



# Outta there!

Sportsmanship is a factor in a nation-wide officiating shortage that has also hit Oregon



Stanfield catcher Thyler Monks pumps his fist in the air as home plate umpire Mark Coursey calls Santiam Christian runner Tanner Macal out in the Tigers' 5-4 win against the Eagles in the 2016 3A state championship baseball game in Keizer.

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ  
East Oregonian

Last week in the 2018 Pendleton Babe Ruth Baseball Championship game, plenty of things were running hot. The grills settled just behind the bleachers at Bob White Field sent the familiar hot dog aroma wafting through the park, temperatures reached the 90s to welcome in the first day of summer, and even some coaches were spewing fire — directed solely at the lead umpire, Eldon Browning. It wasn't the first time Browning, who has umpired Little League games for the last decade, got an earful and as he now adds high school games to his resume, it certainly won't be the last. It's so commonplace in baseball, and sports in general, that it is one of the main factors contributing to the nation-wide shortage of umpires and referees from youth sports all the way to high school. "You have to have thick skin to do this," Browning admitted after the June 20th championship. "You have to have really thick skin, otherwise you just can't do it." Browning first picked up the umpire's mask and pads when his oldest was in Little League. He followed him up the ranks and hopes one day his four sons will do the same with their children. These sentiments, from verbal throw-



Several Bucks converge on Putnam's Jadden Hall during a 2017 non-conference game at Pendleton High School as a referee gets a close-up look at the play.

downs to strong family ties, are in story after story that highlight the nation-wide decline in officials over the years — Oregon is no exception. Young people are turned off by the yelling they would have to endure from coaches, parents and fans, and as parents and community members lay down their

See OFFICIATING/3B

**"You have to have thick skin to do this,"**  
— Eldon Browning, Umpire

## PENDLETON

# Linebacker's Club inducts 17 into Hall of Fame

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When Cappie Smith received the news that she was going to be one of the 2018 inductees to the Pendleton Linebacker's Club Hall of Fame, she had quite the swing of emotions. Smith, a 2001 graduate of Pendleton High, first had a feeling of shock. Sure, she knew she had a good career on the basketball court and the softball diamond when she was a Buckaroo, but she was still surprised that the club wanted to honor her for those accomplishments after nearly two decades had gone by. Then a feeling of confusion set in, with Smith not knowing that the club had expanded its scope of inductees to all Pendleton boys and girls athletes beginning last year, and was no longer limited to just past football players. "I was pretty surprised because I thought, 'Oh I didn't play football,'" Smith jokingly recalled. "But then I found out they opened it up to the girls, so I was really honored to still be one of earliest girls that got in." Smith, who still lives in the area and works as a pharmacist at Yellowhawk Clinic in Mission, was one of 16 individuals and one Buckaroo football team that joined the Hall of Fame on Friday night at the club's annual Hall of Fame reception at the Pendleton Convention Center, which boosts the total number of individual inductees to 110.

She earned her spot by being a four-year letter winner and two-time all-conference pick in basketball, while setting Pendleton's all-time record for assists (293) and steals (254) and finished her career third all-time in scoring with 1,075 points. "I didn't think anything like this would ever happen," Smith said. "But it means a lot to me. It's something to have them recognize my accomplishments, and it's been a fun thing for me to think back and reminisce on my high school career." One of Smith's classmates, JD Lambert, also joined her in the Hall of Fame and he too was surprised when he notified. Lambert, who served in the U.S. Army after graduating and is now a Pendleton Police Officer, said he had previously been on the voting ballot once so he knew it might be a possibility one day, but when the letter came in the mail it didn't feel real.

See HOF/3B

## COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

# OSU seniors go out on top after program claims third CWS title

By BOB LUNDEBERG  
Albany Democrat-Herald

OMAHA, Neb. — Oregon State's four senior leaders received the ultimate sendoff at the College World Series. Playing the final game of

their college careers, Jack Anderson, Michael Gretler, Luke Heimlich and Kyle Nobach went out on top as the third-seeded Beavers blanked No. 5 Arkansas 5-0 on the strength of Kevin Abel's two-hitter. The freshman right-hander's all-

time performance provided a fitting end to four distinguished college careers. "It's the reason why I came here," Gretler said of securing the program's third national title. "I remember them winning it all in 2006, and to be on a field a little

ways away from where they did it, it's incredible." Anderson, Gretler and Nobach played in 525 combined games for the Beavers (55-12-1). Heimlich notched 86 appearances with 49 starts, going 36-13 with a career ERA of 2.49.

OSU compiled a 185-55-2 overall record during the last four years, including two CWS appearances and the 2018 national title. "It's an unbelievable group, especially what kind of people they are," coach Pat Casey said of his four

seniors. "And to see them on this stage and perform as baseball players ... it's just a fantastic feeling." Anderson, who will begin physical therapy school at Regis University later this

See OSU/3B

## Sports shorts

### Hayward Field's West Grandstand torn down

EUGENE (AP) — Demolition crews have started tearing down the West Grandstand at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. The much-loved East Grandstand largely made of wood was torn down last week. After the grandstands, the last major structure the UO will demolish as part of Hayward Field's rebuild will be the Bowerman Family Building, which houses locker rooms, meeting rooms, and treatment facilities.

### FIFA says video reviews have been 99.3 percent correct

(AP) — FIFA says video reviews are "close to perfection" at the first World Cup to use the system, claiming 99.3 percent of "match-changing" plays were called correctly. Don't tell that to some of the coaches still angry about a few penalties, fouls or cards that were or weren't

handed out. The system has had a major impact, with seven penalties awarded using the Video Assistant Referee system. Two goals were given after being initially ruled offside, including one by South Korea that helped to eliminate world champion Germany.



AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1965 — The NFL grants Atlanta a franchise. Rankin Smith Sr. pays \$8.5 million for the franchise. It's the highest price paid in league history at the time. 1994 — Tonya Harding is stripped of her national title and banned for life from the U.S. Figure Skating Association because of her role in an attack on Nancy Kerrigan. 1995 — Eddie Murray becomes the second switch-hitter and the 20th player in baseball history to reach 3,000 hits. Pete Rose was the first.

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