

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B



PENDLETON

BUCKS READY TO GO

Buckaroos ready to play for state title on Saturday

By **ERIC SINGER**
East Oregonian

Since 2010, the best softball program in Class 5A belongs to Pendleton High School, and there's really no debate.

In that span, Pendleton has now made the state championship game five times (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018) and won it twice (2012, 2014), while only one other school has more than one appearance — Putnam with two (2014, 2015) — and no other school has more than one championship.

Pendleton aims to add to its state championship trophy collection Saturday morning when the top-seeded Buckaroos face No. 6 Putnam in the 5A state final at the Oregon State University Softball Complex in Corvallis at 10 a.m.

"We're all ready," Pendleton senior Kalan McGlothlin said after practice Thursday afternoon. "We're so ready to play. We've worked so hard to get to this position and we're

just relaxed, getting stuff done and just excited to go."

Awaiting the No. 1 team in the 5A bracket in Corvallis is a Putnam program that the Buckaroos (27-2) are very familiar with on the championship stage. The Buckaroos and Kingsmen (21-5) met in the 2014 5A championship with the Buckaroos winning 2-1, and then again one year later with the Kingsmen getting revenge, 3-2, to win the title. Pendleton head coach Tim Cary said he expects to see much of the same from the Kingsmen on Saturday that he and the Buckaroos saw in the two previous title games matchups, starting with talent in the circle.

"They have outstanding pitching," Cary said emphatically. "I don't know what her (Putnam starting pitcher Maddie Mayer) earned-run average is, but I can tell you Putnam is a team that's given up less runs than any other team

See **SOFTBALL/3B**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Lauren Richards throws from the pitching circle in the Bucks' 19-3 win against Sandy in Pendleton.

Cruz homer sparks Mariners to 6-1 win

By **DOUG MILLER**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Nelson Cruz hit a two-run home run to back another effective start by Wade LeBlanc, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Texas Rangers to a 6-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Thursday night.

Dee Gordon, back from a stay on the 10-day DL caused by a fractured right big toe, led off the game against Rangers starter Mike Minor with a triple and scored on Jean Segura's sacrifice fly.

Cruz then padded the Mariners' lead in the third. After Segura hit a one-out double and moved to third on Mitch Haniger's grounder, Cruz hit his 10th homer of the season to left-center field, a 399-foot shot



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson
Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz points skyward as he crosses home on his two-run home run against the Texas Rangers during the third inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 31, 2018, in Seattle.

that gave Seattle a 3-0 cushion.

LeBlanc, the journeyman left-hander filling in for injured Erasmo Ramirez, continued his brilliant early season work, giving up one run and four hits in five innings. He struck out four and walked two.

The only blemish against him was a solo homer by Nomar Mazara, the Rangers' outfielder's 13th of the season, which led off the fourth.

James Pazos, Juan Nicasio and Chasen Bradford combined to finish with four scoreless innings.

The Mariners scored twice in the fifth on a throwing error by Texas third baseman Isiah Kiner-Falefa on a fielder's choice by Haniger, and Cruz's sacrifice fly to make it 5-1.

In the seventh inning, Ryon

See **MARINERS/3B**

College spotlight

Cisneros' record-breaking season comes to an end

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**
East Oregonian

For Hermiston native Alex Cisneros, the track and field season ended just a bit too soon.

After Cisneros broke a 34-year-old Portland State record in the men's 10,000-meter race just over two weeks ago, he made the trip to south to Sacramento, California, for a chance to continue his year at the NCAA West Regional Preliminary Rounds on May 24.

But after placing 36th (30:14.27) in the 10,000 meters in 30:14.27 at Hornet Stadium, Cisneros' redshirt-junior season came to an end.

Cisneros entered regionals ranked No. 39, and was able to top that ranking despite the blis-



Cisneros

tering conditions. To be able to advance to the NCAA Championships, he needed a top-12 finish or better.

Despite missing the mark, the distance runner had a standout out season for the Vikings. He became the first

men's track athlete to qualify for the 10,000 meters and also the first ever to qualify in any event long than the 800-meter race.

Added to his resume are record-breaking times clocked during the indoor season in the 3,000 meters (8:16.45) and the 5,000 meters (14:19.95).

His season headlines our latest and final college spotlight for the week of May 23-31.

Here is a look at the rest of the

See **SPOTLIGHT/3B**

Sports shorts

DeRozan and Embiid lined up for Africa game

(AP) — The NBA will hold its Africa exhibition game in the South African capital of Pretoria on Aug. 4, with All Stars DeMar DeRozan and Joel Embiid lined up to play.

The NBA has held two Africa games previously, its debut game on the continent in 2015 and then again last year. Both were in Johannesburg, South Africa's biggest city and commercial hub, and pitted a team of American and international NBA stars against a team of NBA players from Africa, or with African heritage.

Serenas back! Williams moves on to 3rd round in French Open

PARIS (AP) — Serena Williams trailed by a set and a break at the French Open before recalibrating her shots, erasing that deficit and beating 17th-seeded Ashleigh Barty of Australia 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round. Williams had all

sorts of trouble in the opening set, making 12 unforced errors and only three winners. But she began putting the ball right where she wanted early in the second set, accompanying nearly every point she won with a celebratory yell and fist pump.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1925 — Lou Gehrig bats for Pee Wee Wanninger in the eighth inning and replaces Wally Pipp at first base to start his streak of 2,130 consecutive games.

1975 — Nolan Ryan of the California Angels pitches his fourth no-hitter to tie Sandy Koufax's record, beating the Baltimore Orioles 1-0.

1996 — The LSU women win their 10th consecutive NCAA track team title, the longest victory string in women's college sports.

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