

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

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STANFIELD TAEKWONDO

Youths take home plenty of gold at Lynnwood tournament

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

LYNNWOOD, Wash. — Eight Stanfield kids recently proved that a small town can still bring big competition.

On June 28, Stanfield's Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo school sent a group of their younger athletes to the Grand Master Pierce's Memorial Tournament at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington. All eight kids medaled in their respective events.

Abel Garcia, 11, won first in forms and board breaking, and third in sparring. Anna Garcia, 7, took first in forms and board breaking, and second in sparring. Anna Rivera, 13, also got top honors in forms and board breaking, and second in sparring. Kiona Idris, 15, won first in sparring and second in forms and board breaking.

Isaiah Diaz, 4, the youngest in the class, won first in forms and board breaking and second in sparring in the 4-year-old division. In the 6-year-old division, he placed first in padded weapons, and third in forms, sparring, and board breaking.

J.T. Rowden, 9, won second in forms and third place in both board breaking and padded weapons. Jordan Velasco, 6, won second and third prizes in both of his padded weapons contests. Amauri Black, 6, won second in forms, third in sparring, and fourth in board breaking. She also won second and third place awards in padded weapons bouts.

Eastern Oregon Family Taekwondo welcomes all aspiring athletes, aged 2 and older. Practices are held Monday through Thursday every week, unless there is an upcoming tournament — then the week gets busier.

"We practice, practice, practice," said Erwin Watson, who co-owns and instructs the classes with his wife Lorry. "You just can't practice enough. It showed (in Lynnwood). Some of these bigger schools bring in over a hundred students. We dominated for such a small group."

The team's showing in Lynnwood was their first ever in the city. Their skills have earned them plenty of outside attention, Watson said.

"It was a big thing for these kids," Watson said. "I've had masters come up to me and say, 'Wow, these kids are amazing.'"

The gym, which typically houses Stanfield athletes, will soon open its doors to those from

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Three area players invited to football showcase

Hermiston's Coughlin and Bradshaw, and Pendleton's McGee will show their skills Sunday



Bradshaw



Coughlin



McGee

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
East Oregonian

HILLSBORO — Three area football players have been

invited to the Oregon Best Coast Football Showcase on Sunday at Hare Field.

Hermiston's Dustyn Coughlin and Chase Bradshaw, along

with Pendleton's Travis McGee, will be put through the paces by former NFL and college players.

The purpose of the showcase is to provide exposure through interviews, photos and videos through media partners 247sports.com, Battle Prep West, Rivals

and more.

All three players received an invitation via Twitter at the end of June. All three have registered to participate.

"When you are from Eastern Oregon, you have to put your name out there," McGee said. "Playing in college is something I have wanted to do since elementary school."

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MARTINEZ PREPS FOR COOPERSTOWN MOMENT JUST LIKE CAREER



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

In this Oct. 2, 2004, file photo, Seattle Mariners' Edgar Martinez is greeted by fans as he jogs a lap around the stadium in Seattle after the team's 10-4 loss to the Texas Rangers in a baseball game on the eve of his final game before retirement.

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Edgar Martinez trained for every aspect of his career.

As a player, he spent nearly two decades doing daily eye exercises to overcome strabismus, a condition that prevented his eyes from seeing in tandem. Rather than letting that become an excuse that kept him out of baseball, Martinez became arguably the best right-handed hitter of his generation and the prototype for what a designated hitter can be.

As a coach, he was a meticulous planner, often one of the first in the clubhouse daily. Before taking swings during batting practice — more than a decade after his last game — Martinez spent a week taking BP. He wasn't about to be unprepared before putting on a show players and fellow coaches wouldn't forget.

Why should his training and preparation be any different for his first speech as a Hall of Famer?

"I think it's like anything if you want to do it right and do well you have to practice," Martinez said. "In a way it's true, it's like that. You're preparing for some performance, whether it's hitting in a game or a speech."

Martinez will go into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, the first player to spend his entire career with the Seattle Mariners — 18 seasons in all — and find his way into Cooperstown.

His numbers are staggering yet often overlooked. Most of his career was spent tucked away in the Pacific Northwest on a team that until the magical 1995 season, when the franchise made its first playoff appearance in dramatic fashion, got little notice on the national stage.

Martinez hit .312 with 309 home runs in 2,055 career games with the Mariners. His numbers would be even more impressive if he had broken into the majors earlier. Martinez never played more than 100 games in the majors until he was 27.

"Day in and day out, he was prepared," teammate Ken Griffey Jr.

said. "Thirty, 40 years ago a DH was an older guy who was on his way out, but a fan favorite, they wanted to keep him around. Now, it's guys who can flat hit and get a chance to go out and play every day.

"And he made that all possible."

Whether it's the pride of joining the fraternity of Puerto Rican players or his affection for the only franchise he's ever been associated with, Martinez is grateful to those who helped along the way.

"A lot of people play a role in my success and just keep it condensed and within 12 minutes. I'm close to having it just right," Martinez said of his induction speech.

Tom Davidson was one of those who helped.

"We told him, 'Give us 10 days and let's see what you think of it,'" Davidson recalled.

Nicknamed the "eye guy" by teammates, Martinez started working with Davidson in the late 1990s. For nearly a decade, Martinez had been doing

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SPORTS SHORTS

Ensan, 55, becomes oldest world poker champion in 20 years

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Germany's Hossein Ensan outlasted Italy's Dario Sammartino and Canada's Alex Livingston to claim the \$10 million title early Wednesday at the 50th World Series of Poker Main Event in Las Vegas.

The 55-year-old native of Iran who immigrated to Germany 30 years ago became the oldest world poker champion in 20 years when he won the 301st hand at the final table to finish off Sammartino after nearly eight hours of play.

It's the first time since 2014 the win-

ner has come from outside the United States and third time ever the title has gone to an Iranian-born competitor.

"Unbelievable," said Ensan, who now lives in Greven, Germany. He was making his first appearance in the Main Event with a previous total of \$2.67 million in career earnings.

"I am so happy. I thank my fans at home in Germany, also in Iran and my fans, my buddies here. This is the best feeling in my life," he said after claiming the winning hand when Sammartino pushed his chips all in at 1:24 a.m. Wednesday at the Rio All-Suite Hotel

& Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

Ensan, wearing a white crew neck T-shirt with poker sponsor patches, and Sammartino in a black tuxedo exchanged numerous smiles and a congratulatory fist bump at one point in the good-natured contest down the stretch.

Ensan became the oldest champion since Noel Furlong won the title in 1999 at age 62.

It was the first time in 27 years a native Iranian has won. Mansour Matloubi won in 1990 and Hamid Dastmalchi in 1992.



AP Photo/John Locher

Hossein Ensan, of Germany, poses with the bracelet after winning the World Series of Poker main event on Wednesday in Las Vegas.