

Pederson: ‘Everyone has helped me a lot’

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working with Pederson. For tie-down, Pederson will ride his horse Valentine.

“Matt Liscom owns the heading horse I will use for team roping,” Pederson said. “I will take four horses nationals. Everyone has helped me a lot.”

Doing the Wright thing

After graduating from Stanfield High in 2015, Wright spent time in the Marines. He never got on a bucking horse until he was 20 years old, but rodeo runs through his veins.

His grandfather, Jackie Wright, competed alongside the likes of Casey Tibbs, and is in the St. Paul Rodeo Hall of Fame. His dad, Scott Wright, also rode broncs, last competing at the Pendleton Round-Up when he was 40.

“They were pretty good,” Payton Wright said. “My dad is my biggest coach, and I get some help from RC Landing-

ham. I kinda grew up roping a bit, but I like bucking horses more than roping.”

Wright got back into rodeo in February 2018 when he got out of the service.

“It’s a different life than the military scene,” he said. “There, your whole day was planned out for you. I love it.”

Wright said Eng sought him out, and after exploring other options, decided BMCC was the right place for him.

“I wanted to come back home, and Pendleton is the closest place to Stanfield.”

Wright earned 1,060 points for the bareback title this season.

Eng said Wright’s military background shows in the rodeo arena.

“He is solid, that kid,” Eng said. “He knows how to take orders, he tries hard and there is no quit.”

Wright, who will continue to ride on his PRCA permit this spring and summer, will compete in Eagle, Idaho, Sisters and Union with Pederson before heading to Casper.

PREP ROUNDUP

Hermiston’s Sanchez wins 1,600 at MCC meet

East Oregonian

Hermiston’s Cydney Sanchez ran a personal best 5 minutes, 40.43 seconds in the 1,600 meters Thursday to win the event at a three-team Mid-Columbia Conference meet at Kennewick High School.

A freshman, Sanchez trimmed nearly 4 seconds off her previous best time of 5:44.18.

Sophomore Paige Palzinski won the shot put with a PR throw of 39 feet, and Jazlyn Romero won the javelin with a toss of 136-3, and was fourth in the discus (109-0).

In the pole vault, Jennifer Fuentes won with a height of 8 feet. She also was second in the 300 hurdles (50.39), and fourth in the 100 hurdles (18.35).

The Hermiston boys did not win any events, but they have athletes with top marks for the season.

In the 400, Freddy Mendoza ran a personal best 52.94 in placing second to Kennewick’s Johan Correa (50.57). Hermiston’s Simon Headings was third with a PR time of 53.08.

Jackson Shaver clocked a personal best of 10:27.37 to place second in the 3,200, while Chase Bradshaw had a personal best throw of 138-2 to place third in the discus. Bradshaw also was third in the shot put (41-11).

Golf

The Pendleton girls captured their fourth Intermountain Conference title of the season Monday, completing a sweep of their conference matches.

The event, hosted at Wildhorse, saw the Bucks take the team title with a combined score of 360. Ridgeview took second at 401, and Redmond third at 413.

Megan George took first place with a round of 76. Rylee Harris (89), Makenzie McLeod (92), and Chelsea Kendrick (104) all posted their best scores of the spring.

The win earned the Bucks the league title, and punched their ticket to the state tournament at Banks’ Quail Valley Golf Course on May 13-14.

“So far, we’ve met our goals,” said Bucks coach Dave Curtis. “Returning to the state championships is a

great accomplishment, and one of our season’s goals.”

The state tournament will mark George and Harris’ fourth consecutive appearances, and McLeod’s third. George took fourth in the individual standings last year.

Last year, the team took fifth, and Curtis said they are setting their sights even higher this time around.

Girls tennis

PENDLETON 4, REDMOND 4 — Thursday’s home match was so close that the winner was determined by the number of games won, not matches.

In the end, Pendleton came out ahead, winning 65 games over Redmond’s 61.

The last time the Bucks played Redmond, they lost with a team score of 6-2.

“We had a much better showing today,” said coach Rocky Dillenburg. “Our doubles players are really starting to play well as a team. They’re starting to communicate now much better than they were earlier in the season, which is good, because we’re coming up on districts.”

Bethany Flanagan scored

Pendleton’s only singles win, 6-3, 6-0.

In a No. 2 doubles contest, Becca Walker and Larissa Chambers won 6-3, 6-0. Olivia Corbett and Sarah House teamed for a 6-3, 6-0 victory over their Redmond opponents, and Kelsey and Reilly Lovercheck knocked down another Bucks win in two 6-1 sets.

Pendleton will compete in one final regular season match Saturday at Crook County before districts kick off next week.

Boys tennis

REDMOND 5, PENDLETON 0 — In Redmond, the hosting Panthers swept all three singles and both doubles matches to shut out Pendleton on Thursday.

The defeat marked the Bucks’ second loss to Redmond this season.

“We won a few more games this time,” said coach Chris Holdman, “but we knew what to expect. We knew it would be tough. (Redmond is) the best team in the league.”

The Bucks host Crook County at 2 p.m. Friday.

Dawgs: ‘Being the top 3A team is a big accomplishment, but we are hungry for more’

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the back end, Leal leads the team with four goals, while Gerardo Sotelo, Jorge Carrillo and Mendez each have three goals. The Bulldogs averaged three goals a game in league play.

“It’s harder to score goals this year,” said Leal, who will play at Walla Walla Community College next year. “But since it’s my senior year, I try to push myself to do more for my team.”

Leal also appreciates the

competition of the MCC.

“It is something new, but it’s a good league for us,” he said. “All the teams are hard. You have to have more of a team effort to win a game. You have to play as a team. We are pretty united.”

Leal said he sees nothing but good things ahead for the Bulldogs in the playoffs and the MCC.

“Being the top 3A team is a big accomplishment,” he said. “But we are hungry for more. We aren’t going anywhere. Get used to us.”

NBA Playoffs: Blazers have won 11 straight at home

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Nuggets at Trail Blazers

Portland leads, 2-1. Game 4, 7:30 p.m. PDT, ESPN.

Need to know: The Blazers have won 11 straight at home dating to the regular season. Their last home loss was March 7 in overtime to Oklahoma City. ... Portland was 32-9 at home in the regular season. ... The Blazers are a four-point favorite.

Injury watch: Nuggets point guard Jamal Murray was hobbled by a right leg injury. He was seen riding an exercise bike in the fourth quarter of Game 2. ... Blazers forward Maurice Harkless rolled his right ankle in



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard heads off he court as time runs out in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Denver Nuggets on Monday in Denver. The Nuggets won 121-113.

the second quarter and didn’t return.

Pressure is on: Lillard, who was 5 of 17 from the

field for 14 points in Game 2. His supporting cast picked up the slack with five other players scoring in double figures.

BRIEFLY

East Oregonian

The public is invited to watch steer wrestlers with the Northwest Pro Rodeo Association during a local qualifying event for The American Rodeo. Contestants will compete Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. at the Umatilla Sage Riders arena at 81907 Highway 395, located between Hermiston and Umatilla.

Admission is free and concessions will be available. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair as seating is limited at the arena. For more information, call Tammy Campbell at 541-922-8526.

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