

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A7

Hodgen Distributing goes 2-1-1 at West Valley Tourney

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

YAKIMA — On Friday, Pendleton's 17U American Legion Hodgen Distributing ended day one of Yakima's West Valley Tourney with a 9-9 tie against the Yakima Junior Beetles.

Pendleton held a healthy 7-1 advantage for the first three innings before Yakima posted two back-to-back four-run innings to even things out. The game remained a tie

due to the tournament's time limit restrictions.

Yakima pitcher Angel Morales threw a full game and struck out nine. Cooper Roberts and Tucker Zander scored two runs each for Pendleton, and Ty Beers drove in three RBIs.

Pendleton got their first victory of the tourney the following day, when they scored eight runs in the fifth inning of a game against Baker City to defeat them 13-8.

Baker tied the game at 5-5 in

the bottom of the third after Beers threw a wild pitch, allowing a run.

Roberts doubled on a fly ball to center field that scored two runs, aiding Pendleton in their fifth-inning comeback.

A 5-2 win over the Northwest Futures capped off Saturday for Pendleton, but their weekend would ultimately end in defeat, when they fell 7-3 to West Valley on Sunday.

Pendleton got on the board to even the score at 1-1 after Curtis Simons scored on Nic Sheley's sac-

rifice fly in the top of the fourth, but West Valley put up six more runs in the following three innings to put the game away.

Pepsi Diamondjaxx

WALLA WALLA — Pendleton's 16U American Legion Pepsi Diamondjaxx took home a five-inning, 14-2 blow out over Moses Lake on Friday.

It would be their first win of the

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Photo courtesy of Wendy Sorey

Trent Sorey of Pendleton won the Oregon High School Rodeo Finals tie-down roping title this past weekend in Prineville. Sorey will compete July 14-21 at the National High School Finals Rodeo in tie-down and team roping.

YOUNG LEGEND



Staff photo by Brett Kane

Garrett Poynor poses with his 1934 Chevrolet after finishing the Legends race at the Hermiston Raceway on Saturday.

At 14, Garrett Poynor is starting his career behind the wheel of a race car

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

Most kids start driving on their own when they turn 16. Garrett Poynor started when he was 4.

Now 14, the Richland native sped his 1934 Chevrolet Coupe around the oval in heated competition during Hermiston Raceway's Hometown Heroes event on Saturday evening.

Although he hasn't even started high school yet, Poynor participated in the Legends division — a class typically driven by adults.

"It's just addicting," Poynor said. "You can't beat that adrenaline rush."

While most cars that hit the Hermiston Raceway are built and tuned-up by the hands of their drivers and crew, Legends models come straight from a manufacturer. Any repairs or new parts that are needed come straight from the

factory.

While this gives drivers without the mechanical know-how the chance to race, it's also one of the toughest divisions to compete in, according to Raceway owner Greg Walden.

"It's lightweight, but has more horsepower," he said.

And that's exactly what Poynor likes about it.

Although he finished sixth out of the nine racers in the division on Saturday, Poynor is well aware of his potential. He came in off a third-place finish from the Raceway's last event earlier this month.

"I love the Hermiston Raceway," Poynor said. "The racers are competitive, and friendly. They race how I'd want to be raced."

The first wheel Poynor ever sat behind was that of a go-cart. This year is his first behind a real car, as well as his first competing at the Hermiston Raceway.

But he's not the first in his family with a need for speed. His father John is also an experienced driver, and now helps his son throughout each race.

"For his rookie year, we're going to start with this track to support Hermiston and the Hermiston raceway. That's our goal for this year," John Poynor said. "We want to promote the Waldens. They're good people. They treat their fans and racers good. If it's within their means to improve something, they will. And if it's not, they will soon."

A passion for racing has been maintained in the Poynor family for generations. Poynor's uncles Chris and Kelly are also on his pit crew — Chris is the crew chief and Kelly is the tire specialist.

"They're night-after-night working on this car," John Poynor said. "It's that way for a lot of the racers out here."

Poynor crossed the finish line with a

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Bucks help South defeat North in Les Schwab Bowl

Pendleton center Everett Willard was named co-captain

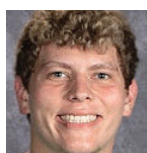
By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

HILLSBORO — It was a modern day David vs. Goliath matchup Saturday at the 72nd annual Les Schwab Tires Bowl at Hillsboro Stadium.

The South, comprised mainly of 5A division players, evened the series record with the North (mainly 6A players), posting a 33-28 victory in a game that was not as close as the score.

"It was not your typical all-star game," said Pendleton center Everett Willard, who played for the South. "We were playing with a chip on our shoulder. I knew that the North had notoriously dominated the past few years."

Joining Willard on the South



Willard

(receivers and special teams).

"It was a phenomenal week," coach Davis said. "A really, really fun week. Being around that staff and those kids — I took in every last second. It was a blast."

The South led from the start, and held a 20-8 lead after the first quarter, and 20-15 at the half.

"We felt the North wasn't giving us the respect we deserved," Willard said. "In the first (quarter), we had to take it to them, and we did."

The game missed a field goal late in the game with a 33-28 lead, and the North took over deep in its own territory in the waning seconds, but could not get the ball down field.

Silverton's Ben Willis sacked

North quarterback Jackson Laurent of Lake Oswego with 10 seconds remaining to seal the win.

"We had them pinned pretty deep," Willard said.

Davis finished with two catches for 23 yards, while Patterson had tackles from his linebacker position, and Bannister (cornerback) helped shut down the North receivers.

"All four Pendleton kids started," coach Davis said. "That was earned. They represented Pendleton really well."

At 6-foot, 265 pounds, Willard said he was by far the smallest offensive lineman on the South.

"They were all outstanding players," Willard said. "I wasn't sure what kind of playing time I was going to get that first practice. There were two other centers, but they were more comfortable at guard."

Undersized or not, Willard made an impression on the coaches. He was named a co-captain for the

game along with Nate Overholt of Wilsonville, Isaiah Porter of Tigard and Connor McNabb of Scappoose.

"The morning of the game, we had a run through," Willard said. "I was pretty surprised when then called my named. I guess I didn't consider myself with all the D-I commits we had."

Coach Davis said Willard earned the honor.

"Our offensive line coach (Todd Kaanapu of Churchill) made that decision," Davis said. "From Day 1, Everett was one of the first kids on the field, and he was solid, consistent and a leader. He did everything right, every time. He earned it."

Willard, who played every offense down, snapped the ball to Overholt, the Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year, and DeMonte Thomas of Churchill.

"Nate is legit," Willard said. "Any talk of him being over hyped, that is gone. I'll never forget this. It was a great week."

Sorey takes home state tie-down title

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

PRINEVILLE — Pendleton's Trent Sorey won the Oregon State High School Rodeo Finals title in tie-down roping, and Heppner's Jacee Currin won the girls all-around title this past weekend.

It is the third state title for Sorey, a recent PHS graduate. He won the team roping title as a freshman with Calgary Smith, and the tie-down title as a sophomore.

The top four in each event advance to the National High School Finals Rodeo from July 14-21 in Rock Springs, Wyo.

Sorey, on his trusty horse Ruby, was second in the first go, and won the short go-round at state. That, added to the points he had already earned, gave him a total of 161. The second-place man had 136 points.

"They were some pretty good calves," Sorey said. "They were all pretty even. None of them were lick you in the lips, you still had to put in the work."

Sorey and his team roping partner Brady White of Burns, finished second overall with 258 points. They won the first go-round of the rodeo.

"I'm pretty excited," said Sorey, who also was fifth in the all-around standings. "Brady has never been to nationals before. It's a new experience for sure. You get to meet a lot of new people from all around the United States. I already know 10 guys who will be on my college team (Weatherford College). It's a lot of fun."

Sorey, who is competing on his permit this season in the PRCA, will make a stop at the Elgin Stampede on his way to Wyoming.

Currin, who will attend Montana State University, will go to nationals in five of the six events she competed in. She did not place in the top four in team roping.

Currin won the all-around title with 542 points, 91 better than the second-place cowgirl.

She was second in pole bending, goat tying and cow cutting, third in barrel racing, and fourth in breakaway roping.

Jett Stewart of Heppner finished third in the rookie all-around standings. Stewart and his team-roping partner finished fifth, eight points from a trip to nationals.

Blake Betz of Hermiston finished seventh in steer wrestling.

He had an outstanding weekend at state, winning the first go, placing second in the second go, and winning the short go, but he did not have enough points throughout the regular season to put him among the top four.