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Best in state

Pendleton senior Lauren Richards leads 5A all-state softball teams, voted Pitcher of the Year

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Pendleton's standout pitcher Lauren Richards was voted as the best in Class 5A this season, as the Buckaroo standout was named the Pitcher of the Year and a first team all-state pick by the classifications coaches in the all-state teams released Sunday.

It's the third straight season that Richards made the first team list, as the future Clarendon McKenna College pitcher has dominated opposing offenses throughout her career. This year, Richards went 26-2 in the circle with a 1.42 ERA while striking out 232 batters in 171 1/3 innings pitched — a ratio of 9.5 strikeouts per seven innings. She threw eight complete-game shutouts, most notably a seven-inning shutout with 12 strikeouts in the 5A championship victory over Putnam.

"She's just one of the most fierce competitors and toughest players mentally that I've ever coached, guys or girls," Pendleton head coach Tim Cary said of Richards following the Buckaroos' championship win in Corvallis. "She just will out-work you and she doesn't get rattled. She's just an unbelievable competitor and I can't say enough about her."

Richards also brought a potent bat to each game, as she hit for a .461 average (47-for-102) with 14 doubles and 37 RBI. Cary along with Pendleton's assistant coaches

Jim Newland, Josh Grass, Kristan Garton and Steve Richards were named as Coaching Staff of the Year and Marist Catholic's sophomore catcher and University of Oregon commitment Abby Doerr was named Player of the Year.

Pendleton placed five players on the three all-state teams, but surprisingly Richards was the only first team pick as one of six pitchers. Senior infielder Kalan McGlothlan was the lone Buckaroo to make second team after hitting .464 with a team-best 10 home runs, 36 RBI and 35 runs scored while playing a solid third base.

Junior catcher Kila Solomon (.408 avg., 7HR, 33 RBI), junior second baseman Aspen Garton (.438 avg., 6 HR, 39 RBI, 29 runs) and senior infielder Alexi Brehaut (.531 avg., 7 HR, 9 doubles, 35 RBI, 31 runs) were all third team selections.

Two Hermiston Bulldogs earned spots on the all-state teams. Junior shortstop Sydney Stefani was a first team pick after she hit .568 with four home runs, 11 doubles, and scored 33 runs for the Bulldogs. Sophomore Bailey Noland was a second team pick at utility following a season where she hit .452 with eight home runs, 39 RBI and scored 24 runs.

Pendleton and Hermiston's league rival Hood River Valley had four first team picks with pitcher Hannah McNerney, catcher Zoe Munn, outfielder Haylee Baker and utility Lauren Decker.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris and Kathy Aney



**< LAUREN RICHARDS
5A PITCHER OF THE YEAR
5A ALL-STATE FIRST TEAM**



**^ SYDNEY STEFANI
5A ALL-STATE FIRST TEAM**



**< KALAN MCGLOTHAN
5A ALL-STATE SECOND TEAM**



**BAILEE NOLAND
5A ALL-STATE SECOND TEAM**



**ASPEN GARTON
5A ALL-STATE THIRD TEAM**



**KILA SOLOMON
5A ALL-STATE THIRD TEAM**



**ALEXI BREHAUT
5A ALL-STATE THIRD TEAM**

Mariners hammer 4 homers in 6-3 win

By TODD MILLES
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mitch Haniger and Ryon Healy each homered twice as the first-place Seattle Mariners shook off two homers by Mike Trout for the second consecutive night, beating the Los Angeles Angels 6-3 on Tuesday.

Trout took sole possession of the major league lead with 23 home runs. He also hit a pair in the Angels' 5-3 loss Monday night at Safeco Field.

Mike Leake (7-3) allowed one run in six innings for Seattle, which has won three straight and 10 of 12



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners' Mitch Haniger watches his two-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels during the fifth inning of a baseball game Tuesday in Seattle. It was Haniger's second home run of the game.

to remain a half-game ahead of Houston atop the AL West.

Edwin Diaz worked the ninth for his big league-best 25th save in 28 tries.

Haniger's two-run homer in the fifth inning and Healy's solo shot in the sixth gave the Mariners a 4-1 lead. Trout answered with his

second of the game in the seventh, a drive that hit the scoreboard in left-center field to cut it to 4-3.

Seattle added insurance runs on Jean Segura's RBI double in the seventh and Healy's leadoff homer in the eighth.

See MARINERS/2B

Each Omaha trip special for Casey

By BOB LUNDEBERG
Albany Democrat-Herald

Oregon State has reached college baseball's grandest stage seven times in program history.

Six have come in the last 14 years under Pat Casey, who believes every trip to the College World Series is a unique experience.

"I remember the first day I stepped on the field in Omaha and I thought I was in baseball heaven," OSU's 59-year-old coach said Saturday after clinching the Corvallis Super Regional. The third-seeded Beavers (49-10-1) will open the CWS against No. 6 North Carolina (43-18) at noon Saturday, the NCAA announced Monday evening.

"You never know if you're going to get back, so crazy things

happen."

OSU didn't qualify for the NCAA tournament until Casey's 11th season at the school. The Beavers won the 2005 Pac-10 championship — their first conference title since 1994 — and went 3-0 at the Corvallis Regional to set up a home rematch with USC in the supers.

After taking the opener, OSU blew a late 8-3 lead in the second game and fell 9-8 in 10 innings. USC's three-run ninth-inning rally included a Jeff Clement solo home run and a dropped fly ball in the outfield.

"I told our guys after the game, I said 'Hey, if we believe that we're the team that we are then pack your bags, we're going to Omaha,'" Casey recalled. "And

See OSU/2B

Sports shorts

Hayward Field East Grandstand dismantled

EUGENE (AP) — Workers have started dismantling the 93-year-old East Grandstand at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field.

Workers began removing the grandstand's original seat boards on Monday, The Register-Guard reported.

The Douglas fir bleacher seats are among numerous items that may be reused in the modern stadium that will be built on the same site as Hayward Field.

Woods surprised he's still at 14 majors

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — A year ago, while watching the U.S. Open on television as he recovered from another back surgery, Tiger Woods had no idea if he'd ever compete again in what he calls "our national championship."

On Tuesday, he spoke about playing Shinnecock Hills as an opportunity to add to his three U.S. Open titles,

but also as filling a hole in his existence after skipping the last two. This is his 20th U.S. Open.

"I missed playing the U.S. Open," Woods said. "It's our national title and it has meant so much to me in my career. The biggest event you can win when I was growing up, it was a USGA event. To have won nine times is pretty special."



AP Photo/Julie Jacobson

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1953 — Ben Hogan wins the U.S. Open for the fourth time, with a six-stroke victory over Sam Snead.

1997 — Chicago wins its fifth NBA championship in the last seven years when Steve Kerr's last-second shot gives the Bulls a 90-86 Game 6 victory over the Utah Jazz.

2003 — Roger Clemens reaches 300 wins and becomes the third pitcher with 4,000 strikeouts.

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