

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## COLLEGE SIGNINGS

# Mac-Hi's Doherty, Garcia to continue athletic careers

Doherty will play football, while Garcia will throw the javelin

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

Alex Doherty and Bianca Garcia had plenty of offers to take their athletic talents to the college level, and Monday the Mac-Hi seniors put pen to paper in signing their letters of intent.

Doherty signed to play football with College of Siskiyou in Weed, Calif., while Garcia will throw the

javelin at Eastern Oregon University.

Doherty, 18, is the first Mac-Hi football player since Derek Richwine (Class of 2013) to play football at the college level. Richwine played at George Fox University.

"My freshman and sophomore years, the older guys were really nice," Doherty said. "I never thought I'd have much of a chance to play college football, but they told me I had the size."

The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Doherty, who played guard and defensive end for the Pioneers, entertained offers from Western Oregon, Uni-

versity of Idaho, University of Redlands and others. COS offered him a full ride, making the decision a bit easier.

"One of the main reasons there were so many (offers) is because (football coach Gary) Robertson got the word out to colleges and sent video," Doherty said. "He has been a big help."

The Eagles, who compete in the Golden Valley Conference of the California Community College Athletic Association, will have Doherty play defensive end.

Doherty said the Eagles plan for him to play this fall, but he needs to put in a little

work first.

"They are happy with my speed and strength, but they want me to be heavier," Doherty said. "They want me to be 285 to 300 pounds. They sent me a 10-week eating and workout schedule that I will start next week."

Doherty has played football since he was 8 years old. He played one year at wide receiver, but with his size in Pee Wee football, he was more suited for the line.

"I have always had a passion for football," Doherty said.

Doherty, who has taken

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Staff photo by Annie Fowler  
Mac-Hi's Alex Doherty (left) signed a letter of intent Monday to play football at College of the Siskiyou, while Bianca Garcia signed to throw the javelin at Eastern Oregon University.

# Defense defines NFL draft

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — We learned during the 2018 season that offense is beloved by NFL teams (and fans). We also learned that defense, as performed by the Patriots in the Super Bowl, carries away the Lombardi Trophy.

This year's draft, which begins Thursday night, is stocked with defenders who can be difference-makers. Many of them play up front and will go very high in the proceedings.

Here's one view of the first round, presuming no trades — something extremely unlikely.

**1. Arizona** — You don't hire a new coach out of college who plays a specific system and then not give him what he considers the perfect player to run that scheme. So Kliff Kingsbury gets ...

**KYLER MURRAY, QB, OKLAHOMA**

**2. San Francisco** — Pedigree means plenty with this pick, even if the Niners' choice missed much of 2018 while injured. Yet another D-line early pick for San Francisco.

**NICK BOSA, DE, OHIO STATE**

**3. New York Jets** — The Jets easily could trade out of this spot. Staying put, they'll put into their new uniforms a dynamic guy for the trenches.

**QUINNEN WILLIAMS, DL, ALABAMA**

**4. Oakland** — With the first of three picks in the opening round as the rebuild begins in earnest, the Raiders fill the chasm created by their trading of Khalil Mack last summer.

**JOSH ALLEN, LB, KENTUCKY**

**5. Tampa Bay** — Lots of holes here for Bruce Arians to get filled, and he's an offensive-first guy. Still, there are too many studs on the other side of the ball to pass on one of them.

**DEVIN WHITE, LB, LSU**

**6. New York Giants** — Around the Big Apple, fans are salivating about the Giants taking Eli Manning's successor at quarterback in this spot. Sorry, New Yorkers, you'll have to wait. Defense first, if that sounds familiar in this draft.

**MONTEZ SWEAT, LB-DE, MISSISSIPPI STATE**

**7. Jacksonville** — Tom Coughlin stays in-state for a protector for his new QB, Nick Foles.

**JAWAAN TAYLOR, OT, FLORIDA**

**8. Detroit** — Another

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In this Oct. 6, 2018, file photo, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray (1) throws a pass against Texas during the first half of an NCAA college football game at the Cotton Bowl, in Dallas. Murray is a possible pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.



In this Sept. 1, 2018, file photo, Ohio State defensive lineman Nick Bosa (92) plays against Oregon State during an NCAA college football game, in Columbus, Ohio. Bosa is a possible pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.



In this Sept. 22, 2018, file photo, Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond (11) is hit by Alabama defensive lineman Quinnen Williams (92) as he throws the ball during the first half of an NCAA college football game, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Williams is a possible pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.

## COLLEGE BASEBALL

# Improved offense, strong pitching lift Gauchos into top 10

Oregon State ranked second in the country

By ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

It was only three years ago that UC Santa Barbara was in the College World Series. Andrew Checketts was one of the hottest coaches in the country and the Gauchos had signed a recruiting class ranked in the top 10.

Two losing seasons followed, with the Gauchos in the bottom half of Division I in most statistical categories and beset by injuries.

UCSB reemerged this past weekend by posting a three-game sweep of UC Irvine, an accomplishment that vaulted the Gauchos (27-5) as high as No. 7 in the major polls Monday. The Big West leaders have won nine in a row.

"Some guys we thought might be stars a little earlier in their career took a little longer to develop for various reasons," Checketts said. "It all came together at the same time, and it ends up being a pretty good ballclub."

Even though there have been lots of moving parts, the offense has been more productive and the pitching excellent.

Checketts hired two new assistants, bringing in Washington hitting coach Donegal Fergus as associate head coach and Saint Mary's Matt Fonteno as recruiting coordinator and Fergus' aide on offense.

"I can't claim any of the offensive glory," Checketts, the pitching coach, said with a laugh. "They've made a big difference in our offense and the approach and confidence of the guys. It's been fun to watch."

The team batting average is up 24 points to .289, scoring has gone from 5.2 runs per game to 7.3 and the Gauchos are sixth in the nation with a .495 slugging percentage, up more than 100 points from a year ago.

Eric Yang, who batted .244 as a sophomore, leads the team at .393 and is one of the top catchers on the West Coast. Tevin Mitchell, who played second base and batted low in the order last year, starts in left field and bats leadoff with a .418 on-base percentage and 16 steals. Armani Smith has six triples and is slugging .659.

The Gauchos' biggest

concern has been in the infield. Shortstop Marcos Castanon, one of their top offensive players, has been out since the second game with a pulled hamstring and might not return for two weeks.

The all-lefty weekend rotation of Ben Brecht, Jack Dashwood and Rodney Boone head a staff that's fourth nationally with a 3.5-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio and 13th with a 3.20 ERA. Chris Lincoln, who combines an upper 90s fastball with a slider, has eight saves.

## In the polls

UCLA (27-6), which swept a three-game series against top-10 East Carolina, remains the consensus No. 1 team. Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball newspaper each rate Stanford (24-5) and Mississippi State (31-6) Nos. 2 and 3. DIBaseball.com ranks Oregon State (25-8-1) second with Mississippi State third.

## Lots of pokes

Oklahoma State set a Big 12 record by hitting 12 home runs in a 27-6 win over Kansas on Friday. Christian Funk and Trevor Boone homered three times apiece, and the Cowboys went deep at least once against each of the Jayhawks' six pitchers.

## Lots of goose eggs

Tennessee posted its nation-leading seventh and eighth shutouts in the first two games against Georgia, which was ranked as high as No. 2 last week. The Volunteers hadn't held an opponent scoreless in consecutive SEC games since 1967.

## Biliken beauty

Cody Luther pitched Saint Louis' first nine-inning no-hitter since 1961 in the first game of a doubleheader against St. Bonaventure on Saturday. The senior struck out a 11 and walked two in the Bilikens' 5-0 win.

## Dirtbags fire coach

Long Beach State (7-27) took two of three from Cal State Northridge after firing ninth-year coach Troy Buckley on Thursday. Associate head coach Greg Bergeron and pitching coach Dan Ricabar are sharing the head coaching duties the rest of the season. Buckley was 255-205-1 with NCAA Tournament appearances in 2014, 2015 and 2017.