



HOME PARTY

Pendleton's Aspen Garton is greeted at home plate by her teammates after she hit a home run in the Bucks' 7-0 win against Putnam in the 5A state championship game in Corvallis.

EAST OREGONIAN
SPORTS

'UNBELIEVABLE'

Pendleton shuts out Putnam to win 5A title

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Pendleton was arguably the best softball team in Class 5A for most of the 2018 season, piling up runs and knocking off opponent after opponent with a 20-plus game win streak.

Now there is no longer an argument needed: Pendleton is the best.

The top-seeded Buckaroos finished off their dream season Saturday morning as they dominated No. 6 Putnam 7-0 at the OSU Softball Complex to capture the Class 5A state championship — the third in school history, all of which have come since 2012.

“It’s unbelievable,” said Pendleton senior Lauren Richards, who was all smiles after the game. “We’re all speechless in a way, but we’ve worked so hard for this. It’s come and we can’t even believe it. We put in the time together and we’re practically a family out there and to do it and win the state championship with them, you don’t even have any words for it, it’s amazing.”

It’s the third state championship for Pendleton head coach Tim Cary and he said this one is just as sweet as the first two.

“I don’t know if I really want to compare teams exactly,” Cary said, “but you have to be pretty darn good to win it all and this was a very special group, no doubt about it.”

Richards has been the rock in the pitching circle for the Buckaroos (28-2) as a three-year starter and with two all-state team selections in her back pocket. She finally got the chance to pitch for a state title, which has been a dream for her since her freshman year, and she did not disappoint. Richards threw a complete-game shutout with 12 strikeouts and allowed only five hits and one walk.

She also was one of the team’s standouts in the batters’ box, finishing 2-for-4 with two RBI.

See CHAMPS/3B



Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Pendleton senior Rylee Gentner receives her diploma on the softball field at Oregon State University after the Pendleton Bucks defeated Putnam in the 5A state softball championship game Saturday in Corvallis.

SENIOR SEND-OFF

Four graduate within minutes of state title win

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — June 2, 2018, will be a day that four Pendleton seniors will never forget.

Alexi Brehaut, Rylee Gentner, Kalan McGlothlin and Lauren Richards walked on to the softball diamond at the OSU Softball Complex as Pendleton High School students aiming to help their Buckaroos win a state championship. Two hours later, the Buckaroo seniors walked off the diamond as state champions and Pendleton High alumni.

“It’s been a dream of mine even before high school. All of us seniors didn’t want to graduate back at home, we were going to make it happen and come to the Oregon State field.”

Lauren Richards
Pendleton Senior

The foursome led the No. 1 Buckaroos to a 7-0 win over No. 6 Putnam to win the Class 5A championship for the third time in school history, and the first of their respective careers.

Minutes after the last out was made, the four seniors put on the traditional graduation caps and gowns and became graduates of Pendleton High School, receiving their diplomas on the field at the OSU Softball Complex.

The small, three-minute ceremony was necessary, as Pendleton High School’s traditional commencement ceremony was taking place 293 miles away back at the Round-Up Stadium at the exact same time as the first pitch was fired home by Richards in

See SENIORS/3B

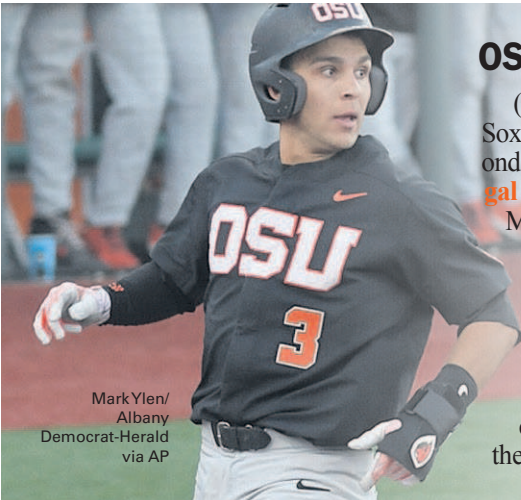
Sports shorts

OSU’s Larnach goes No. 20 overall to Twins

Oregon State outfielder Trevor Larnach was selected by Minnesota at No. 20 overall in the 2018 MLB Draft on Monday, the second Beaver to go in the first round joining Nick Madrigal.

Larnach, a junior, has a team-high 17 home runs with 65 RBIs this season, doing so while hitting .327 with a .455 on-base percentage.

He is the sixth first round pick of OSU coach Pat Casey’s tenure.



Mark Ylen/
Albany
Democrat-Herald
via AP

OSU’s Madrigal picked No. 4 by White Sox

(AP) — The Chicago White Sox selected Oregon State second baseman Nick Madrigal with the No. 4 pick in the Major League Baseball draft Monday night, becoming the highest-drafted player in OSU history.

Despite his short stature, the 5-foot-7, 160-pound Madrigal is considered by many to be the best overall hitter in the

draft. He rebounded nicely for the Beavers after missing half the season with a broken left wrist. He was hitting .406 with three homers, 32 RBIs and just five strikeouts in 133 at-bats while helping lead Oregon State to the NCAA Tournament super regionals.

Michael Conforto previously was the highest OSU player taken in the draft, going 10th overall to the Mets in 2014.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1961 — The newly formed American Basketball League adopts the 3-point field goal.

1977 — The Portland Trail Blazers hold off the Philadelphia 76ers 109-107 to win the NBA championship in six games. Portland becomes the first team in the 31-year history of the league to win four straight after losing the first two games.

1990 — At 14, Jennifer Capriati becomes the youngest Grand Slam semifinalist by rallying from a 1-4 deficit in the final set.

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