

Smith, White lead as CNFR begins

East Oregonian

The College National Finals Rodeo got underway on Sunday in Casper, Wyoming, where a few local cowboys and cowgirls are competing to become a national champion.

In Monday’s round of slack, Pendleton native and Walla Walla Community College roper Calgary Smith and partner, Hermiston native and Blue Mountain Community College roper Cole White, won the first go in team roping with a time of 5.7 seconds. They were the only duo to break the six-second barrier.

In tie-down roping, Hermiston native Preston Pederson, representing BMCC, tied his calf in 9.9 seconds to land him in seventh place. Smith also competed and finished 21st after roping his calf in 13.5 seconds. West Hills College’s Brushton Minton won the go with a time of 8.8 seconds.

Pendleton native and Eastern Oregon University cowgirl Emily Jayne Sorey finished ninth in the first go of barrel racing as she and her horse completed the course in 14.93 seconds. Sorey’s time is less than one-half second off the first go winner, UNLV’s Taylor Rivera, with a time of 14.51.

Heppner native Kolby Currin, who came in as the No. 1-ranked bulldogger in the country for BMCC, finished tied for 25th in the first go of steer wrestling, turning his steer in 7.4 seconds. Cody Revers from Northwest Oklahoma State won the go with a time of 3.8 seconds.

Also competing for BMCC is Kaylee Aldrich in breakaway roping and Clay Hall in bull riding. Aldrich did not record a time through the first two rounds, while Hall was bucked off in both rounds of bull riding as well.

Action continues on Tuesday with slack starting at 7 a.m. and then the first performance starts at 7 p.m. at the Casper Events Center. The championship round is Saturday at 7 p.m.

BRIEFLY

Riverside’s Masie Hancock signs LOI with Yakima Valley

BOARDMAN — After graduating over the weekend, Masie Hancock made the decision to continue her athletic career with Yakima Valley Community College.

Hancock will join the Yaks as a defensive specialist and/or libero, and will quickly settle in to her new school at the end of July. Yakima Valley is about two hours away from Boardman, and Hancock will not only be attending to further her volleyball career but also focus on academics.

Hancock graduated with a 3.8 GPA and as a member of the honor society. She is also coming off a club volleyball season where her team, Eastern Heat, took first place at the CEVA Regional Championships in May. Hancock has been named Defensive Player of the Year for the last two seasons and is a two-time Second-Team All-League setter.

She will leave with high esteem from her coaches and teammates.

“Masie excels in the back row,” Eastern Heat head coach Jacob Wallis of Pendleton said. “I could always count on her leadership and fiery upbeat personality to tip the scales in our favor.”

Blake Knowles of Heppner leads locals at 2018 Sisters Rodeo

SISTERS — Blake Knowles took the top spot and \$1,596.65 after clocking 3.9 seconds in the second go-round of steer wrestling over the weekend at the 2018 Sisters Rodeo.

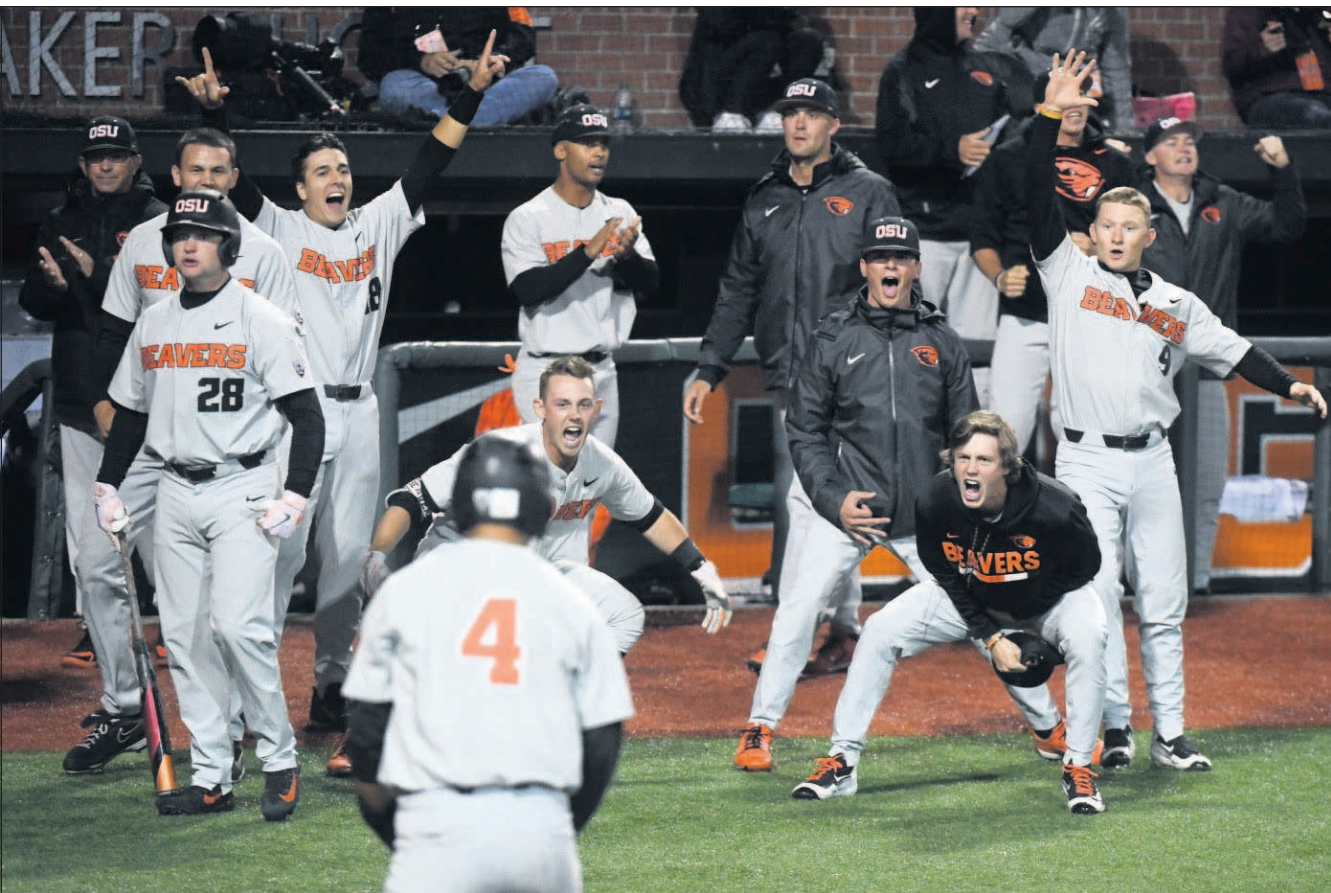
Joining him were local cowboys Michael Pederson, Preston Pederson and Jake Stanley of Hermiston, Stanfield’s Travis Taruscio and cowgirls Jami Erwert and Jade Crossley of Hermiston.

Preston Pederson rounded out the field of competitors in tie-down roping aggregate, finishing eighth in 22.9 seconds. His efforts earned him \$211.50. Michael Pederson finished tied for fifth/sixth after the first go-round in the same event. Both he and Jake Hannum of Plain City, Utah, finished the event in 9.7 seconds, good for \$669.75 each.

Competing alongside Knowles was Taruscio, who also finished tied for fourth/fifth place with Dirk Tavenner of Rigby, Idaho. Taruscio ended up competing Sunday where he matched Tavenner’s time of 4.7 seconds. Both took home \$633.15 each.

Stanley competed in team roping with Bucky Campbell of Benton City, Washington. The duo finished ninth (7.0 seconds) and ended up taking home \$567.45 each.

In barrel racing, Erwert finished in a tie for fifth/sixth with Arlington’s Samantha Lane. The two both finished in 17.77 seconds and earned \$1,324.22. Crossley came in eighth place in the same event with a time of 17.85



Amanda Loman/Albany Democrat-Herald via AP

Oregon State players celebrate after scoring two runs on a hit by Adley Rutschman in the ninth inning during an NCAA college baseball tournament super regional game against Minesota on Saturday in Corvallis.

Beavers will take ‘strong group’ to Omaha for CWS

By KERRY EGGERS
Portland Tribune

CORVALLIS — After closer Jake Mulholland rang up Minnesota clean-up hitter Toby Hanson to finish off a stirring 6-3 victory and punch Oregon State’s ticket to Omaha Saturday night at Goss Stadium, the OSU players celebrated their second straight College World Series berth together on Ralph Coleman Field.

But not too heartily.

There is more yet to accomplish.

The school’s third national baseball championship is directly in their sights now, with a 2017 elimination-game loss to LSU on their minds.

“Ever since we made the last out against LSU last year, we’ve been set on this moment — getting back to Omaha,” said junior second baseman Nick Madrigal. “And not only getting there, but taking care of business and winning ballgames.

“We have a core group that was with us last year and experienced everything we went through. All off-season long, we weren’t afraid to talk about it. One of our goals was to come back to Omaha.”

Now the Beavers (49-10-1) are there, one of a select group of teams still alive with hopes of a CWS crown in 2018.

“Almost 300 teams start this journey,” said OSU coach Pat Casey, who long ago locked in his future enshrinement on the College Baseball Hall of Fame. “Eight get to go to Omaha. This is my sixth time there, which is crazy.

“I remember the first day I stepped on the (CWS) field in ‘05. I thought I was in baseball heaven. You never

know if you’re ever going to get back.”

The Beavers will start play either Saturday or Sunday at TD Ameritrade Park against a familiar foe — North Carolina, the team they vanquished in the championship series in both 2006 and ‘07.

“Coach (Mike Fox) does a great job,” Casey says. “(The Tar Heels) are very good. They always have an unbelievable amount of talent.

“But it doesn’t matter who you play. You just have to be ready to play.”

The Beavers have been all year — through a regular season in which they went 44-10-1, and certainly in the postseason, in which they have swept through the opposition 5-0 while winning regionals and super regionals in Corvallis. After blowout victories in the three regional games and an 8-1 win over Minnesota in the opener of the super regional, the Beavers were finally pushed to the hilt by the Gophers in Saturday night’s Game 2, a four-hour marathon chock full of suspense and drama before a stadium-record crowd of 4,025.

The Big Ten champions (44-15) — the designated home team — led 3-2 going into the eighth inning and, with ace closer Max Meyer on the mound, appeared on their way to forcing a deciding Game 3 on Sunday night.

The Beavers, the nation’s No. 3 seed, had other ideas. Kyle Nobach’s two-out single to right field scored Trevor Larnach with the tying run, and the teams went into the ninth knotted at 3-3.

Oregon State batted around in a three-run ninth, the key hit a clutch two-out,

two-run single by Adley Rutschman to give the Beavers a 5-3 lead.

By that time, Meyer had given way to Jackson Rose, another Minnesota reliever with filthy stuff who had blown away clean-up hitter Larnach on three pitches in the at-bat before Rutschman came to the plate with the bases loaded and the score still tied.

On a 1-2 count, Rutschman parked a fastball up the middle for the biggest hit of the Beavers’ season.

“Being able to get that hit meant a lot to the guys,” said the sophomore catcher. “I just feel fortunate, because we get to celebrate and go back to Omaha.”

Oregon State managed 13 hits against Minnesota starter Patrick Fredrickson — the Big Ten Pitcher of the Year — and two of the top relievers in the conference. The Beavers played their standard flawless defense and rallied from a late-inning deficit against a team that arrived in Corvallis with a 12-game win streak.

“Baseball isn’t always as easy as people think,” Casey said. “I have unbelievable trust in what our guys are doing. Minnesota’s pitching is outstanding, but I knew they were going to battle. That’s a really good team we beat.”

John Anderson, in his 37th season as Minnesota’s head coach, was asked for an appraisal of Oregon State’s chances at Omaha. He was expansive in evaluation of the OSU team as a whole.

“An outstanding team, very well-coached,” he said. “Pat Casey’s teams execute fundamentals and play the game the right way. (The Beavers) are going to give (opponents) trouble, try-

ing to pitch to that lineup for nine innings. They grind out at-bats. They don’t chase and expand the zone much. They work hard at getting into the counts they want. You have to be able to execute pitches when you’re behind in the count, because they’re all over the fastball. They put the ball in play and grind out at-bats up and down that lineup.

“They’re an outstanding defensive team. Rutschman does a fantastic job handling that (pitching) staff, and they’re strong up the middle. If you’re going to be a championship team, you have to be strong up the middle.

“They’ll play in a bigger ballpark (in Omaha). It’s a different game in that park. The alleys are huge. You have to be able to play outfield defense. The ball doesn’t carry. You don’t have a chance to hit as many balls out of the park. It will be interesting to see how that offense plays in that big stadium.

“(Luke) Heimlich on the mound will be able to beat anybody in the country, and Fehmel will force you to put together a good at-bat. The two lefties I saw tonight were special, too. I like their chances based on what I saw. They haven’t won 49 games because they’re not good. I wouldn’t count them out in Omaha, that’s for sure.”

Neither will their coach.

“We have enough energy,” Casey said. “We have enough young guys. We have enough vets. I believe we’re prepared to do the things we need to do to go into battle.

“We’re there. It’s a mentality. It’s a culture. We have a strong group of young men.”

SCOREBOARD

Local slate				West Division				NASHVILLE SUPER REGIONAL				Tennis			
LEGION BASEBALL				W				Friday: Mississippi State 10, Vanderbilt 8				FRENCH OPEN			
Wednesday's Games				L				Saturday: Vanderbilt 4, Mississippi State 3				French Open 2018 Champions			
Hodgen Distributing vs. Hanford (BMCC field), 3 p.m.				Pct				Sunday: Mississippi State 10, Vanderbilt 6, 11 inn., MSU advances				Men's Singles			
Basketball				GB				CORVALLIS SUPER REGIONAL				Women's Singles			
WNBA				W				Friday: Oregon State 8, Minnesota 1				PGA Tour			
Saturday's Games				L				Saturday: Oregon State 6, Minnesota 3, OSU advances				FEDEX ST. JUDE CLASSIC			
Connecticut 89, Minnesota 75				Pct				FULLERTON SUPER REGIONAL				Sunday			
Sunday's Games				GB				Friday: Washington 8, Cal State Fullerton 5				At TPC Southwind			
New York 78, Indiana 75				W				Saturday: Washington 6, Cal State Fullerton 5, 10 inn., UW advances				Memphis, Tenn.			
Los Angeles 77, Chicago 69				L				GAINESVILLE SUPER REGIONAL				Purse: \$6.6 million			
Phoenix 72, Las Vegas 59				Pct				Saturday: Florida 8, Auburn 2				Yardage: 7,238; Par: 70			
Atlanta 67, Seattle 64				GB				Sunday: Auburn 3, Florida 2				Final Leaderboard			
Monday's Games				W				FAYETTEVILLE SUPER REGIONAL				Dustin Johnson			
No games scheduled.				L				Saturday: Arkansas 9, South Carolina 3				Andrew Putnam			
Tuesday's Games				Pct				Sunday: South Carolina 8, Arkansas 5				J.B. Holmes			
Las Vegas at Indiana, 4 p.m.				GB				Monday: Arkansas 14, South Carolina 4, ARK advances				Stewart Cink			
Phoenix at Dallas, 5 p.m.				W				LUBBOCK SUPER REGIONAL				Richy Werenski			
Chicago at Seattle, 7 p.m.				L				Saturday: Texas Tech 6, Duke 4				Austin Cook			
Atlanta at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.				Pct				Sunday: Duke 11, Texas Tech 2				Retief Goosen			
Baseball				GB				Monday: Texas Tech 6, Duke 2, TTU advances				Chris Kirk			
MLB				W				AUSTIN SUPER REGIONAL				Trey Mullinax			
AMERICAN LEAGUE				L				Saturday: Tennessee Tech 5, Texas 4				Chez Reavie			
East Division				Pct				Sunday: Texas 4, Tennessee Tech 2				LPGA Tour			
Boston				GB				Monday: Texas 5, Tennessee Tech 2, TEX advances				SHOPRITE LPGA CLASSIC			
New York				W				Soccer				Sunday			
Tampa Bay				L				Saturday's Games				At Stockton Seaview Hotel and GC			
Toronto				Pct				Atlanta United FC 1, New York City FC 1, tie				Galloway, N.J.			
Baltimore				GB				New York 1, Columbus 1, tie				Purse: \$1.75 million			
Central Division				W				Vancouver 5, Orlando City 2				Yardage: 6,217; Par 71			
Cleveland				L				FC Dallas 2, Montreal 0				Final Leaderboard			
Detroit				Pct				New England 1, Chicago 1, tie				Annie Park			
Minnesota				GB				Houston 2, Colorado 0				69-65-63—197			
Chicago				W				Seattle 2, D.C. United 1				-16			
Kansas City				L				LA Galaxy 3, Real Salt Lake 0							
West Division				W				Los Angeles FC 4, San Jose 3							
Seattle				L											
Houston				Pct											
Los Angeles				GB											
Oakland				W											
Texas				L											