

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

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1B

PENDLETON

Buckaroos sweep Bulldogs

Pendleton shows skill, experience in three-set win

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

In 2016, the Baker Bulldogs were a thorn in the side of the Pendleton Buckaroos.

Volleyball



Baker

0



Pendleton

3

Twice the Buckaroos and Bulldogs met on the volleyball court and twice the Bulldogs came away with 3-2 victories. But when the two teams met again for the first time in 2017 on Tuesday evening, the Buckaroos showed their experience on the court and finally topped the Bulldogs. Pendleton won the match 3-0 with set wins of 25-16, 25-22 and 25-22 at Warberg Court.

Pendleton (3-0) senior Rylee Gentner says that a good showing by the Buckaroos in tournament play in Bend over the weekend gave the team a big confidence boost and carried it into Tuesday's match.

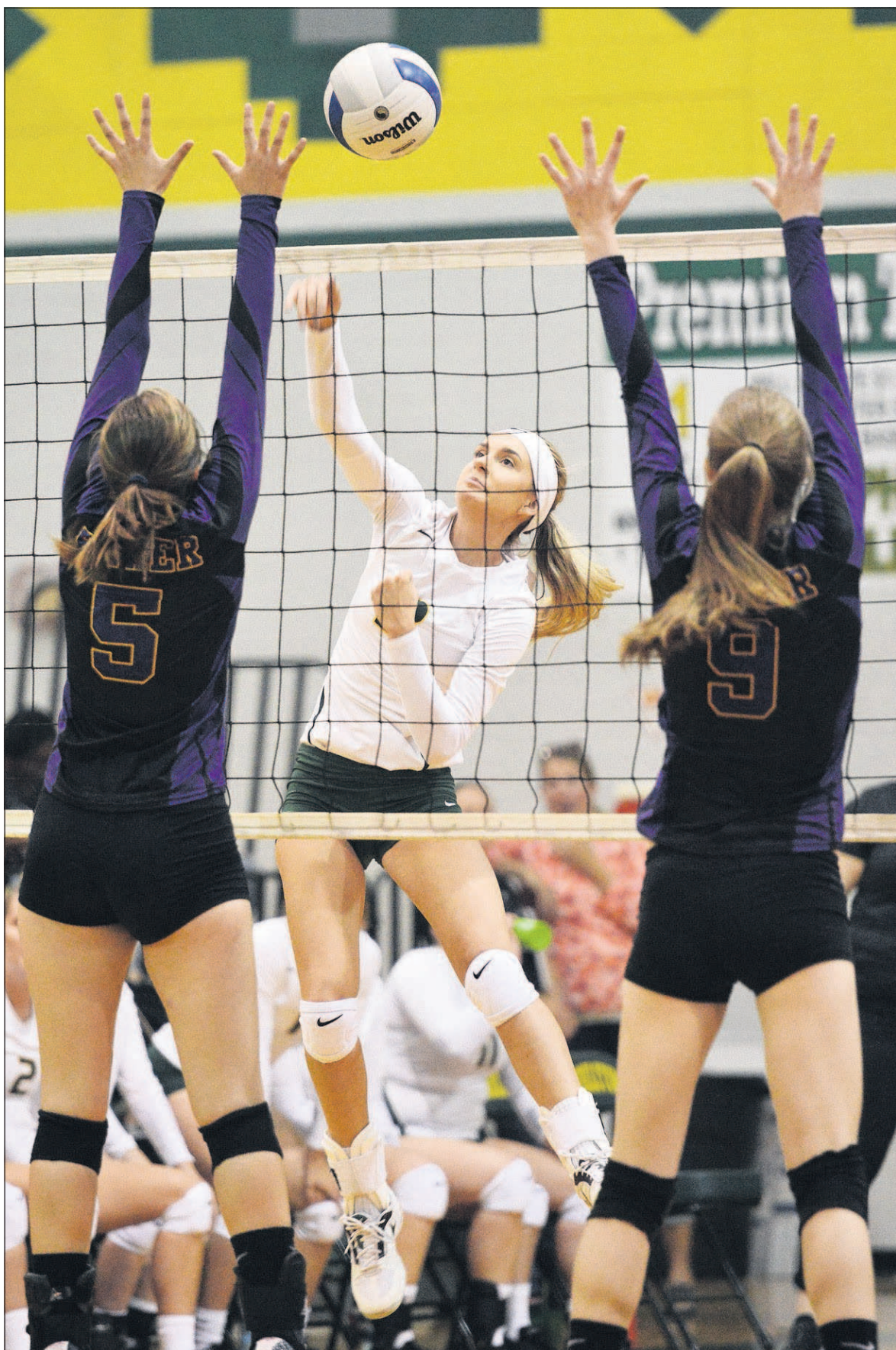
"I think we came in more confident because we started working harder in practices and did well at the tournament for the first time in a while," she said. "That brought us a lot of confidence and that's how we came out really well tonight."

Baker (2-4) started the night quickly and opened up a 9-5 lead on Pendleton in the first set, which prompted a timeout from Buckaroo coach Amanda Lapp to try and calm the team down. What Lapp said in the huddle worked, as Pendleton went on a 20-7 run to finish off the first set victory 25-16.

"She told us to settle down and work on the things we're good at," Gentner recalled. "We weren't working in quick offenses and when we started doing that we started getting in our groove again and settled into our normal routines."

Gentner, who was not on the team a season ago, was a big-time player for the Buckaroos on Tuesday, smacking four kills and picking up two digs and two aces. Her biggest contribution, though, was a thundering cross-court kill on match-point in the third set.

"That one felt really good,"



Pendleton's Ellen Nirschl spikes the ball between Baker's Carson Lein (5) and Kaylee Burk in the Bucks' 3-0 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Gentner emphasized. "I was struggling in the beginning because I was nervous being back out here, I guess. But ending on that hit really helps."

Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said that having Gentner back to an already deep and experienced

bench is huge for her team.

"It's great to have her back now and she's always trying to perfect her craft," Lapp said. "Over the summer she came in and tried to get a four-step approach, which takes a lot of time to get down because of timing of ball ... but she

is quicker on the four-step, gets her arm up in the air and is really putting things away for us this year."

After the Buckaroos coasted to a win in the first set, Baker did

See BUCKAROOS/2B

Prep Roundup

Hermiston loses on the road

Bulldog volleyball team beat by La Grande

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The Hermiston Bulldogs volleyball team made traveled down Interstate 84 for a non-league contest, but came home empty-handed.

The Bulldogs fought hard against the La Grande Tigers in the first two sets before the Tigers coasted to a third-set victory to hand the Bulldogs a 3-0 loss in the match. La Grande (3-1) won with set wins of 25-23, 25-22 and 25-15.

See PREPS/2B

Volleyball



La Grande

3



Hermiston

0

MLB

Mariners come up short again

Verlander pitches well in Astros debut

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Justin Verlander pitched six strong innings and won his Astros debut after Cameron Maybin hit a two-run homer with one out in the seventh for Houston's first hit Tuesday night in a 3-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

With all the attention on Verlander's first game for a team other than the Detroit Tigers, it was another deadline acquisition that sent Houston to its sixth straight victory. Maybin was

See MARINERS/2B



Houston

3



Seattle

1



United States' Bobby Wood, 9, celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's first goal during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Honduras in San Pedro Sula, Honduras on Tuesday.

AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Soccer

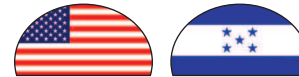
Wood's goal helps U.S. salvage crucial game

Americans earn key qualifying point

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras — Bobby Wood scored off a scramble in the 85th minute, and the United States escaped from Honduras with a 1-1 tie and important point Tuesday after nearly falling into a deep hole in World Cup qualifying.

World Cup Qualifier



United States

1

Honduras

1

"I was thinking we might have an early vacation at the end of this year," coach Bruce Arena said afterward.

Romell Quioto scored in the 27th minute after defender Omar Gonzalez failed to clear the ball with a slide tackle. Quioto was

left with an open 11-yard shot that beat goalkeeper Brad Guzan to the far post, causing exuberant fans to stomp and shake Estadio Olimpico Metropolitano. The previously well-behaved fans threw horns and liquids at the Americans as they exited the field.

Christian Pulisic was fouled about 30 yards from the goal and Kellyn Acosta took the free kick. Goalkeeper Luis Lopez batted the ball with his left hand, and Matt Besler hooked it

to Jordan Morris. He sent a backward header to Wood, a 73rd-minute substitute.

Wood chested the ball and scored his ninth international goal, avoiding a huge U.S. embarrassment and deflating fans who had been celebrating since the start.

"It was tough. Lots of credit to them, they made it tough. The conditions were obviously difficult," Morris said. "I think it shows the mentality of our team, we

See SOCCER/2B

Sports shorts

Elliott's 6-game suspension upheld

SHERMAN, Texas (AP) — Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott's attorneys say his six-game suspension over a domestic violence case has been upheld, but he will play the opener because of the timing of the arbitrator's decision.

Elliott attorney Jeffrey Kessler told the judge near the end of a more than two-hour hearing in federal court Tuesday night that Elliott's suspension was sustained by arbitrator Harold Henderson.

At the start of the hearing, NFL attorney Daniel Nash said Elliott could play Sunday night against the New York Giants because Henderson's ruling came too late in the day for it to be enforced this weekend.

Elliott's attorneys said they were "extremely disappointed with Mr. Henderson's inability to navigate through league politics, and follow the evidence."



Elliott

"Yeah, we're excited. I mean, it's a good clubhouse. But we're the same every day. We know the job that needs to be done. From our pitching staff to our offense, we just keep going."

— Yan Gomes

The Cleveland Indians' catcher after Cleveland beat the Chicago White Sox 9-4 on Tuesday for the team's 13th straight win. It's the longest win streak in the majors this season and just one win shy of Cleveland's franchise record.

Red Sox admit to using high-tech watch to steal signs

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Red Sox have reportedly admitted to Major League Baseball that they improperly used electronic devices to steal signs from their longtime rival New York Yankees.

The New York Times reported Tuesday the Red Sox used a high-tech watch to relay signs by the Yankees catchers during a series last month at Fenway Park.

The Times said the MLB probe started after Yankees general manager Brian Cashman filed a complaint with the commissioner's office that included video.

The newspaper said the video showed a member of Boston's training staff looking at his Apple Watch in the dugout and relaying a message to players.

Sign stealing is allowed, but electronic assistance is prohibited.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1980 — John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors were perhaps their greatest U.S. Open match. McEnroe edges Connors in the semifinal 6-4, 5-7, 0-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

1991 — In a U.S. Open semifinal between teenagers, Monica Seles, 17, beats Jennifer Capriati, 15, to advance to her first Open final. Seles wins 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

1995 — Cal Ripken plays in his 2,131st consecutive major league game to surpass Lou Gehrig's 56-year record. Ripken receives a 22-minute standing ovation and later hits a homer in Baltimore's 4-2 win over California.

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