

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

## PILOT ROCK

# Rockets fly back to title game

## Pilot Rock gets past Union in 10 innings

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

With its season on the line and no margin for error, the Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii softball team came through with the grit of a champion in clutch situations time and again on Tuesday against Union/Cove in the Class 2A/1A OSAA state semifinals.

It was the Rockets' trademark traits of stellar defense and mental acuity that allowed them to rise above the Bobcats 4-3 in a 10-inning game that was a rematch of last season's championship.

"We knew they were going to fight," said Rockets pitcher Tehya Ostrom. "That was just amazing. ... We both obviously had jitters, because this game cost someone's season, and we knew that. But both our teams are strong enough and mentally tough to fight through it. That's why we had such a good game."

"It's a tough one to lose and a great one to win," said Pilot Rock coach Darin Fitzpatrick. "These teams play hard against each other. It's a rivalry, but it's a good rivalry. They make each other better."

It was the sixth meeting between the conference foes this season and the third to go into extra innings, and

See **ROCKETS/2B**

### 2A/1A Semifinals



3



4



Pilot Rock's Sara Weinke exults after reaching third base during Tuesday's state semifinal 2A/1A softball game against Union/Cove. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

## PENDLETON

# Bucks ousted by Spartans

## Pendleton falls short in 5A semifinals

East Oregonian

EUGENE — For the second consecutive season, the Pendleton softball team watched its season come to an end one step away from playing for a state championship.

Last year, the Buckaroos were quieted at home by the Churchill Lancers in the 5A semifinals and this season it was the No. 2 seed Marist Catholic Spartans that sent the Buckaroos packing with a 6-5 victory in the 5A semifinals on Tuesday afternoon. Pendleton coach Tim Cary said he felt like the Buckaroos let a very winnable game fall through their fingers.

"Marist is a very good team, no doubt, but I think we let this one slip away," he said afterward.

"We played hard the entire time and just about got it done there at the end but came up short. But we had good fight and we're a good team and we'll be right back next year ready to go."

The Buckaroos spotted the Spartans a 4-0 lead in the first inning as pitcher Lauren Richards walked two, hit a batter and gave up two hits and a wild pitch as she took some time to get settled in against the potent Spar-

See **BUCKS/2B**

### 5A Semifinals



5



6

## College Golf

# Oregon advances to NCAA finals

## Defending champion Ducks face Oklahoma today

Associated Press

SUGAR GROVE, Ill. — Oregon and Oklahoma will play for the NCAA men's golf title, two teams that at times had every reason to think they wouldn't be there.

The Sooners trailed in all five of their quarterfinal matches through 10 holes of their quarterfinal match against Baylor on Tuesday morning at Rich Harvest Farms until they rallied, with Brad Dalke finishing off the Bears with a par on the 19th hole.

The Ducks were outside the top eight teams trying to qualify Monday for match play when Ryan Gronlund closed with four straight birdies that allowed Oregon to advance. The Ducks took it from there, beating Oklahoma State in the quarterfinals and riding the clutch play of Sulman Raza in the afternoon.

In the fifth and decisive match against top-seeded Vanderbilt, Raza protected his 1-up lead on the par-5 18th hole with a 6-iron onto the back of the green. Matthias Schwab, the Commodores' top player, went left of the green, chipped well past the hole and made par, and he conceded to Raza.

That gives the Ducks a chance to join Alabama and Augusta State as the only back-to-back winners since the match-play era began in 2009.

See **DUCKS/2B**

## STANFIELD

# St. Mary's stuns Stanfield in semifinals

## Crusaders end Tigers bid for state championship repeat

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

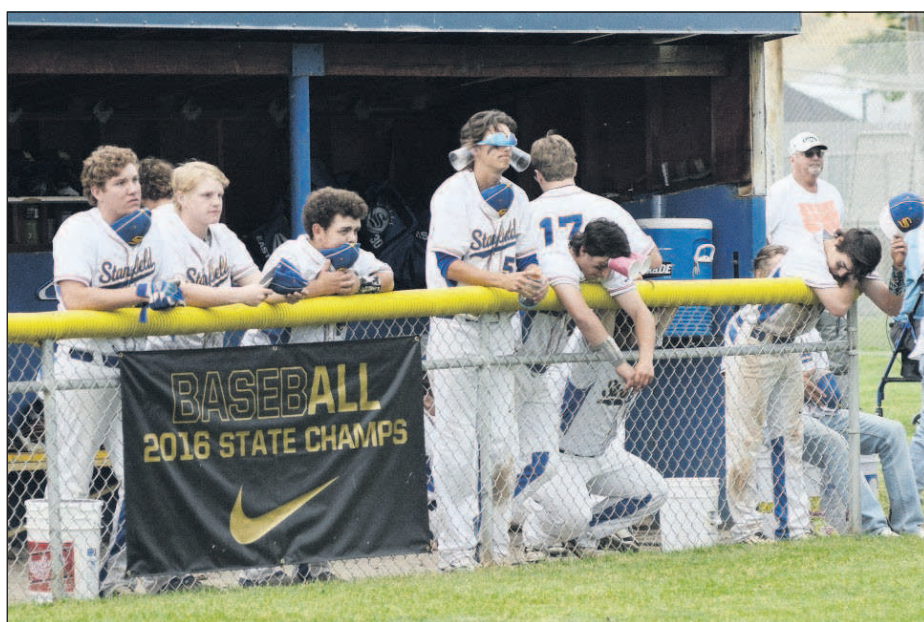
After the final out of Tuesday's 3A baseball semifinal game between No. 1 Stanfield/Echo and No. 4 St. Mary's, Medford, the winning team tossed its gloves around in a giant mosh pit, just as one might expect, after clinching a state title game berth.

What was unexpected though, was the team that was celebrating. It was not the defending 3A state champion Tigers, who dominated the first two rounds of the postseason. Instead it was the Crusaders, who got a dominant pitching performance to quiet the Tiger

offense and advance to the school's first-ever baseball state championship game with a 3-2 victory at Madigan Field.

The Crusaders (25-4) will now play No. 6 Glide for the 3A state championship at Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer on Friday at 5 p.m.

"It's tough," Stanfield's Dylan Grogan said afterwards, fighting back emotions. "The seniors wanted to get back at it and get another one, but some-



The Stanfield Tigers react after losing to St. Mary's 3-2 on in the quarter finals of the 3A state baseball playoffs Tuesday. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

times all it takes is one pitch and now we gotta live with it."

As Grogan referenced, the win for the Crusaders came down to one pitch. St. Mary's registered just three hits in the game, but its entire offensive output came with one swing of the bat in the fifth inning.

With the Tigers (24-3) holding a 2-0 lead, starting pitcher Klay Jensen walked two batters to put a pair on with two outs. It wasn't a new occurrence for the

Stanfield lefty on Tuesday, who walked a total of six batters as he battled his command, yet had managed to escape unharmed each time prior.

But after throwing St. Mary's batter Joe Johnson a first-pitch slider, Jensen tried to get another slider in for a strike but left it over the plate a hair too much and the lefty-swinging Johnson put a good swing on the pitch and lifted it up into the

See **STANFIELD/2B**

## Sports shorts

### Pujols on doorstep of 600 HR club

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Albert Pujols hit his 599th career homer during the Los Angeles Angels' nine-run third inning in a 9-3 victory over struggling Bartolo Colon and the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

Pujols moved to the brink of his latest milestone with a three-run homer off Colon early in the Angels' biggest one-inning rally of the season.

The 37-year-old slugger has homered in back-to-back games for the first time this season. He will be the ninth player in baseball history, and the fourth-youngest, to reach 600 homers with his next shot.

After his first-inning single, Pujols' homer was his 2,873rd career hit, matching Babe Ruth's career total in 30 fewer games.

Parker Bridwell (1-0) earned his first MLB victory, pitching six-hit ball into the seventh.



Pujols

"I just have (a) problem with his attitude, because he wasn't fair. That's it."

— Laurent Lokoli

French tennis player on why he refused to shake the hand of his opponent Martin Klizan of Slovakia after losing 7-6 (4), 6-3, 4-6, 0-6, 6-4 at the French Open on Tuesday. Lokoli said he thought Klizan was faking an injury during the match and was generally "disrespectful."

### MLB hands out fines to Harper, Strickland for Monday's brawl

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Giants reliever Hunter Strickland received a six-game suspension Tuesday and Washington's Bryce Harper was penalized four games for their roles in a benches-clearing brawl at AT&T Park a day earlier.

MLB said both players planned to appeal, so the suspensions weren't to begin with Tuesday night's game between the clubs.

Strickland hit Harper in the hip with a pitch in the eighth inning and the Washington slugger charged the mound, wildly firing his helmet and trading punches to the head with Strickland during the Nationals' 3-0 win Monday.

The two players' bad blood stems from a pair of home runs Harper hit off Strickland in the 2014 playoffs, when the Giants went on to capture their third World Series in five years.



### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1927** — Detroit first baseman Johnny Neun makes an unassisted triple play in the ninth inning to end the 1-0 win over the Cleveland Indians. Neun grabs a Homer Summa line drive, tags Charlie Jamieson at first and outruns Glenn Myatt to tag second.

**1987** — The Edmonton Oilers win their third Stanley Cup by beating the Philadelphia Flyers 3-1 in Game 7.

**2008** — Usain Bolt sets the world record in the 100 meters with a time of 9.72 seconds at the Reebok Grand Prix in New York. Bolt is .02 seconds faster than the old record held by fellow Jamaican, Asafa Powell.

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