

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Hodgen Distributing places sixth in Spokane tournament

By **BRETT KANE**  
*East Oregonian*

SPOKANE — Pendleton's 17U Hodgen Distributing placed sixth out of 32 teams at Spokane's summer ball tournament this weekend.

The team won two back-to-back games on Saturday morning, but fell to Bellingham 5-0 on Sunday to close the tournament.

Saturday morning opened with an easy win against the Saskatoon Diamondbacks in which Pendleton stayed ahead from inning one.

Ty Beers singled for an RBI, and

he and Curtis Simons scored on two wild pitches to put Pendleton up 3-0. The Diamondbacks rallied back with two runs in the top of the fourth, but the comeback would fall just short.

Beers hit another RBI single to left field, and Pendleton drew two walks in the bottom of the sixth that drove in their final two runs. Beers led the offense with his 2-for-4 showing at the plate.

The team would face some tougher pitching in game two, however, as The Dalles held them to just two runs to barely escape

with a second win.

Pitcher Michael Armstrong struck out five and let go of just three hits as Pendleton only managed runs in the second and fifth innings.

Both teams ended the game with four hits each, but thanks to Tucker Zander, who fanned three Dalles batters, the Hustlers never posted a single run. Cooper Roberts, who batted 2-for-3, and Michael Flores were the only two Pendleton runners to cross home plate.

Not a single Pendleton batter would score a run in Sunday's

tournament closer against Bellingham. Beers, who spent the first five innings on Pendleton's mound, gave up three runs on three hits and four walks as Bellingham took control early on.

Although Beers got four strikeouts, it wasn't enough to contain their opponents. Bryan Ebe got Bellingham going in the bottom of the first, leading off with a solo homer over the left field fence.

After the sixth-place win, Hodgen Distributing (16-15-1) is back in action today for a college showcase in Centralia, Wash. The showcase

runs until Sunday, July 14.

### Pepsi Diamondjazz

Pendleton's 16U baseball team finished the Spokane-hosted tournament with another win and two losses.

Saturday began with a heartbreaker against the Meridian Rangers, who overcame a late 6-4 deficit in the top of the sixth to ultimately take Pendleton down 7-6.

Pendleton held an early 5-4 lead by the third inning, and Blane Peal's double in the bottom of the fifth

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## HERMISTON TRAPSHOOTERS HEADED TO NATIONALS

### Bulldogs placed seventh in the nation last year

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — Haylee Hamilton has only been shooting trap for two years, but she is a quick learner.

The incoming senior at Hermiston High School is ranked second among the Bulldogs on the squad, and is part of the contingent headed to the USA High School Clay Target League National Championship this weekend in Mason, Michigan.

"I'm very excited to be going," Hamilton said. "It's crazy to me to be out there and shooting with the high shots on the team, and getting to go to nationals. I'm excited to see what I can do. I'm not just another pretty face."

Hamilton will be joined at nationals by teammates Thomas Mabbott, Kaden Smith, Mitchell Pimentel, Tyson Stocker and Trevor Wilson.

All six will compete in the individual portion of the event Saturday. All but Wilson will compete in the team event Friday.

Hermiston had 22 shooters qualify for nationals with their average, but coach Slade Smith said they aren't quite ready for the competition they will face.

"Last year, the cutoff to make finals was 95 or 96," Smith said. "They aren't in a position yet to give themselves a legitimate chance to make the finals."

Last year's finals saw a handful of shooters hit all 100 targets in the prelims, and all 100 in the finals, forcing a shoot-off.

The Bulldogs took a team to nationals last year, placing seventh. They were ranked No. 1 going into the finals.

"They weren't satisfied with that," Smith said. "It takes a couple of special days to win it. These kids shoot a lot more trap than a lot of kids, and that's important. I think they are very prepared."

### How it works

The shooters in the individual portion of the tournament had to qualify with their average attained during the six shoots during the regular season. They had to partici-



Haylee Hamilton takes aim at a clay target during practice with the Hermiston High School trapshooters. The group will head to nationals this week in Mason, Michigan, to compete against teams from around the country.

pate in every shoot.

There is no distinction between boys and girls, or wheelchair athletes. Everyone shoots from 16 yards.

"Wheelchair athletes compete with the able-bodied kids," Smith said. "Everyone is the same. There is a lot of diversity. This is a sport kids can come out for who aren't cut out for other sports."

There will be approximately 180 teams and 2,000 individual shooters from around the nation at the event. The top 80 teams and top 1,800 individuals will advance to the finals.

Each shooter brings their own gun (the Hermiston athletes all shoot a Browning trap shotgun) to nationals. Teams let the tournament know what ammunition they would like, and it's there when they arrive.

The guns are put on the plane with the other luggage. Each gun has to be in a locked gun case and receive a special sticker.

Hermiston will have a practice round Wednesday at MTA Homegrounds (tournament facility), and then will have team activities Thursday.

Hermiston will compete in the first flight of the team shoot at 8 a.m. Friday (50 shots per athlete), with the second flight at 11 a.m.



The Hermiston High School trapshooters nationals team (left to right) Tyson Stocker, alternate Trevor Wilson, Mitchell Pimentel, coach Slade Smith, Kaden Smith, Thomas Mabbott and Haylee Hamilton pose for a portrait at the Hermiston Gun Club.

Individual prelims are Saturday, with finals for both Sunday. Prelim and finals scores are combined.

"One target makes a difference," coach Smith said. "They shoot their average, they can be top 10 in the nation."

Mabbott has the high average on the team at 24.25 out of 25. Hamilton follows at 24.12, with Smith, Stocker and Pimentel all at 24.

Mabbott, Kaden Smith and Stocker were on the team that competed last year, while Wilson joined them in the individual event.

"We've got a couple of kids who have been there and are comfortable," coach Smith said.

Mabbott, a recent Hermiston graduate, admits he is more calm heading to nationals than he was last year.

"I was nervous last year," he said. "After the first round, we were sitting first, then it all sank in. We finished seventh, which is something to be proud of, but we were disappointed at the same time."

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## Pendleton 12U softball off to state

By **BRETT KANE**  
*East Oregonian*

KEIZER — After three innings of big hitting, Pendleton's 12U little league softball team is off to the state championships.

On Monday, the All-Star softball team took down East Lane/Sheldon in a 16-0 shutout, officially punching their ticket to Wednesday's state championship game.

Pendleton was quick to show their strength when Melanie Boatman tripled on a line drive to left field for the second at-bat of the game. Boatman scored on the following ground-out, but her team would be far from finished.

Avery Krighaum notched a double on a fly ball to deep center field on her first pitch, and Maddy Lieualen, Bailey Moore, and Boatman all singled again within the inning. Boatman's single scored two runs and gave Pendleton an 8-0 lead. She would finish the game with a 2-for-3 performance that put up two runs and a game-best four RBIs.

With Madaline Schumacher pitching, East Lane's first at-bat was kept short and sweet, as she benched two batters and ended the inning with a groundout to shortstop.

Pendleton followed with a seven-run second inning in which Krighaum, Boatman, Lieualen, and Reese Furstenberg all hit RBI singles. Boatman and Krighaum combined to give the team a 15-run advantage as they scored on the same wild pitch.

Boatman took to the circle in the bottom of the second, quickly posting back-to-back strikeouts as East Lane continued to be held without a hit.

Ella Sams rounded out Pendleton's scoring in the top of the third as she crossed home plate on Josie Jenness's sacrifice fly to right field. The run would call the game in just three innings.

Pendleton finished the game with 12 hits, while East Lane never managed a single one. Krighaum followed Boatman in offense, going 2-for-3 with three runs and three RBIs.

Schumacher tallied two strikeouts, and Boatman followed with three, allowing just one walk along the way. Meanwhile, their East Lane opponents struck out just one batter for the entire game.

The Pendleton All-Stars will vie for the 12U state title on Wednesday in Keizer. Game time is at 6 p.m.

## Pitching carries AL to 4-3 victory over NL in All-Star Game

By **BEN WALKER**  
*AP Baseball Writer*

CLEVELAND — Justin Verlander, Shane Bieber and the American League pitchers plugged power back into the mound.

A day after an awesome Home Run Derby got baseball buzzing even more about monster shots, the five crouching ballers flew out of Progressive Field at the All-Star Game on Tuesday night.

Instead, Verlander blazed 97 mph heat from the start, Bieber struck out the side and the AL

staff combined to fan 16, topping a loaded NL lineup 4-3 for its seventh straight win.

With fans hoping to see a replay of Monday's jaw-dropping aerial show when 312 homers cleared the walls, the diamond became a pitchers' paradise — at least until the late innings.

Derby champ Pete Alonso of the Mets grounded a two-out, two-run single past Gleyber Torres in the eighth to close the NL's gap. After a double steal put runners at second and third against Cleveland reliever Brad Hand, White Sox catcher

James McCann made a tumbling catch on Mike Moustakas' twisting foul pop to end the inning.

Aroldis Chapman threw a perfect ninth to give the AL its 19th win 22 games, with a tie stuck in there. Chapman got a little encouragement with two outs — Yankees teammate CC Sabathia, honored this week for his contributions on and off the field, strolled to the mound to talk to the flamethrower.

Chapman then struck out Yasmani Grandal for a save, giving the AL an overall 45-43-2 lead in the Midsummer Classic.

No need, either, for the experimental rule that was set to go effect: If the game went into extras, each team would start the 10th with an automatic runner on second base.

Major League Baseball is on a record-shattering pace for homers this season, but no one came close to clearing the walls until Charlie Blackmon connected in the NL sixth. Texas' Joey Gallo countered with a solo drive in the seventh.

Still, it was a far cry from last year's All-Star Game that featured a record 10 home runs.

Instead, Cleveland favor-

ite Michael Brantley had an early RBI double off losing pitcher Clayton Kershaw, Jorge Polanco drove in a run with an infield single and another scored on a double-play grounder.

Winning pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, Lucas Giolito and Shane Greene did their parts to protect the lead with scoreless innings, shutting down Christian Yelich, Cody Bellinger and the rest of the NL boppers.

Bieber earned the MVP award in front of his home fans, striking

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