

ECHO: Having fewer players on the team isn’t without its challenges

Continued from 1B

1A schools with adjusted enrollments fewer than 89. At the end of the two years, the coaches will decide whether or not to continue forward with it.

Six-man football is widely used at the high school level in the state of Texas, as well as Florida and Montana. Jamboree games on Friday will mark Oregon’s first six-man game since 1959.

Having fewer players on the team isn’t without its challenges, though, as Echo’s eighth-year head coach Rick Thew says his team has had to completely re-strategize how they play. The Cougars’ offense will have to pass or hand the ball off before a play can be made, whereas before, their quarterback could simply take the ball and run.

Thew doesn’t see this change as a disadvantage, but instead, an opportunity. “Everyone gets the

chance to catch the ball, to block — to do a little bit of everything,” he said. “It makes for a really well-rounded athlete.”

Echo senior Devan Craig has been on Echo’s varsity team since he was a freshman, and says that his team has been adapting well to the decrease in size.

“It’s a different feel,” he said. “But it’ll be a lot of fun. As a player, you have to be dynamic.”

Positivity is a cornerstone of the Courgars football team. In fact, it’s push-ups if you’re overheard saying anything negative about your performance.

“Just because you’re from a smaller school doesn’t make you any less of an athlete,” Thew said. “I’m excited. Echo’s had a tradition of eight-man football. You don’t always want to try something new, but this season is going to be fast and exciting. The kids are going to have a blast.”



Staff photo by Brett Kane
Coach Rick Thew guides his team through drills.

OSU: Also held free-throw shooting contest and home run derby

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Hughes-Murray said events like the bowling session allow the players to grow closer off the field and learn about each other — but they are always competitive. While in Bend the Beavers have also held a free-throw shooting contest, a water-balloon fight, and a home-run derby session (with tennis balls).

“There’s a lot of team camaraderie and a lot of fun,” Hughes-Murray said. “It’s a chance for us to get away from football for a little bit and just be around each other and have a lot of fun, that’s all this is. You get to know guys and stuff like that, so everything is not just about football.”

Senior cornerback Dwayne Williams said the bowling event can help bring players and coaches — a number of the assistants got into the keggling mix — together as a team.

“Sometimes we don’t interact with the offensive line, but having things like this helps with that,” Williams said. “You learn a lot about guys — guys that you don’t always talk to on the field.”

Smith said he is using the trip to Bend to sort of

simulate a road-game trip. If the players know generally what to expect during the trip they can focus more on playing fifth-ranked Ohio State in its massive Ohio Stadium, which seats more than 100,000.

“We want to remove the uncertainties and the anxiousness that comes, just because they’ve done it before, and they can just focus on the game,” Smith said. “And it’s always great to come to Bend — it’s a beautiful place. I think it’s good to have a change of pace. We spent 2½ weeks at training camp, so coming over here is good.”

Hughes-Murray said that during the last couple of practices he has noticed a lot of high energy, and Thursday’s scrimmage will provide a final chance for players to show coaches what they can do in a game situation.

Smith said he hopes to see improvement in Thursday’s scrimmage and players “taking the next step.”

“We want to re-create some game situations for them and see how they react to that,” Smith said. “I think they’re prepared, but one more time putting them out there, I want to see them play well.”

MYSTICS: Mercury will face Seattle in the conference semifinals

Continued from 1B

necticut Sun 96-86 on Thursday night in the second round of the WNBA playoffs.

The Mercury will face Seattle in the conference semifinals, starting Sunday.

Stephanie Talbot hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 94 with 4:19 left. Griner then scored four points and had a key block on Courtney Williams to give the Mercury a 92-86 lead with 1:11 left.

Taurasi improved to 13-0 in her career in deciding playoff games. The former UConn star got the

team going early, hitting from all over the court. After one 3-pointer she pushed her arms down to quiet the loud crowd.

The game was a rematch of last season’s second round contest that the Mercury won 88-83. In that game the Mercury didn’t have DeWanna Bonner, who was out for the season while she gave birth to twins. On Thursday night she played nearly the entire game and finished with 23 points and 18 rebounds.

Courtney Williams led the Sun with 27 points, including a four-point play in the fourth quarter.

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Umpires are honored, too



AP Photo/Tom E. Puskar
Canada catcher Andre Juco tags out Puerto Rico’s Carlos De Jesus (17) at home during the fourth inning of a Little League World Series baseball tournament game in South Williamsport, Pa., Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018.

By SARA PERLOWITZ
Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Ryan Gibson remembers buying clothes from the local Salvation Army to put together his first umpire uniform when he was about 14 years old. Jeff Pruitt recalls going to thrift stores to buy gray pants and a blue, button-down shirt.

Now, they’re both part of the 16-member umpire crew at the Little League World Series, a group with more than 350 years of experience combined. The umpires play a big role in making the games run smoothly, but they have a tough road before they end up in South Williamsport — and they do all the work on a volunteer basis.

First, they need a recommendation from the local district administrator of Little League to work in a regional tournament.

The umpires volunteering at the regional level are then evaluated and given one of two responses —

one being a recommendation to work another regional event, in which case the ump in question keeps working and tries again later, and the other being that the umpire is recommended for a World Series assignment.

Even within that level, there are different meanings to term “World Series.” Little League actually runs seven different baseball and softball tournaments that carry the “World Series” title, such as the the Senior League Baseball World Series and the Little League Softball World Series.

But the most famous of the competitions, the one in South Williamsport, is technically the Little League Baseball World Series.

While an umpire can work in a World Series assignment once every four years, being selected for the Little League Baseball World Series can only happen once.

“It’s a long journey and you learn a lot,” said Troy Lare of Hermon, Maine. “Every step you take teaches and gets you to the point

where you need to be, to be here.

“And when you find out you’re here, your heart stops for about 10 to 15 minutes and then you get back to life and get ready to come.”

The umpires need to practice their craft just like any professional. Attending clinics is a way to stay updated on all of the rules and regulations, but a lot of development comes from being observant and studying.

“We watch film on our mechanics to improve,” said Danny Gill of Lake Wales, Florida. “Just like a hitter or a fielder, you tend to pick up bad habits and you’ve got to get yourself back to where you need to be.”

Wayne Kurtz of Alberta, Canada, said he also watches umpers at higher levels.

“When you watch a Major League Baseball game, sometimes you see how Major League Baseball players perform their job on the field,” Kurtz said. “Baseball players will watch baseball players. It’s funny because then an umpire will watch an

umpire on TV, too.”

As might be expected, people on the LLWS crew started out as players.

“I played baseball when I was younger,” Kurtz said. “I just enjoyed the game so much that I decided I would become an umpire. I set a goal for myself and that was to someday get to Williamsport and, 15 years later, I’m here.”

In an organization that counts more than 1 million adult volunteers in all roles, it takes a lot of love of baseball and dedication to make it happen.

Pruitt of East Bethel, Michigan, remembers calling a Little League doubleheader about 25 years ago, before both of his kids were born.

Gibson of Brownstown, Michigan, joked that Pruitt was “dating himself” throughout the interview.

“You’re only as old as you feel,” Pruitt responded. “I have just as much fun as the kids. I’ll quit umpiring when I quit having fun out there.”

Prep Volleyball

Weston-McEwen starts season with pair of wins

East Oregonian

The Weston-McEwen volleyball team started its 2018 season in successful fashion with a pair of 3-0 wins over Dufur and Imbler on Thursday in Athena.

The TigerScots (2-0) began the day defeating Dufur 25-22, 25-18 and 25-16, and wrapped up beating Imbler 25-21, 25-14

and 25-9. Weston-McEwen found success with its serving and serve-receive Thursday, recording 45 aces and allowing fewer than five aces in both games combined. Tyree Burke led the team with 12 aces, Emma Olson had 11 and Bryce Thul had nine.

“That was the story of the night,” TigerScots coach Shawn White said.

Hailey Weaver was the big hitter of the night with 13 kills, while Keree Graves had nine and Burke had eight. Elli Scheibner led the team with 22 assists and Thul had 17, while Jesse Manning led the team’s defense with 16 digs while Olson had 14 and Graves had 11.

“We were definitely ready to get in the gym and play some one other than

ourselves,” White said. “Dufur and Imbler were well-coached teams.”

Weston-McEwen next heads to John Day on Saturday morning for the Grant Union Tournament.

HELIX PICKS UP TWO WINS: In Helix, the Grizzlies opened the season with two wins of their own, defeating Umatilla 3-1 and blanking Ione 3-0.

Local slate

VOLLEYBALL

Friday

Heppner at Irigoin, 1 p.m.
Echo at Country Christian, 1 p.m.
Umatilla vs. Heppner (at Irigoin), 3 p.m.
Echo vs. Hosanna Christian (at Country Christian), 4 p.m.
Umatilla at Irigoin, 5 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Friday

Mac-Hi at Stayton, 3 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Friday

Mac-Hi at Stayton, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday

College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, 6 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Friday

BMCC at SW Oregon, Noon
Whitworth at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

Friday

Eastern Oregon vs. Embry-Riddle (AZ) (at Prescott, AZ), 7 p.m.
BMCC at NWAC Friendlies (at Seattle)

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Friday

Eastern Oregon vs. Vanguard (Calif.) (at Butte, MT), Noon
Eastern Oregon vs. Providence (at Butte, MT), 6 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	90	39	.698	—
New York	79	47	.627	9½
Tampa Bay	67	61	.523	22½
Toronto	58	69	.457	31
Baltimore	37	90	.291	52

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	73	53	.579	—
St. Louis	71	57	.555	3
Milwaukee	71	58	.550	3½
Pittsburgh	63	65	.492	11
Cincinnati	56	72	.438	18

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	71	56	.559	—
Colorado	70	57	.551	1
Los Angeles	67	61	.523	4½
San Francisco	63	66	.488	9
San Diego	50	80	.385	22½

Thursday's Games

Boston 7, Cleveland 0
Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 2
Tampa Bay 4, Kansas City 3
Minnesota 6, Oakland 4

Friday's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 7-4) at Baltimore (Cobb 4-15), 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Arrieta 9-8) at Toronto (Borucki 2-3), 4:07 p.m.
Boston (Velazquez 7-1) at Tampa Bay (Castillo 3-2), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-9) at Detroit (Fulmer 3-9), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Manaea 11-9) at Minnesota (Odonizzi 5-7), 5:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Clevinger 9-7) at Kansas City (Keller 6-5), 5:15 p.m.
Seattle (Ramirez 0-2) at Arizona (Godley 13-6), 6:40 p.m.
Houston (Keuchel 9-10) at L.A. Angels (Heaney 7-7), 7:07 p.m.
Texas (Hutchison 2-2) at San Francisco (Rodriguez 6-1), 7:15 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	72	55	.567	—
Philadelphia	69	58	.543	3
Washington	64	64	.500	8½
New York	56	71	.441	16
Miami	51	78	.395	22

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	73	53	.579	—
St. Louis	71	57	.555	3
Milwaukee	71	58	.550	3½
Pittsburgh	63	65	.492	11
Cincinnati	56	72	.438	18

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	71	56	.559	—
Colorado	70	57	.551	1
Los Angeles	67	61	.523	4½
San Francisco	63	66	.488	9
San Diego	50	80	.385	22½

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia 2, Washington 0
San Francisco 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Colorado 4, San Diego 3
Atlanta 5, Miami 0

Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 1

Friday's Games

Cincinnati (Harvey 6-7) at Chicago Cubs (Mills 0-0), 11:20 a.m.
Philadelphia (Arrieta 9-8) at Toronto (Borucki 2-3), 4:07 p.m.
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 10-7) at Miami (Straily 4-6), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Gonzalez 7-10) at N.Y. Mets (Vargas 3-8), 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Musgrove 5-7) at Milwaukee (Milley 2-2), 5:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Mikolas 13-3) at Colorado (Senzatela 4-3), 5:40 p.m.
Seattle (Ramirez 0-2) at Arizona (Godley 13-6), 6:40 p.m.
San Diego (Richard 7-10) at L.A. Dodgers (Hill 5-4), 7:10 p.m.
Texas (Hutchison 2-2) at San Francisco (Rodriguez 6-1), 7:15 p.m.

MLB

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

Thursday's Games

Spokane 18, Salem-Keizer 4
Boise 3, Vancouver 2
Eugene 5, Tri-City 0
Hillsboro 3, Everett 1

Friday's Games

Salem-Keizer at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.
Boise at Vancouver, 7:05 p.m.
Tri-City at Eugene, 7:05 p.m.
Everett at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League World Series

At South Williamsport, Pa.

Thursday's Games

Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) 5, Barcelona (Spain) 0
Kawaguchi (Japan) 1, Guayama (Puerto Rico) 0, Guayama eliminated
Peachtree City (Ga.) 7, Staten Island (N.Y.) 3, Staten Island eliminated

Saturday's Games

International Championship Game 27: Seoul (South Korea) vs. Kawaguchi (Japan), 9:30 a.m.
United States Championship Game 28: Honolulu vs. Peachtree City (Ga.), 12:30 p.m.

Basketball

WNBA PLAYOFFS

Second Round

Thursday, Aug. 23

Washington 96, Los Angeles 64
Phoenix 96, Connecticut 86

Soccer

MLS

Thursday's Games

Columbus 1, Chicago 1
FC Dallas 1, Houston 1

Friday's Games

Atlanta United FC at Orlando City, 5 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

New England at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Toronto FC, 5 p.m.
Minnesota United at Sporting K.C., 5:30 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games

D.C. United at New York, 4 p.m.
Seattle at Portland, 6:30 p.m.

Football

NFL PRESEASON

Week 3

Thursday's Games

Cleveland 5, Philadelphia 0

Friday's Games

New England at Carolina, 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 4:30 p.m.
Denver at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m.
Green Bay at Oakland, 7:30 p.m.

Golf

PGA TOUR

Northern Trust

Thursday
At Ridgewood Country Club
Paramus, N.J.
Purse: \$9 million
Yardage: 7,385; Par: 71 (35-36)

First Round Leaderboard

Kevin Tway	32-34—66	-5
Jamie Lovemark	32-34—66	-5
Vaughn Taylor	31-33—66	-5
Sean O'Hair	31-35—66	-5
Hideki Matsuyama	35-32—67	-4
Scott Piercy	35-32—67	-4
Tommy Fleetwood	35-32—67	-4
Andrew Putnam	35-34—67	-4
Dustin Johnson	32-35—67	-4
Brooks Koepka	34-33—67	-4

Notables

Phil Mickelson	35-33—68	-3
Justin Thomas	35-34—69	-2
Patrick Reed	35-34—69	-2
Jordan Spieth	33-37—70	-1
Tiger Woods	36-35—71	E
Jason Day	36-35—71	E