

COLLEGE SIGNING

Soccer a stepping stone to med school for Irrigon athlete

Avila-Rojas will play at Warner Pacific University

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Irrigon’s Briseyda Avila-Rojas recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Warner Pacific University, but that is just a small part of life for the future physician. Avila-Rojas was a four-year starter and defensive specialist for the Knights, and was a team cap-

tain the past three years. She will receive a small scholarship to play soccer. “I applied to the university and was accepted,” Avila-Rojas said. “When I attended a welcome thing at the school, they asked if I wanted to play soccer. Then the coach sent me a form for a scholarship.” The \$1,500 soccer scholarship is part of a generous financial package Avila-Rojas received from the school, which also includes scholarship money for her grades. “I want to finance my own

education,” Avila-Rojas said. “I don’t want to take my parents’ money. I have applied for scholarships and I will work this summer.” Avila-Rojas, 17, who moved to Irrigon from Las Vegas in the summer of 2009, will be the first in her family to attend college. “I’m excited, but it’s nerve-racking,” she said. “I’m scared to be away from home. Other than camps, I haven’t been away, but I want to be a good example for my siblings.”

Avila-Rojas will graduate June 1 with her brother Yobany Avila, who is a year older. He plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College. “I have helped him a lot,” she said. “His first year of high school, he wasn’t very focused. We have helped each other.”

Education is key

When Avila-Rojas first started elementary school in Irrigon, it was an adjustment. “I had a limited proficiency in English,” Avila-Rojas said. “My dad (Pedro Avila) was the only

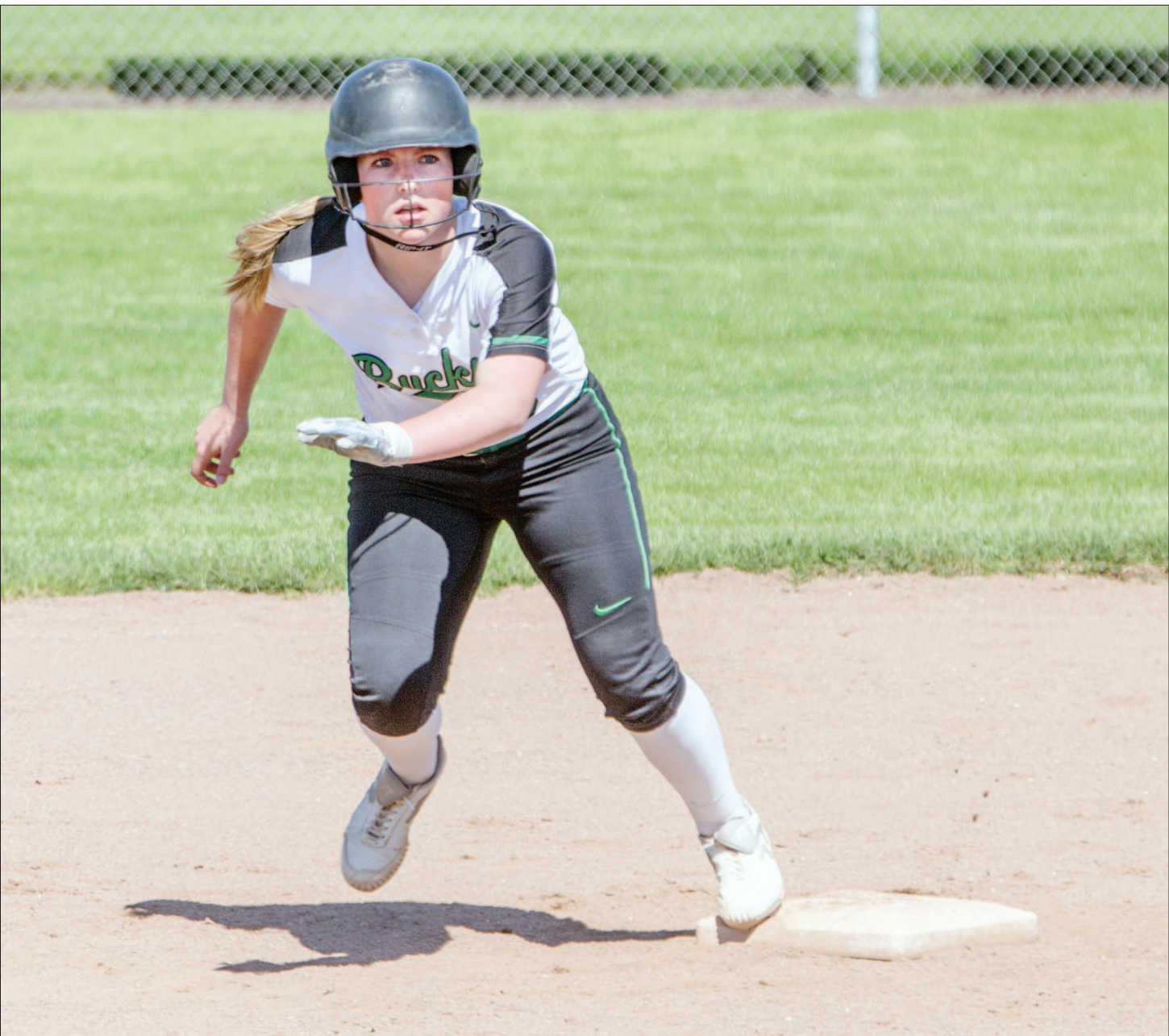
one who spoke English and he taught me. Thanks to my father and mother, I was able to have good grades. My mom (Irma Rojas) would make me table charts for math, and if I finished them, I would get a snack from the snack drawer.” Avila-Rojas boasts a 4.0 GPA this quarter, and has a 3.70 cumulative GPA, which includes college classes. Avila-Rojas said her parents are proud of her accomplishments and are excited for her to continue her

See Signing, Page B2

Bucks battle for wins

Pendleton comes from behind in first game of doubleheader against Redmond

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian



Sami Spriet, of Pendleton, rounds second during the first of two games Wednesday against Redmond at Steve Cary Field.

If Pendleton softball’s first game against Redmond was an uphill battle, game two was nothing but downhill. On Wednesday, the Bucks battled through nine innings to escape with a 6-5 win over the visiting Redmond Panthers, but cruised to a five-inning, 18-1 blowout to cap off the Intermountain Conference doubleheader. “(Redmond) had a pretty decent pitcher who kept us off balance,” said coach Tim Cary of the first game, “but we also weren’t very disciplined at the plate. We kept chasing those high balls.” Both teams went without a run in the first two innings until Kirah McGlothan scored on Kila Solomon’s sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third. Aspen Bradley responded with a two-RBI double at the top of the fourth to put the Panthers ahead, 3-1. Scout Demain hit an RBI double in the top of the fifth to put the Bucks even further behind. But Pendleton fought back with Solomon’s RBI double in their next offensive showing. Aspen Garton hit a double to drive Solomon home on the next at-bat to bring the score to 4-3. Solomon ripped another RBI double at the bottom of the seventh to knot the score. Carissa Cooley struck out to strand three Bucks runners and send the game into extra innings. “We’re a very united team,” Solomon said. “No matter

what, we’re always pushing each other to be the best team we can be.” Home plate was left untouched until the top of the ninth when Jinya Glenn scored on a wild pitch for a 5-4 Panthers advantage. In the bottom of the ninth, Solomon walked to first and made it to second on Aspen

Garton’s sacrifice bunt, setting the stage for another comeback. Sure enough, Sami Spriet drove her home with a double on the next at-bat, and Maria Lilienthal’s walk-off RBI single sealed the deal. “Aspen did her job,” Solomon said. “Her bunt was for us. We have a lot of selfless people on our team. That’s how we

battle back and win.” Hailey Heising and Savannah Mills each seated seven Bucks batters. Solomon hit 2 for 3 with two RBIs, and Nirschl scored two runs with her 2 for 3 performance at the plate. Game two saw the firepower

See Softball, Page B2

UP NEXT

The No. 4 Pendleton Bucks (11-5, 4-2 IMC) host the top-ranked Ridgeview Ravens for another conference doubleheader on Friday. First pitch is at 2 p.m.

Padres’ Paddack shuts down Mariners for 1st win

By BERNIE WILSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Rookie Chris Paddack shut down baseball’s highest-scoring offense for his first victory, holding Seattle to one hit in seven innings and retiring his final 19 batters, nine by strikeout, as the San Diego Padres beat the AL West-leading Mariners 1-0 on Wednesday. Paddack and relievers Trey Wingenter and Kirby Yates combined on a two-hitter. Ian Kinsler homered off Felix Hernandez (1-2) and the Padres swept the two-game series. They’ve beaten the Mariners six straight times and won three straight overall following a six-game losing streak. The Mariners have lost three straight overall. The Padres held MLB’s highest-scoring offense to three runs in two games and kept the Mariners from adding to their big league total of 56 home runs. The 23-year-old Paddack (1-1),



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Chris Paddack works against a Seattle Mariners batter during the first inning of a baseball game on Wednesday in San Diego.

who lowered his ERA from 2.25 to 1.67, was brilliant in his fifth big league start. He got into and out of a bases-loaded jam in the first, when he issued at walk to lead-off batter Mitch Haniger, allowed

a one-out single to left Domingo Santana and then hit Tim Lincecum with a pitch with two outs. After that it was lights out for Paddack, who struck out Dee Gordon to end the threat and start his

run of retiring 19 straight. His nine strikeouts and seven innings were his most so far. He walked only one. Paddack made the big league roster after an outstanding spring. He missed all of 2017 after having Tommy John surgery and pitched only 90 innings between Class A and AA last year. Yates pitched the ninth for his 12th save in as many chances. He allowed a single to Daniel Vogelbach, who was erased in a game-ending double play. Kinsler homered off the balcony on the second level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left field corner with two outs in the second, his second of the season. Fernando Tatis Jr. extended his hitting streak to 12 games when his double fell in among three converging defenders in shallow left field in the third. Hernandez pitched well other than allowing Kinsler’s homer. He held San Diego to one run and

three hits in seven innings, struck out eight and walked one.

New hurler

The Mariners acquired RHP Mike Wright from the Baltimore Orioles in exchange for minor league infielder Ryne Ogren. The 29-year-old Wright was designated for assignment by Baltimore on Sunday. He was 0-1 with one save in 10 relief appearances, with 14 strikeouts and seven walks.

Up next

Mariners: LHP Marco Gonzales (4-0, 3.32 ERA) is scheduled to start Thursday night’s opener of a four-game home series against Texas, which is expected to counter with RHP Adrian Sampson (0-1, 5.50).

Padres: LHP Matt Strahm (0-2, 3.05) looks for his first win in his fifth start in the opener of a three-game road series Friday night at Washington, which will counter with RHP Max Scherzer (1-3, 4.45).