



Staff photo by Annie Fowler/

Hermiston's Sydney Stefani signed a letter of intent Wednesday to play softball at Idaho State University.

Hermiston's Stefani headed to Idaho State for softball

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Sydney Stefani began her career on the diamond with the boys, playing Little League baseball in Ione.

She started playing softball in the sixth grade, and her game has blossomed from there.

The Hermiston senior shortstop signed a letter of intent Wednesday to play Div. I softball at Idaho State University.

"College softball is something I have wanted to do," Stefani said. "Where I was originally going to go (Montana) didn't work out, but coach (Kate) Greenough has a lot of connections and got me in with Idaho State."

Greenough played at Utah State for Cindi Letts, who now is the coach at ISU.

"Sydney is a stud," Greenough said. "She works so hard, and it's nice to see that hard work pay off."

Stefani, who moved to Hermiston in the eighth grade, is coming off a spectacular junior year, where she was named co-MVP of the Columbia River Conference with Hood River Valley junior outfielder Haylee Baker.

The Bulldogs finished 17-10 and reached the 5A state quarterfinals, where they lost 11-8 to Lebanon.

Stefani also was a Class 5A first-team all-state selection as an infielder.

"As the season progressed, it was within my reach," Stefani said of the CRC honor. "I was shocked. They couldn't discredit one over the other."

Stefani hit .571 last season as the Bulldogs' lead-off hitter. She also had nine RBIs, 13 runs scored, five stolen bases, and let's not forget the six home runs.

"She'd run through a wall for you," Greenough said. "Not only is she a good athlete, but she's a team leader. She is a shining light, always ready to do anything for her teammates. She is always up for a challenge."

That will come this spring when the Bulldogs enter the Mid-Columbia Conference, where the likes of Kamiakin and Richland have dominated the softball scene for years.

"It will be great," Greenough said. "She will walk into this conference and be one of the best. But that would be the same for any conference."

Stefani said she will miss the CRC.

"The programs are so tough," she said. "Each game we had to show up and play our best game. The bus rides were so much fun. I'm going to miss going to the The Dalles and Hood River. This could have been our year."

Stefani will be familiar with some of the players in the MCC after playing with the Washington Angels club team the past eight years. She will finish her last season with the team this summer.

"I'm really privileged to have awesome parents (Dennis and Misti) who made sure I had what I needed for club, and they got me to where I needed to go," she said.

Stefani didn't start playing softball until the sixth grade, and still has fond memories of playing baseball.

"My last year, I played on the John Day All-Stars," Stefani said. "My team played Hermiston, which had Andrew James, Jordan Ramirez and Wyatt Noland. I struck out Jordan in that game. He still denies it."

Boys: Nixyaawii will have its hands full with Kittitas

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Nixyaawii (16-1), ranked fifth in the Oregon Class 1A coaches poll, is led by 6-foot junior Mick Schimmel, who is averaging 19 points per game.

"He averaged more last year, but we are more well-rounded this year," said Rivera, whose team beat Elgin 106-34 last Friday. "Mick usually guards the other team's best player, so I image that will be the case Friday."

That matchup would have Schimmel guarding 6-1 senior Brock Ravet, who has signed to play at Gonzaga.

Ravet, who averages more than 30 points per game, had 30 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists in Kittitas' 77-52 victory over Class 4A Kentlake on Monday at the King Showcase Basketball Invitational at ShoWare Center in Kent, Washington.

Ravet needs 89 points to tie and 90 to surpass the Washington scoring

record of 2,851 points, held by Lance Den Boer.

"He is good, but they are not a one-man show," Rivera said. "They are a well-rounded team. We are a good team. I'm hoping our reputation is solid enough for them."

Coach Ravet said he watched film of Nixyaawii, and that they will have their hands full.

"The Schimmel kid looks solid," Ravet said. "They look good. It will be fun to see different faces and a different style of game. You have to adjust to the speed of their game, their kids and the officiating. It's a late start, but it's like a district or state game. I hope I feel the same way after the game."

The game will have a shot clock, which Nixyaawii is not used to playing with, but Rivera welcomes.

"There is entertainment value to be had," Rivera said. "It will be a good small-school basketball game."



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton's Blake Davis drives Hood River Valley's Preston Armstrong into the mat during their 145-pound match of the Bucks' 72-6 win over the Eagles on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Bucks: Make quick work of HRV in IMC match

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Senior Alex Rendon made quick work of Jayton Munzer at 126, registering a pin in 1:06.

Chris Chambers needed just 46 seconds to pin Skyler Muncie at 132, and after Danner Hamilton picked up a forfeit at 138, the Bucks had a commanding 36-0 lead.

HRV's Preston Armstrong made Blake Davis put in a full 6 minutes in their 145-pound match.

Davis led 5-3 after the first period, then gave up a point on an illegal hold to make it 5-4. He quickly

got his points back with a 2-point near fall, and another takedown with 17 seconds left for a 9-5 lead.

Davis led 13-6 late in the match, but an escape by Armstrong with 7 seconds remaining left Davis with a 13-7 victory.

Shawn Yeager (152), Aiden Patterson (160), and Isaac Urbina (170) all followed with pins for a 57-0 lead with four matches remaining.

At 182, HRV's Beto Rojas had a 4-2 lead over Ian Bannister midway through the second round, but an escape and a takedown by Bannis-

ter in the final 54 seconds of the round gave him a 5-4 lead.

Bannister recorded another takedown, and Rojas an escape for a 7-5 victory for Bannister.

A HRV forfeit at 195, and Henderson's victory at 220, put the Bucks out front 72-0.

The Eagles got their only win of the night at 285, as Cody Durham pinned Travis McGee in 1:48 of the first round.

"We are excited to have that happen," Phillips said of his team's convincing victory. "We got some quick pins from our kids. We

didn't let them hang around. We took the doubt out."

The Bucks will wrestle at the Rex Putnam Tournament on Saturday.

Match Scores
Team scores — Pendleton 72, Hood River Valley 6, 106 — Collin Primus (P) won by forfeit, 113 — Kellen Hanson (P) p. Miles Lee, 1:27. 120 — Caleb Temper (P) won by forfeit, 126 — Alex Rendon (P) p. Jayton Munzer, 1:06. 132 — Chris Chambers (P) p. Skyler Muncie, :46. 138 — Danner Hamilton (P) won by forfeit. 145 — Blake Davis (P) d. Preston Armstrong, 13-7. 152 — Shawn Yeager (P) p. Tristan Keely, 5:15. 160 — Aiden Patterson (P) p. Javier Galvez, 1:00. 170 — Isaac Urbina (P) p. Tim Fletcher, :53. 182 — Ian Bannister (P) de. Beto Rojas, 7-5. 195 — Kirk Liscom (P) won by forfeit. 220 — Aiden Henderson (P) p. Joe Kahler, :40. 285 — Cody Durham (HRV) p. Travis McGee, 1:48.

BMCC: Women take home first conference win

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game right out the gate. Walla Walla put the first half away at 65-25.

And Blue Mountain's deficit only increased from that point.

The Timberwolves were held scoreless for the first four minutes of the second half, while Walla Walla

took a 13-point run. The Warriors led by 61 points with 9:41 left to play.

A 3-pointer from Bryson Wolters at 1:25 narrowed the gap to 58 points to finish the scoring.

Mehki Foreman sunk a game-high 25 points and shot 8 of 9 from the field to lead Blue Mountain. Dante Clayton and Hayden Hib-

bard-Brooks each added 11. Damen Thacker had 23 points, including four 3-pointers for the Warriors.

The Timberwolves (2-8, 2-4 NWAC) travel to Big Bend on Saturday.

Womens' Box Score
Blue Mountain 25 18 13 15 — 71
Walla Walla 18 19 13 8 — 58
BLUE MOUNTAIN — Broncheau 17, Ger-

linger 15, Wheeler 14, Morrison 13, Munoz 5, Lee 5, Hill 2
WALLA WALLA — Cheney 15, Gunter 13, Liefke 10, Golenor 7, Genzer 5, Dietrich-Denton 4, Stoddard 2, Wilwand 2

Mens' Box Score
Walla Walla 65 59 — 124
Blue Mountain 25 41 — 66
WALLA WALLA — Thacker 23, Howard 20, Hardin 19, Villarreal 16, Smith 14, Albright 8, Young 7, Clarke 5, Anderson 4, Gallegos 3, Costello 3, Clark 2
BLUE MOUNTAIN — Foreman 25, Clayton 11, Hibbard-Brooks 11, Hillard 8, Hardman 6, Wolters 3, Garza 2

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE
THURSDAY, JAN. 24
Boys Basketball
Umatilla at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Umatilla at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Boys Wrestling
Walla Walla at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Girls Wrestling
Walla Walla at Hermiston, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 25
Stanfield at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Enterprise at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
Echo at Horizon Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Pendleton at The Dalles, 6:30 p.m.
Hanford at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Ione at Dufur, 7:30 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Grant Union at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. Kittitas (at Hermiston), 8:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Hanford at Hermiston, 5:30 p.m.
Dufur at Ione, 6 p.m.
Helix at Joseph, 6 p.m.
Grant Union at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.
Boys Wrestling
Mac-Hi/Weston-McEwen at Ontario, 1 p.m.
Girls Wrestling
Riverside at Hood River Valley, 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26
Boys Basketball
Baker at Mac-Hi, 3 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Heppner at Grant Union, 4 p.m.
Echo at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Richland, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Echo at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Elgin at Helix, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 4 p.m.
Baker at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.
Heppner at Richland, 5:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Richland, 5:45 p.m.
Men's Basketball
Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 4 p.m.
Women's Basketball
Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 2 p.m.
Girls Wrestling
Riverside at Hood River Valley, 12 p.m.

NFL
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 20
NFC
L.A. Rams 26, New Orleans 23, (OT)
AFC
New England 37, Kansas City 31, (OT)
PRO BOWL
Sunday, Jan. 27, at Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, noon (ABC/ESPN)
SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 3, at Atlanta
New England vs. L.A. Rams, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)



AP Photo/Alex Gallardo, File

In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018, file photo, Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki, of Japan, smiles during warm ups before a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif. Suzuki agreed to a minor-league deal with the Mariners paving the way for the 45-year-old to play in Seattle's season-opening series in Japan. Suzuki's agent, John Boggs, confirmed the agreement on Wednesday.

NBA

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Team | W | L | Pct | Team | W | L | Pct |
| Atlanta | 36 | 14 | .720 | Memphis | 19 | 29 | .396 |
| Toronto | 32 | 17 | .653 | Northwest | 19 | 29 | .396 |
| Philadelphia | 30 | 18 | .625 | Denver | 31 | 14 | .689 |
| Boston | 26 | 23 | .531 | Oklahoma City | 29 | 18 | .617 |
| New York | 10 | 36 | .217 | Portland | 29 | 20 | .592 |
| Southeast | W | L | Pct | Utah | 26 | 22 | .542 |
| Charlotte | 23 | 24 | .489 | Minnesota | 23 | 24 | .489 |
| Miami | 22 | 24 | .478 | Pacific | W | L | Pct |
| Washington | 20 | 26 | .435 | Golden State | 33 | 14 | .702 |
| Orlando | 20 | 28 | .417 | L.A. Clippers | 26 | 22 | .542 |
| Atlanta | 15 | 32 | .319 | L.A. Lakers | 25 | 23 | .521 |
| Central | W | L | Pct | Sacramento | 24 | 24 | .500 |
| Milwaukee | 34 | 12 | .739 | Phoenix | 11 | 38 | .224 |
| Indiana | 32 | 15 | .681 | | | | |
| Detroit | 21 | 26 | .447 | | | | |
| Chicago | 11 | 37 | .229 | | | | |
| Cleveland | 9 | 40 | .184 | | | | |

Wednesday's Games
Indiana 110, Toronto 106
Boston 123, Cleveland 103
Brooklyn 114, Orlando 110
Houston 114, New York 110
L.A. Clippers 111, Miami 99
Atlanta 121, Chicago 101
Charlotte 118, Memphis 107
Detroit 98, New Orleans 94
Philadelphia 122, San Antonio 120

Thursday's Games
Golden State at Washington, 5 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.

Portland at Phoenix, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Washington at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Houston, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 6 p.m.

Saturday's Games
San Antonio at New Orleans, 3 p.m.
Indiana at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Golden State at Boston, 5:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 7 p.m.

NHL

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| Tampa Bay | 49 | 37 | 10 | 2 | 76 |
| Toronto | 49 | 30 | 17 | 2 | 62 |
| Montreal | 51 | 28 | 18 | 5 | 61 |
| Boston | 49 | 27 | 17 | 5 | 59 |
| Buffalo | 48 | 24 | 18 | 6 | 54 |
| Florida | 48 | 20 | 20 | 8 | 48 |
| Detroit | 51 | 19 | 25 | 7 | 45 |
| Ottawa | 50 | 19 | 26 | 5 | 43 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Team | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| Winnipeg | 48 | 31 | 15 | 2 | 64 |
| Nashville | 52 | 30 | 18 | 4 | 64 |
| Minnesota | 50 | 26 | 21 | 3 | 55 |
| Dallas | 49 | 24 | 21 | 4 | 52 |
| Colorado | 50 | 22 | 20 | 8 | 52 |
| St. Louis | 49 | 22 | 22 | 5 | 49 |
| Chicago | 51 | 18 | 24 | 9 | 45 |

Pacific
Calgary 51 33 13 5 71 190 145
San Jose 52 29 16 7 65 187 167
Vegas 52 29 19 4 62 157 140
Vancouver 50 23 21 6 52 145 156
Anaheim 51 21 21 9 51 120 153
Arizona 50 23 23 4 50 132 142
Edmonton 50 23 24 3 49 144 163
Los Angeles 50 20 26 4 44 114 150

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Wednesday's Games
Montreal 2, Arizona 1
Toronto 6, Washington 3
Minnesota 5, Colorado 2
Nashville 2, Vegas 1
St. Louis 5, Anaheim 1

Saturday's Games
Central All-Stars vs Pacific All-Stars: Central vs. Pacific at San Jose, Calif., 5:15 p.m.
Metropolitan All-Stars vs Atlantic All-Stars: Metropolitan vs. Atlantic at San Jose, Calif., 6:15 p.m.
All-Star Game Final: TBD vs. TBD at San Jose, Calif., 7:15 p.m.