

Noland’s versatility earns her a shot with SLCC softball

Hermiston senior pitches, catches and hits the cover off the ball

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Bailee Noland, one of the top softball players in the Columbia Basin, will take her game to the next level after

signing Wednesday with Salt Lake Community College. While a lot of local colleges would have loved to have had her versatility in their lineup, she chose SLCC after making an official visit. “I was at practice one day and coach (Kate) Greenough asked what I thought of SLCC,” the Hermiston senior said. “I didn’t



Noland

know anything. The coach (Cyn-dee Bennett) got a hold of me, talked to me about the school and the program. After that, I headed to Utah.” Safe to say, it was a productive visit. “When I first met the girls and the coaches, I felt this was the place for me,” Noland said. Greenough said her former coach at Utah State helps connect players with certain programs. “I was trying to use my resources to find a home for Bailee,” Gree-

nough said. “It is a top five national junior college program that has gone to junior nationals the past few years. It’s a step in the right direction, not a destination. She will be pushed to be better every day.” The SLCC coaches put Noland through a workout when she visited. She pitched, caught, and took swings with the Bruins baseball team. “I caught a girl from Australia (Tarni Stepto) who threw 75 mph,” Noland said. “She’s going to

play in the (2020) Olympics. Most of the pitchers there have a scary change-up and rise ball.” Then, Noland took her turn in the batting cage. “She wanted to see me hit in a very uncomfortable situation,” Noland said. “I wasn’t nervous — I was going for it. They (baseball players) were hitting bombs, but I felt I did pretty good.” In Noland, the Bruins are getting a complete package.

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Courtesy of Oregon State Athletics

Hermiston’s Jazlyn Romero signed a letter of intent last week to throw the javelin at Oregon State University.

Oregon State is the next stop for 2019 state javelin champ

By ANNIE FOWLER
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HERMISTON — Since she was a little girl, basketball has been life for Jazlyn Romero. She plays summer ball for the Oregon Elite out of Lake Oswego, and has been a varsity player for four years at Hermiston High School. Three years ago, she discovered track, and the sport is quickly becoming a big part of her life. Last week, Romero signed to throw the javelin at Oregon State University. “Coach (Dave) Dumble is a really great coach, and his philosophy is sim-

ilar to coach (Emilee) Strot,” Romero said. “He has expressed his interest in me as an athlete. Definitely a confidence booster when the coaches believe in you.” Strot, who threw shot put, discus and javelin at Kentucky and UC Berkeley, has helped Romero navigate the recruiting process to find the right fit. “Oregon State is a relatively new program, and they are trying to make a name in the Pac-12,” Strot said. “Dave Dumble is one of the best. Jazlyn going right out of high school and signing early is a big deal. It’s a big deal to go Division I. She deserves the scholarship. Hopefully, this is the start of something big for Hermiston High

School and her.” Romero likes that she can be a driving force in helping put OSU on the track map, so to speak. “Any Pac-12 school has the stuff,” Romero said. “They are developing a program, and I like knowing I can be part of that.” The Beavers are getting an athlete whose potential has yet to be tapped, according to Strot. “Jazlyn’s entire life has been dedicated to basketball,” Strot said. “Ten weeks a year, the past three years, has been dedicated to track. She ended up being a complete stud. She has so much potential. She hasn’t even tapped

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UNLV tabs Oregon’s Arroyo as next coach

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — UNLV has hired Oregon offensive coordinator Marcus Arroyo as its next head football coach.

Athletic director Desiree Reed-Francois announced Wednesday that Arroyo will succeed Tony Sanchez, who was fired Nov. 25 after going 19-40 in five seasons.

The 39-year-old Arroyo led an Oregon offense that was 15th nationally in scoring this season and he helped the Ducks land the Pac-12’s top-ranked recruiting class the past two seasons.

UNLV is looking to raise the profile of its football program with the Rebels set to begin playing home games in the stadium being built for the NFL’s Oakland Raiders, who are moving to Las Vegas for next season. The school also opened a \$34 million on-campus football complex this fall. “UNLV Athletics is a department on the rise, and my family and I are thrilled to be a part of the Rebel family during this special time,” Arroyo said in a statement. “The uniqueness of Las Vegas is unrivaled and the opportunity to train, practice, and compete, in some of the country’s best facilities in one of the world’s most vibrant cities cannot be understated. We will work tirelessly to elevate UNLV football to the championship caliber program that it is positioned to be.”

Arroyo served as Oregon’s offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach the past three seasons. He previously coached running backs at Oklahoma State, was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ interim offensive coordinator in 2014 and was the offensive coordinator at Southern Mississippi the year before.

A former San Jose State quarterback, Arroyo also had stints with California, Wyoming and his alma mater. He was a graduate assistant at San Jose State in 2005 after serving as the offensive coordinator at Prairie View A&M. His playing career coincided with Reed-Francois’ tenure as director of compliance at San Jose State.

“It’s remarkable to see things come full circle 20 years later,” Reed-Francois said, “We set out to find a teacher and a competitor with the character, competence, energy and intellect to bring out the best in our 105 young men and recruit and develop the next group of Rebel football student-athletes. We looked for a leader that is a great evaluator of talent, who can sell what makes UNLV, our community, and our program unique, and helps develop and prepare our student-athletes for the next level.”



Arroyo

SPORTS SHORTS

Bullied fan’s T-shirt design helps raise \$950K for nonprofit

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Sales of a University of Tennessee T-shirt designed by a bullied fourth-grade boy in Florida have raised more than \$950,000 for an anti-bullying organization. The fourth-grader had designed his own University of Tennessee logo to put over an orange T-shirt for his school’s college colors day this fall. In a Face-

book post that went viral, the boy’s teacher said he was teased by classmates over his shirt with the homemade design. Tennessee’s VolShop website then created its own Tennessee shirt featuring the boy’s design. Tennessee officials said Wednesday that 112,715 shirts have been sold in the three months since. The official version of the shirt is no longer being produced.

T-shirt sales raised \$952,101 for STOMP Out Bullying. Tennessee officials said the student and his family had requested that the proceeds go to an organization dedicated to the prevention of bullying. Tennessee also has offered the boy a four-year scholarship covering tuition and fees beginning in the fall of 2028 if he decides to attend Tennessee and meets admission requirements.



AP Photo/Steve Megargee, File