

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, JULY 22-23, 2017

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1B

Happy trails

My first experience in Pendleton was nearly getting stranded at the airport.

It was October of 2006, and I was in town to interview for the position of sports reporter at the *East Oregonian*.

We landed late at night after a stormy, turbulent flight, and the promise of a ride from the sports editor apparently came with a time limit that had expired.

Thankfully one of the flight attendants was kind enough to offer me a lift to my hotel, spinning what could have been taken as an ominous sign into an uplifting tale of small-town hospitality.

When I accepted the position I told then-managing editor Steve Brown that I would give the paper a year, minimum, but I couldn't see myself staying more than five.

I guess you could say the area grew on me. It was a big transition coming from the congestion and 24-hour convenience of living near a large city, but the friendly locals, wide open views and nearby mountains were acceptable trade-offs.

Eventually, with a cheap pair of hiking boots and some ridiculous ideas about what it meant to properly pack for a week in the wilderness, I began to really explore the region's backcountry. What I found there was like nothing I'd ever seen before, and it was after that first hike into the Willowa Mountains that I officially adopted Oregon as my new home state.

Throughout the years, as other sports reporters came and went — eight at my last count — I'll admit there were times when I thought there might be greener grass to be had. But when it came time to actually send out resumes, the idea of leaving all this natural beauty behind kept me from following through.

Ironically, the mountain ranges and well-maintained trail systems that made it so hard to leave, actually planted the seeds for my departure now after more than 10 years covering the athletes and teams of Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

In my time here I've seen 10 Pendleton Round-Ups, too many state championships to name, and a never-ending flow of student-athletes using sports as an avenue to further their academic opportunities. I thank those of you who allowed me into your lives,

See **HAPPY TRAILS/2B**



MATT ENTRUP
Comment

PENDLETON

Oregon wins West Regional opener



Oregon's Allison Galloway gets a hit against Southern California on Friday in the first game of pool play at the Little League Softball West Regional Championships in San Bernardino, California. Oregon won 6-3.

Pendleton all-stars rally past Southern California in pool play

East Oregonian

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Representing the very first game of the 2017 Little League Softball West Regional tournament on Friday morning, Team Oregon made sure to give a good first impression.

Team Oregon, comprised of the Pendleton all-stars, scored six unanswered runs late to overtake Southern California for a 6-3 victory in Game 1 of pool play at Al Houghton Stadium in San Bernardino, California.

Southern California scored the first runs in the bottom of the third, when back-to-back walks from Oregon pitcher Sauren Garton led to a two-RBI triple and an RBI groundout for a 3-0 Southern California lead. Garton then settled in after the inning, recording four strikeouts and giving up six hits with zero runs the rest of the way and finished with seven punchouts overall.

Oregon was able to get those runs back in the fourth. Three

See **LITTLE LEAGUE/2B**

PENDLETON

Racers break in Round-Up



Joe Kopp of Mica, Washington leads the pack coming into the fourth turn of the eighth heat of the Blues flat track racing on Friday at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Motorized racing returns to Pendleton arena after 77-year absence

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The last time that motorized racing of any kind had zipped around

the half-mile track of the Pendleton Round-Up Arena, the White House was occupied by Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

That changed on Friday night, as

the inaugural Thunder in the Blues flat track motorcycle race entertained an intrigued crowd in the famed rodeo arena in the midst of Pendleton Bike Week festivities. Joe

Kopp, the 2000 American Motorcycle Association Grand National Champion and Mica, Washington

See **RACING/2B**

Golf

Spieth turns in a beauty on nasty day at British Open

Jordan Spieth of the United States on the 18th green at the end of his second round of the British Open Golf Championship, at Royal Birkdale, Southport, England, Friday July 21, 2017.

AP Photo/Peter Morrison



Uses stellar short game to take 2-stroke lead

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SOUTHPORT, England — Jordan Spieth expected a rough time at the British Open before he even got to the golf course.

He spent Friday morning at his rented house in front of the television, watching players battle a relentless wind at

Royal Birkdale, all the while checking a forecast that was even worse for when he played in the afternoon.

"It wasn't a great feeling knowing we were coming into something harder than what we were watching," he said.

Spieth did more than just survive.

With a short game as sharp as it has been all year, and a 3-wood that turned out a lot better than it looked and led to an eagle, Spieth seized control with a 1-under 69 that gave him a two-shot lead over

Matt Kuchar going into the weekend.

Spieth turned a bogey or worse into an unlikely par by chipping in from just short of the 10th green. And he learned enough from watching TV to know that going a little long on the par-5 15th would give him a better birdie chance than playing short. So he switched from a 3-iron to a 3-wood, hit it a little off the neck and watched it run hot and fast some 100 yards along the wet

See **BRITISH OPEN/3B**

Sports shorts

Cavs' Irving asks to be traded

CLEVELAND (AP) — Two people familiar with the situation says All-Star guard Kyrie Irving has asked the Cleveland Cavaliers to trade him.

Irving made the request last week to owner Dan Gilbert, said the people who spoke Friday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team is not commenting on the star's demands.

Irving's appeal was first reported by ESPN.

A four-time All-Star, Irving has spent six seasons with the Cavs, who selected him with the No. 1 overall pick in 2011. The 25-year-old has overcome injury issues and developed into one of the league's elite point guards.

Irving is under contract for two more seasons with Cleveland, which has had a tumultuous offseason following a loss to Golden State in the NBA Finals.



Irving

"It's pretty cool to come in here and have a chance to go for three in a row. But it's frustrating that it's been 365 days since we've won one of these things."

— Kyle Busch

NASCAR driver on going for a third-straight victory in the Brickyard 400 on Sunday in Indianapolis. He also won the last two Xfinity Series races held at the track, tying him with Formula One superstar Michael Schumacher, who won the U.S. Grand Prix four straight years in 2003-2006, for most consecutive wins in Indy.

Montreal Canadiens to charge for paper season tickets

MONTREAL (AP) — Montreal Canadiens fans looking forward to the annual arrival of their season tickets got an unwelcome surprise when the team announced it would be charging extra for printed tickets.

Canadiens spokesman Francois Marchand confirmed that the default option will be mobile tickets and fans who want physical tickets will be charged \$150 plus tax per seat.

A letter to season-ticket holders cited security, ease of use and environmental sustainability as reasons for the change.

A platinum season ticket last season cost \$9,564 before tax, and the cheapest ticket sold for \$1,795.

While other teams do offer mobile ticket options, not all charge for physical tickets.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1962 — Gary Player of South Africa becomes the first non-resident of the United States to win the PGA championship.

1984 — Kathy Whitworth becomes the all-time winner in professional golf tournaments by winning the Rochester Open. Whitworth, with 85 career wins, passes Sam Snead's total of 84 PGA tournament victories.

1996 — Naim Suleymanoglu of Turkey becomes first weightlifter in Olympic history to win three gold medals. Suleymanoglu wins the 141-pound division by hoisting 413 pounds.

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