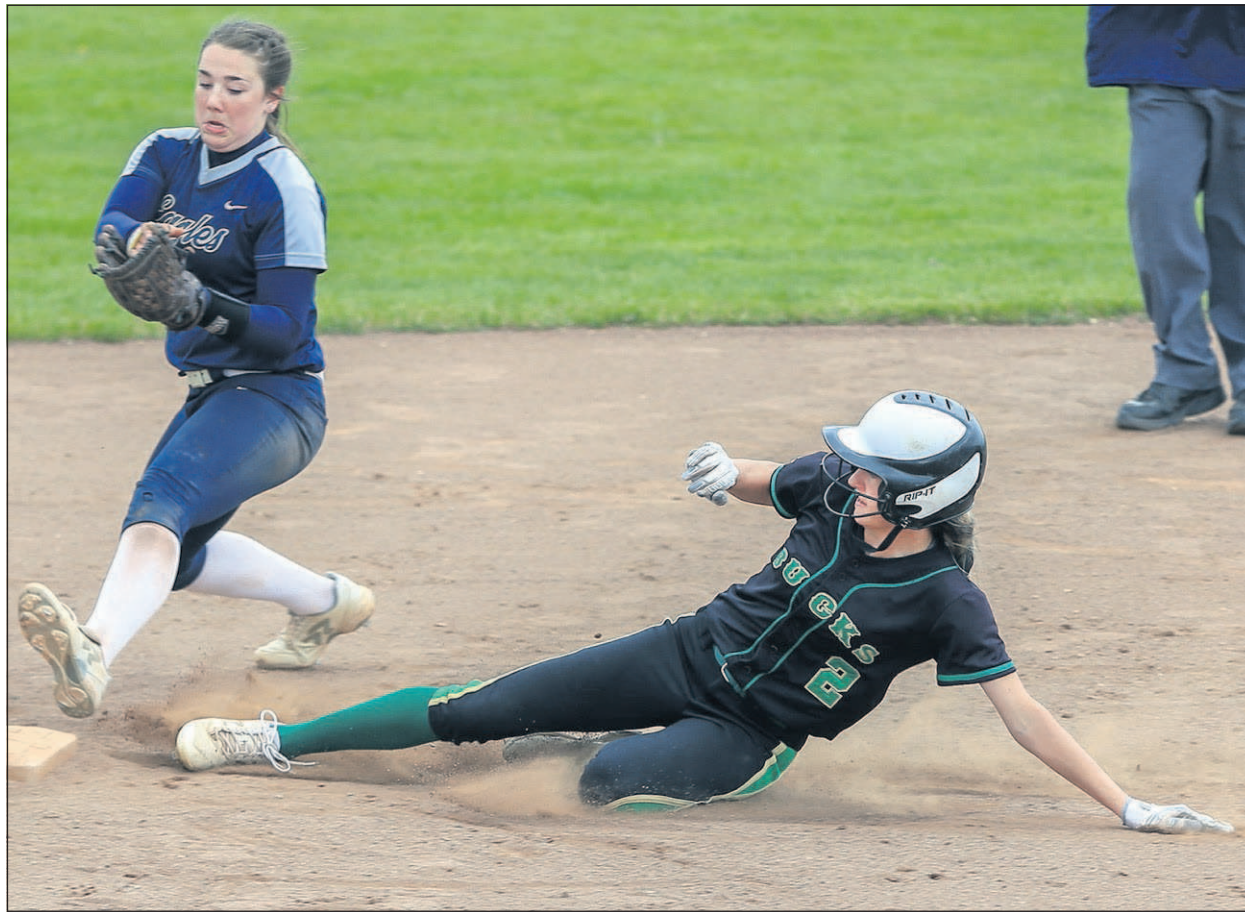
Pendleton coach Tim Cary attributed the Buckaroos performance on Wednesday to some nerves, and believes that his team will be ready to go today.

"I think the first playoff game is the one where the nerves are the highest," he said following Wednesday's game, "so hopefully we have that out of our system and we play a little looser on Friday, relax and play a little better."

The pitching match-up will be Lauren Richards versus Hannah McNeerney, which was the case for three of the four previous meetings. Richards has been nearly unhittable over the past three games as she's allowed a mere five hits and one run with 30 strikeouts and four walks in 19 innings. Meanwhile Hood River has given up just nine runs over its past five games, all of which have been wins.

First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m. at Steve Cary Field.

No. 6 CROOK COUNTY AT No. 3 MAC-HI — The Mac-Hi



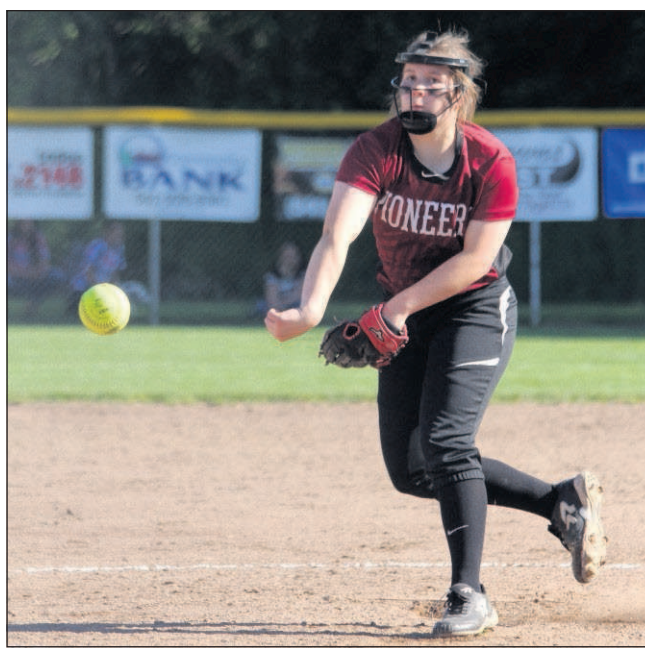
In this file photo Elli Nirschl, of Pendleton, slides into second base Saturday, April 22 at Steve Cary Field as an unidentified Hood River player hurries to cut her off.

Pioneers took a good first step in their trek to reach a fifth straight state championship game, by defeating No. 14 Newport 11-1 in five innings on Wednesday.

But now the Pioneers (18-6) face a big test in the quarterfinal round as they host the red-hot Crook County Cowboys (19-5) this afternoon. The No. 6 seed Cowboys shutout North Bend 3-0 in the first round, and have now won 15 of their last 16 games.

Pitching has been a sudden question mark for Mac-Hi down the stretch, but pitching was strong in the first round as McKenna Stallings allowed just three hits and zero walks with seven strikeouts in five innings. She will need to be strong once again as the Cowboys come in averaging more than seven runs per game and

See **PLAYOFFS/2B**



Mac-Hi pitcher McKenna Stallings spins a pitch towards home plate during the Pioneers game against Pendleton on Thursday in Milton-Freewater.

Staff photo by Eric Singer

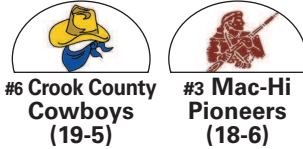


5A Quarterfinals



• Today, 4:30 p.m.
• at Steve Cary Field, Pendleton

4A Quarterfinals

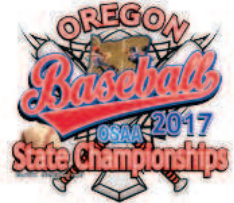


• Today, 4 p.m.
• at Yantis Park, Milton-Freewater

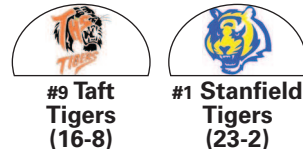
2A/1A Quarterfinals



• Today, p.m.
• at Pilot Rock Elementary



3A Quarterfinals



• Today, 4:30 p.m.
• at Madigan Field, Stanfield

PENDLETON T-Wolves snag all-region honors

Four softball, one baseball player honored

East Oregonian

Five Blue Mountain softball and baseball athletes earned all-region honors, as the NWAC announced this week.

Four softball players earned spots on the East Region all star team, headlined by sophomore outfielder Megan Ulrey as the Timberwolves lone first team selection. Ulrey hit for a .354 average in 30 conference games, smashing six home runs and six doubles with 22 RBI and 17 runs scored.

She also had a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in 88 innings in center field. The final three players made second team, including Lauren Cagle, Sydney Saxton Siaki and Sarah Bonner. Saxton Siaki, a sophomore, led the Timberwolves in hitting (.445 avg.)

See **BMCC/2B**



MLB

Cruz's 3-run homer lifts Mariners over Nats

Seattle stops five-game losing streak

By IAN QUILLEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mariners manager Scott Servais got ejected for the second time this season. Nelson Cruz came through with a big hit, just like he did when Servais was tossed from a game on April 16.

"Our guys joke about it," Servais said Thursday after Seattle rallied to beat the Washington Nationals 4-2. "They'd like to see it probably happen more."

Cruz greeted reliever Jacob Turner with a go-ahead, three-run homer in the sixth inning, two batters after Servais'



Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz (23) hits a three-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Washington, Thursday, May 25, 2017.

departure. The Mariners stopped a five-game losing streak.

"Everything starts with one game," Cruz said. "A win can definitely change everything."

Gio Gonzalez took a 2-0 lead into the sixth, when Jean Segura singled leading off and Guillermo Heredia took a called third strike. That prompted Servais

to complain from the dugout, which led to his dismissal by plate umpire Adam Hamari.

Robinson Cano singled, and Washington manager Dusty Baker brought in Turner (2-3), despite Cruz having just one hit in 15 at-bats against Gonzalez.

Gonzalez had thrown just 50 of 96 pitches for strikes.

"I saw a couple balls hit hard right after we scored, and he was struggling all day," Baker explained. "It was kind of like a Houdini up there, got out of trouble a bunch. He was 2-0 on everybody."

Cruz drove Turner's belt-high slider over the fence in left-center for his 12th homer this season and a 3-2 lead. Cruz, who leads the AL with 40 RBIs, had a run-scoring single that capped a ninth-inning rally in the April 16 win over the Rangers. The home run made him 2 for 2 against Turner.

Cano added an RBI single off Turner in the seventh. Seattle

See **MARINERS/2B**

Sports shorts

Kerr not ready to return to bench

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Steve Kerr is involved in just about everything but the actual game-day coaching for the Golden State Warriors film session, coaches meetings, game-planning and practice.

He's just not yet ready from a health standpoint to be back on the bench with the start of the NBA Finals a week away.

General manager Bob Myers made the announcement Thursday, though he didn't rule out Kerr returning at some point if he somehow is healthy enough to do so though that doesn't appear promising at this stage.

"If he feels better and we have to make those decisions, we will, but right now we're not putting any deadlines on should he feel better what will we do," Myers said. "It'll be based on what day it is, how exactly he feels, how long he's felt well."



Kerr

"Trust me when I tell you, it's going to be bad blood this year. You think the NFC East didn't like each other before? This year right here? There's going to be a lot of fines and maybe some suspensions."

— Josh Norman

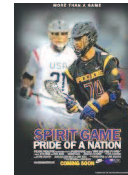
Washington cornerback on the upcoming NFL season. The outspoken player known for his physical play also made disparaging remarks about wide receivers Dez Bryant of the Dallas Cowboys and Odell Beckham Jr. of the New York Giants.

Movie explores lacrosse's origins

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A new documentary titled "Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation" will attempt to offer a deeper understanding of lacrosse's origins and its impact on Native Americans. The 90-minute movie, directed by Peter Spierer and Peter Baxter, debuts Friday, on the eve of the men's NCAA national semifinals, in select theaters around the country. It will be available on video on demand services on June 20.

The six nations of the Iroquois (Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Seneca, and Mohawk) call lacrosse the "medicine game." It's considered the lifeblood of their nation.

The movie traces the sport's beginnings more than four centuries ago all the way through the 2015 World Indoor Championships in Syracuse, New York, a portion of which was conducted on Native American soil for the first time. Although the six Iroquois tribes have a combined population of about 125,000, the team finished second in the tournament to Canada.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1987 — Boston's Larry Bird steals an inbounds pass from Detroit's Isiah Thomas and feeds over his shoulder to a cutting Dennis Johnson for the winning basket. The play sends the Celtics to a 108-107 win over Detroit in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

2000 — New Jersey finishes the greatest comeback in a conference final when the Devils win the last three games of the series, beating the Flyers 2-1 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals. Patrik Elias scores his second goal of the game with 2:32 to play for the win.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com