

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, MARCH 10-11, 2018

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1B

PENDLETON

Going through growing pains

BMCC swept by SW Oregon, remains winless

East Oregonian

During the 2017 softball season for the Blue Mountain Timberwolves, the team had plenty of offensive potential but struggled to get consistent pitching to help win games.

This year, with the top hitters from 2017 having moved on after exhausting their eligibility, pitching was expected to be the Timberwolves' strength with freshman right-handers Teyha Ostrom and Kenzie Gonzales joining the staff following tremendous prep careers — the former at Pilot Rock and the latter at Echo/Stanfield. Except three weekends into the season, it's been a rocky start for the pitchers — and the Timberwolves overall.

Ostrom pitched a combined eight innings on Friday as BMCC was swept by the Southwestern Oregon Lakers with 10-0 and 13-0 defeats to fall to 0-8 overall on the season. The former Pilot Rock star allowed 16 runs, only eight of which were earned, and walked eight with seven strikeouts.

On the season, Ostrom holds an earned run average of 10.82 through 21 1/3 innings pitched over four games with 20 walks and 11 strikeouts. Gonzales has had her struggles, too, with 37 earned runs allowed in 11 2/3 innings spanning three games.

It's simply growing pains that come with the territory of making the jump from small-school prep softball to the collegiate level.

"The things they're learning is the strike zone is a lot tighter and hitters 1 through 9 are a lot better at the college level," BMCC coach Steve Richards said of his pitchers' adjustments to college ball. "In high school, they could miss on a pitch to a hitter in the bottom of the order and get an out, now they miss a pitch and it's a home run."

Richards has seen some positive steps that each pitcher has taken, whether it be spotting pitches well for at-bats or showing some leadership on the diamond such

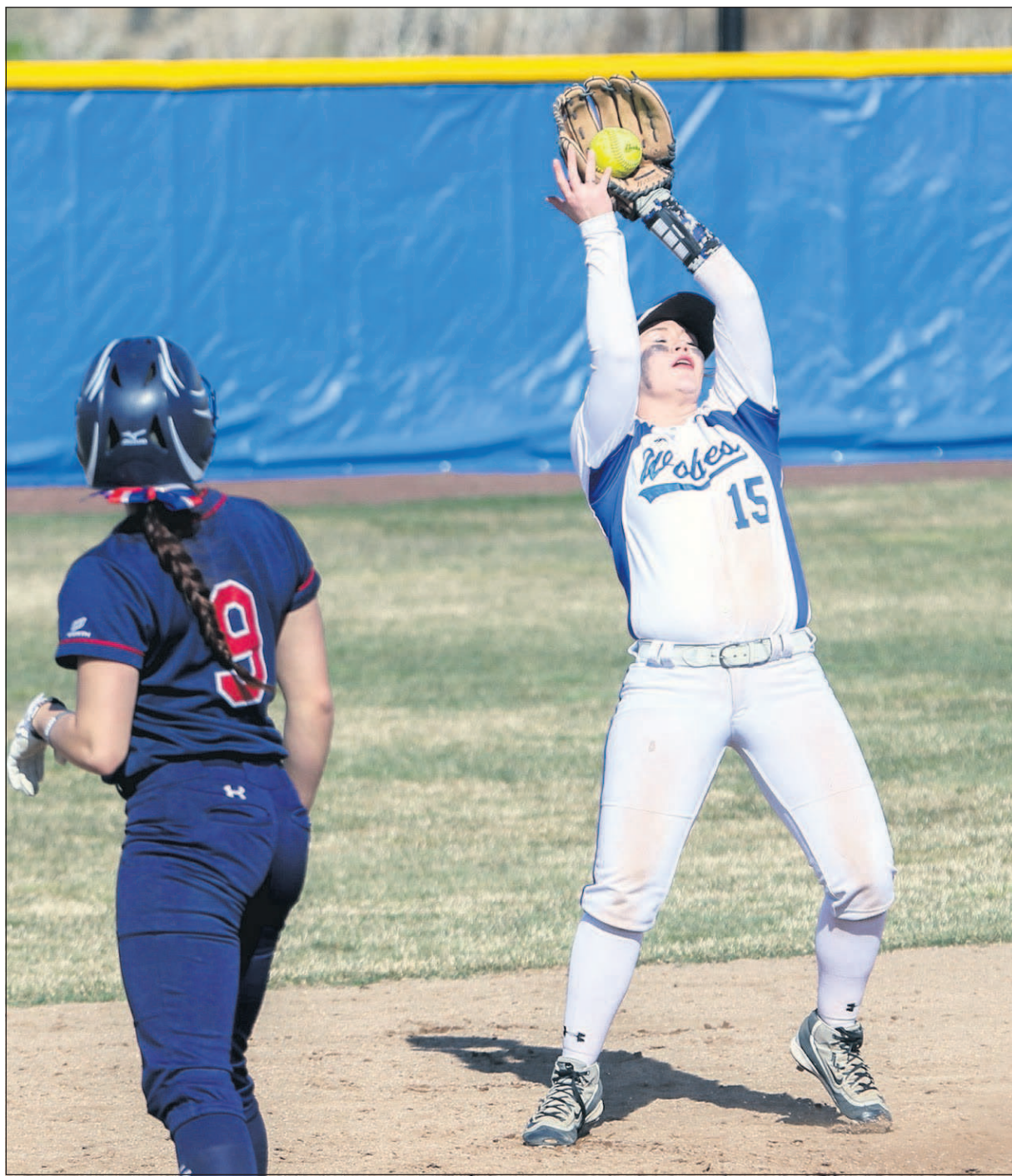
Softball



SW Oregon
10,13



BMCC
0,0



BMCC's Shea Peasley makes a catch during Friday's doubleheader against Southwestern Oregon.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



BMCC catcher Cooper Ringnald puts out Marisa Coleman, of Southwestern Oregon, and looks to make a throw during Friday's doubleheader in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

as Ostrom did on Friday. With Gonzales unavailable to pitch the second game due to a class she had to attend, Ostrom relieved Miah

Slater and threw the final three innings, battling through fatigue to make some good pitches.

"Both have a lot of leadership," Richards said. "They're really coming around and showing leadership on a pretty young team, which is something we need."

Ostrom and Gonzales are not the only Timberwolves experiencing growing pains, though. There are a lot of new faces on the Timberwolves roster, with only five sophomores and nine freshmen. Six freshmen played on Friday as BMCC could manage just two hits between the two games.

"The biggest challenge is learning how to hit at this level," See **BMCC/3B**

Prep Basketball

Speed among five locals on 2A all-state team

Weston-McEwen senior earns second team selection

East Oregonian

When the coaches were filling out their ballots for all-state honors, Weston-McEwen senior Brett Speed was a familiar name — even for the schools on the opposite side of the state.

Early in the season against Monroe, a Mountain View Conference team 300-plus miles away, Speed dropped 28 points. He matched that performance a couple weeks later against Toledo of the Sunset Conference.

"He's had some pretty big games" head coach Brian Pickard said when his Tiger-Scots faced teams out west.

Pickard added that these big performances, and Speed's entire season, have made him a recognizable name among Class 2A.

The four-year starter's efforts earned second-team honors, the highest of five local basketball players.

During his senior season, Speed made a lasting impact at Weston-McEwen. Shortly after the new year in a 64-63 loss to Heppner, he led the team with 26 points which put him over 1,000 career points.

Overall, he averaged 26 points a game, 10.5 rebounds, 6.2 assists and just over five steals a game.

"He did everything," Pickard said. "I can't say enough about him."

Stanfield senior Brody Woods earned third-team honors after leading the Tigers to the first round of the 2A state playoffs, where they fell to the state-runner ups, Western Mennonite.

Seniors Bryson Pierce and Chris Wienke of Pilot Rock earned honorable mentions, as well as Heppner senior Trent Smith, who was a reliable scorer for the Mustangs all season.

Pierce and Wienke were two of four seniors that pushed the Rockets to an 18-7 overall record and a first-round playoff appearance.

Boys Class 2A All-State

- First Team**
Clay Sullivan, Vernonia, sr.; Ben Gregg, Columbia Christian, fr.; Jonah Downey, Santiam, jr.; Payton Richardson, Western Mennonite, soph.; Conner Marchant, Toledo, soph.; Cameron Benzel, Oakland, sr.
- Second Team**
Emorej Lynn, Kennedy, soph.; Dale Takalo, Knappa, sr.; Duane Stokes, Grant Union, sr.; Jaydn Spangler, Toledo, jr.; Keaton Hull, Western Mennonite, jr.; Brett Speed, Weston-McEwen, sr.
- Third Team**
Isaiah Mariscal, Columbia Christian, soph.; Brian Goracke, Monroe, soph.; Alex Nicolli, Western Mennonite, soph.; Wade Reimers, Grant Union, sr.; Brody Woods, Stanfield, sr.; Jaxon Rozewski, Toledo, fr.
- Honorable Mention**
Nate Hopkins, Riddle, jr.; Marcus Montoya, Lost River, sr.; Brandon Piets, Regis, sr.; Zack Young, Monroe, soph.; Brandon Howes, Elgin, sr.; Nic Freeman, Oakland, sr.; Bryson Pierce, Pilot Rock, sr.; Todd Halcomb, Gold Beach, sr.; Trent Smith, Heppner, sr.; Tyreece Gardner, Reedsport, sr.; Cole Strober, Nestucca, sr.; Braydon Freitag, Bandon, soph.; Eli Takalo, Knappa, soph.; Riley Marshall, Gaston, jr.; Keegan Glenn, Union, sr.; Caleb Lanthrop, Elgin, sr.; Jimmy Wells, Enterprise, sr.; Chris Wienke, Pilot Rock, sr.

Pro Basketball

Trail Blazers top Warriors for ninth consecutive victory



Portland's Damian Lillard hits a 3-point shot over Golden State's Draymond Green during Friday's game in Portland.


By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — CJ McCollum scored 30 points, Damian Lillard added 28 and the Portland Trail Blazers won their ninth straight game with a 125-108 victory over the short-handed Golden State Warriors on Friday night.


The Warriors had won seven in a row but didn't have Stephen Curry, Jordan Bell and Andre Iguodala, who were all out with injuries. Kevin Durant led Golden State with 40 points.

Portland has its longest winning streak since also winning nine straight in 2014. The Blazers' streak started when they beat Golden State 123-117 at the Moda

NBA



Golden State
108



Portland
125

Center on Feb. 14, the last game before the All-Star break.

McCollum hit a 3-pointer to give the Blazers a 101-93 lead with 7:20 left. McCollum added another 3 before Durant got one. Klay Thompson had a layup but Lillard answered with another 3 to make it 107-98.

Lillard's 3-pointer extended the lead See **BLAZERS/3B**

Sports shorts

Truex Jr. wins pole for Sunday's NASCAR race in Phoenix

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Martin Truex Jr. won the pole Friday for the NASCAR Cup Series race Sunday at ISM Raceway.

The defending series champion turned a lap at 136.945 mph in the No. 78 Furniture Row Racing Toyota in the last of three rounds of qualifying on the mile oval. He has 16 career poles.

Kyle Larson took the second spot at 136.643 mph for Chip Ganassi Racing after topping the second session.

Chase Elliott was third, followed by Tucson driver Alex Bowman, Joey Logano, Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch, Jamie McMurray, Erik Jones and Kevin Harvick. Harvick has a track-record eight victories and is coming off wins the last two weeks in Atlanta and Las Vegas.



Truex Jr.

"Don't get me wrong, they're [Tijuana] a good team, but they're not a big league team. The adrenaline is not there. Once the lights come on and they say, 'Play ball,' you'll see something different. More velocity, sharper pitches. It's going to be Ohtani. You have to give it time."

— **Rene Rivera**

Los Angeles Angels catcher expressed his confidence Shohei Ohtani, despite his three-inning, six-run outing against the Tijuana Toros of the Mexican League on Friday.

Toronto beats Houston 108-105, snapping Rockets win streak

TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry scored 30 points, DeMar DeRozan had 23 and the Toronto Raptors beat Houston 108-105 on Friday night, snapping the Rockets' 17-game winning streak.

James Harden scored 40 points but the Rockets lost for the first time since Jan. 27 at New Orleans.

Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors won their seventh straight in a matchup between the respective conference leaders.

The Rockets shot 9 for 27 from 3-point range, matching their fewest made 3-pointers of the season.

Clint Capela had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets. Chris Paul and Eric Gordon each scored 14 points, and Trevor Ariza had 13 as Houston's road winning streak ended at 10.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2002 — John Stockton, the NBA's career assist leader, has 13 assists in Utah's 95-92 loss at Houston to give him exactly 15,000 for his career.

2004 — Orlando's Tracy McGrady scores a franchise-record 62 points in a 108-99 win over Washington.

2007 — Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, 19, becomes the youngest player in NHL history with two 100-point seasons after scoring a goal in a 3-2 overtime win over the New York Rangers.

2012 — Ashton Eaton of the U.S. sets a heptathlon world record and wins the gold at the world indoor championships in Istanbul.

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