

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, JULY 1-2, 2017

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1B

## PENDLETON

### Barrel racing back this weekend

More than 130 competing at Round-Up Arena

East Oregonian

Barrel racers will take over the Round-Up Arena this weekend for a Fourth of July competition, and spectators are welcome to watch for free.

More than 130 riders will compete beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday in the Round-Up Independence Barrel Race, testing their skills on the longest competitive barrel pattern in the world. According to a press release from the Round-Up, riders have nicknamed the grass course "the Green Mile" and the event was created to give barrel racers a chance to try out the unique pattern.

"This is a bucket list highlight for barrel racers of all ages," said Nick Sirovatka Pendleton Round-Up Competitive events director, in the press release. "They have heard the legends, seen the videos, and Sunday will be able to race it for themselves."

Amateurs and professionals from the Western states and Canada will compete in separate categories in the event sanctioned by both Barrel Racers National 4D and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. A record number of competitors are expected in the event's fifth year.

The course will get a warm up Saturday at 10 a.m. as more than 200 barrel racers will give the course a practice run, which is also open to the public.

## PENDLETON



Members of the Thompson RV A's hold their hats over their heart during the National Anthem before the start of the Pendleton Babe Ruth Baseball League's championship game. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

# BUILDING BACK UP

Pendleton Babe Ruth trying to rebuild its foundation

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

On Thursday evening, the Thompson RV Athletics and Big John's Red Sox battled against each other in the Pendleton Babe Ruth Baseball League championship game.

The game was an entertaining affair as both teams traded the lead back-and-forth early before the Athletics' pitching and defense began to solve the Red Sox and hung on for a 9-8 victory. It was

a great celebration of the Babe Ruth league, which promotes giving every kid a chance to play as well as a chance for kids to play against their friends and play the game they love.

However, just a few short years ago the same league was in danger of falling through the cracks.

What was once a popular league in Pendleton with team numbers in the double digits had fallen to a league with enough teams to count on only a few fingers on one hand. There are multiple reasons for the sharp decline, such as more sports to choose from, different interests outside of sports, select travel baseball teams. On top of those, what used to be a league of 13-15-year-olds is now mainly just 13 and 14-year-old

See BABE RUTH/2B



Big John's coach Ricky Scruggs talks to his team before the start of the Pendleton Babe Ruth Baseball League's championship game. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Little League Baseball

### Pendleton captures district championship

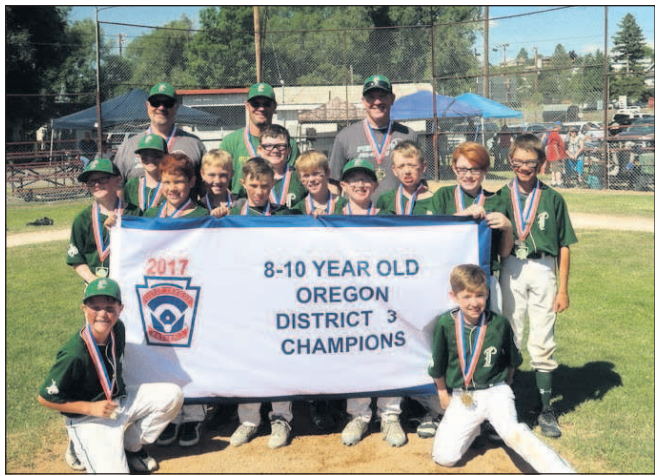


Photo contributed by Corey Neistadt

The Pendleton 8-10 year old all-star little league baseball team poses with the District 3 championship banner after beating La Grande 16-4 on Thursday in Enterprise. Pictured front, right to left: Keegan Kline and Anson Dressler. Middle row, left to right: Tugg McQuinn, Evan Lehnert, Joseph Albitre, Jayden Hoeffert, Landon Willman, Jacob Neistadt, Kaden Moore, Casey Van Dorn, Payton Hoeffert, Art Hill, Connor Cook. Back row: Coach Corey Neistadt, Manager JR Cook, Coach Chris Moore.

Pendleton 9/10-year-olds beat La Grande

East Oregonian

ENTERPRISE — The Pendleton 9/10-year-old all-stars finished off a dominant performance at the District 3 tournament on Friday afternoon, beating La Grande 16-4 to win the championship.

The win clinches a spot in the state tournament for Pendleton, which will start on July 22 at Erv Lind Stadium at Normandale Park in Portland.

The middle of Pendleton's lineup did most of the offensive damage for Pendleton, as Connor Cook, Tugg McQuinn, Evan Lehnert and Jacob Neistadt combined for 11 hits, 10 runs, nine RBI and four extra-base hits. Cook was the standout going 3 for 4 with a double and a triple, three runs

scored and five RBI.

Neistadt and Lehnert combined to pitch a solid game for Pendleton, with Lehnert striking out six and giving up two hits in three innings and Lehnert striking out three with two hits allowed in one inning.

Pendleton jumped on La Grande from the start, when Cook and McQuinn reached base with one out and set up run-scoring singles by Lehnert and Neistadt for a 3-0 lead after one inning. It added on in the second with a three straight walks by Joe Albitre, Anson Dressler and Kaden Moore brought Cook to the plate and he cleared the bases with a double to center and Pendleton held a 7-0 lead after two innings.

The offense didn't stop there for Pendleton, with another three runs pushed across in the third inning and three more in the fourth. In the four games of the tournament, Pendleton's offense averaged 18.3 runs per game.

## MLB

### Mariners thump Angels

Cano, Miranda lead the way for Seattle

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Robinson Cano hit two home runs, Ariel Miranda allowed only two hits in seven innings and the Seattle Mariners snapped a four-game losing streak with a 10-0 victory Friday over the Los Angeles Angels.

Cano's 15th and 16th home runs of the season gave him five RBIs.

Miranda (7-4) threw his finest game of the season. The only hits he allowed were a bloop single to Kory Calhoun in the fourth and a double to Andrelton Simmons in the fifth. He walked two and

See MARINERS/2B



## Sports shorts

### West Linn grad named MaxPreps Male Athlete of the Year

WEST LINN — Tim Tawa, a two-sport standout at West Linn High School, was named 2016-17 MaxPreps Male Athlete of the Year.

As a shortstop and pitcher on the baseball diamond, Tawa hit for a .356 average with a .654 slugging percentage and scored 40 runs and went 7-2 with a 1.38 ERA as his West Linn team finished as state runner-up in Class 6A.

In football, the 6-foot quarterback threw for 3,994 yards, 55 touchdowns and just one interception and completed 69 percent of his passes, leading West Linn to a 14-0 record and a 6A state title. He now holds three all-time state records with passing yards (11,357), touchdown passes (143), and completions (720).

Tawa will attend Stanford University in the fall on a baseball scholarship.



Tawa

"It's an unfortunate situation. I'm going to do everything I can to get that ball, that's how I play, and I hit the wrong part of the fence, it was just kind of a freak accident that you can't really do anything about."

— Dustin Fowler

The New York Yankees rookie's MLB debut was cut short on Thursday night when he slammed into the low fence along right field at Chicago's Guaranteed Rate Field in the bottom of the first inning. Fowler ruptured his patellar tendon his right knee and will miss the remainder of the 2017 season.

### Warriors, Steph Curry agree to record contract

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Golden State Warriors general manager Bob Myers says a contract will be finalized with two-time MVP Stephen Curry once the free agency moratorium ends July 6.

The Warriors confirmed that in an email to The AP on Friday night. Curry's agent, Jeff Austin of Octagon Sports, first told ESPN that the deal will be worth \$201 million over five years, a record for the NBA.

Curry, who won the MVP the past two years and earned \$12 million this season, scored 28.1 points in the playoffs while also contributing 6.7 assists and 6.2 rebounds. On Thursday, NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant declined to opt in for the second year of his contract with Golden State and becomes an unrestricted free agent, but still plans to sign with the team.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1859 — Amherst defeats Williams 73-32 in the first intercollegiate baseball game. The game is played by Massachusetts Rules, a wide-open form of the sport commonly known as roundball. Amherst wins by reaching the pre-established score of 65 runs.

2011 — The NBA locks out its players, a long-expected move that puts the 2011-12 season in jeopardy.

2012 — Tiger Woods wins the AT&T National at Congressional in Bethesda, Md. for the 74th win of his career. That moves him past Jack Nicklaus into second place on the tour list.

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