

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Photo courtesy of Jason VanNice
Pendleton's Alanah Eagleheart prepares to hit the circle in a Little League state 8/9/10 state softball tournament against Klamath Falls on Friday in Portland.

Pendleton 8/9/10 softball blows out Klamath Falls in first round of state

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

PORTLAND — With a whole lot of passion, Pendleton's 8/9/10 All-Stars Little League softball team made easy work of their Klamath Falls opponents on Friday morning.

The All-Stars opened the weekend's state tournament with a 22-1 blowout victory over Klamath Falls in Portland. With the win, they are well on their way to defending their state title.

The Pendleton team won the championship last year in Medford.

"There are a few girls on this team from last year," coach Jason VanNice said, "but most of our girls are new. They've all bonded really well. They love playing together. They have an unprovoked passion for each other."

The Pendleton All-Stars put up three runs right away in the top of the first, and that alone would have been enough to stay ahead of Klamath Falls.

But they weren't about to throw in the towel that early.

Pendleton quickly took an 11-run advantage in the following inning. With one out on the board, Katelyn Boatman and Brianna Medrano sent RBI singles to third base, both beating the throw.

Kelsi Primus drew a walk to load the bases, and from there, Pendleton drove in four more consecutive runs. Finley Evans' single to second base put up two more runs.

Klamath Falls finally got their first and only run of the game in the bottom of the second when Pendleton pitcher Alanah Eagleheart gave up a double. The runner scored during the next at-bat, taking advantage of an error at third base.

Pendleton's firepower was far from diminished, however, as they posted a game-high 11 runs in the top of the third. Eagleheart, Evans, Boatman, Madison Schachtsick, Shaylor Fisher, Cambria VanNice, and Tatium Lambert all drove in

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Hermiston misses out on trapshooting team finals

Bulldogs finish qualifying with a combined 437

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

MASON, Mich. — Hermiston did not fare as well as it would have liked Friday in the team qualifying at the USA

High School Clay Target League National Championship.

The Bulldogs finished with a combined score of 437 (out of 500) in the qualifying round to place 129th out of 206 teams. The top 80 teams advance to Sunday's finals.

"We aren't a group to make excuses," Hermiston coach Slade Smith said. "We had a couple of kids struggle today and we did not do well enough to progress

to the championship round."

Hermiston had a top score of 93 from Kaden Smith, and two at 92, but when added to an 86 and a 74, the Bulldogs slid down in the standings.

The Bulldogs finished seventh overall in the team event last year.

Lakeville South High School in Minnesota had the top score at 484.

Haylee Hamilton, Thomas

Mabbott, Kaden Smith, Mitchell Pimentel and Tyson Stocker competed in the team event for Hermiston.

All five, plus Trevor Wilson, will compete in the individual qualifying event Saturday.

The top 400 individuals will advance to Sunday's finals.

"Hopefully we can get everyone qualified for the finals and get some individual awards," coach Smith said.

RUGBY PLAYERS WANTED NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Kola Shippentower-Thompson gets ready to catch the ball during rugby practice Wednesday evening at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton.

East Oregon Rugby Club is trying to put together a women's team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Jennifer Keeton was happy to take a break from the action to catch her breath.

She was feeling the effects of the wind sprints and other drills rugby coach Eric Gabriel was directing on Wednesday evening at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton.

"My first practice was Saturday," said Keeton, owner of Cimmiyotti's and president of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce. "I was very sore. Where it surprised me the most was my core."

Keeton heard about the rugby program from Cheri Rosenberg, the executive director of the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce.

"She mention it last week and we went to practice on Saturday," Keeton said. "After we were done, we went and got cleats. They make it easier to run on the grass."

Keeton and Rosenberg were among six women at Wednesday's practice, which also included men and children.

The women are first-time rugby players, with the exception of Courtney Stover. The group included businesswomen, a therapist and a professional athlete. Most are moms.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Cheri Rosenberg looks to pass the ball as part of a drill during Wednesday evening rugby practice at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton.

Players do not need to have a rugby background, or be an athlete, to participate. Gabriel is willing to teach them the game.

"There is a position for everyone," he said. "Small, short, slow, fast, athletic."

Keeton said the team atmosphere is what she enjoys most.

"Every day you go to bed and say, 'Tomorrow I'm going to eat right and exercise,'" she said. "That never happens. I want to get in shape, but it's hard to self-motivate. It's easier to have a team that

is there for you."

Keeton also dragged her son, Bravery, 13, along. He plays football, and was a quick study Wednesday.

"I bought a rugby ball so we can practice at home," Keeton said. "We've played a lot of (baseball) catch over the years. It's his turn to help me."

After the first practice, Keeton said she went home and watched a bunch of rugby videos. There is one thing she is certain of.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Rasovszky wins 5-km open water swim at world championships

GWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Kristof Rasovszky of Hungary won the men's 5-kilometer open water event Saturday to claim the first medal of the world swimming championships.

Rasovszky finished in a time of 53 minutes, 22.10 seconds. The 22-year-old 2016 Rio Olympian won the 5- and 25-kilometer open water events at the 2018 European aquatic championships.

Logan Fontaine of France took silver Saturday, 10.10 seconds behind, and Canada's Eric Hedlin

was third to take bronze, two-tenths of a second behind Fontaine.

Saturday's race, which began two hours early due to the threat of later heavy rain, was the first of seven open-water events at the world championships. They are all qualifiers for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Other open water races include a 5-kilometer team relay on Thursday and men's and women's races over 25 kilometers next Friday.



Kristof Rasovszky of Hungary reacts after the men's 5km open water swim at the World Swimming Championships in Yeosu, South Korea on Saturday.

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein