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Pitching sensations share IMC honor

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — In softball, if you have a dominant pitcher, that player can change the course of a game. If you have two, good things will come your way.



Cary



Chrisman



Tabor



Parsons



Lilienthal

Garton, a junior, hurled 44 innings over 12 games and finished with a 6-0 record. She gave up



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton pitcher Sauren Garton (1) throws out a pitch during the second inning against the Panthers. The Pendleton Buckaroos defeated the Redmond Panthers 16-1 in four innings in Pendleton on April 20, 2021.



Garton



Samford

and Garton on the first team are first baseman Ella Chrisman, infielder Maria Lilienthal, outfielder Chloe Tabor and designated player Ellie Samford. Garton also was a second-team selection in the infield.

On the honorable mention team, the Bucks had catcher Brie Youncs and outfielders Daisy Jenness and Jaden Samp.

The Bucks, who at one point had

20 hits and seven earned runs, but struck out 95 and walked 18. She had an ERA of 1.114.

Together they had an ERA of .840 and struck out 169.

“It’s pretty amazing when you look at the numbers,” Cary said. “We are fortunate to have both those girls throwing for us.”

Joining Parsons and Garton on the first team are first baseman Ella Chrisman, infielder Maria Lilienthal, outfielder Chloe Tabor and designated player Ellie Samford. Garton also was a second-team selection in the infield.

INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE SOFTBALL TEAM

Player of the Year — Kiana Nakamura, sr., Ridgeview. **Co-Pitchers of the Year** — Kylie Parsons, sr., Pendleton and Sauren Garton, jr., Pendleton. **Co-Coaches of the Year** — Tim Cary, Pendleton and Jeremy Puckett, Crook County.

First team

C — Maddie Trout, sr., The Dalles. **1B** — Ella Chrisman, jr., Pendleton. **Infield** — Kiana Nakamura, sr., Ridgeview; Maria Lilienthal, sr., Pendleton; Teegan Reams, jr., Ridgeview; Sienna Davis, fr., Hood River Valley. **Outfield** — Lexi Gates, jr., Ridgeview; Chloe Tabor, jr., Pendleton; Molly Routson, sr., Hood River Valley. **Utility** — Emma Lees, jr., Crook County. **Designated player** — Ellie Samford, jr., Pendleton. **Pitchers** — Kylie Parsons, sr., Pendleton and Sauren Garton, jr., Pendleton.

Second team

C — Shelby Stanley, jr., Redmond and Abby Kahler, so., Hood River Valley. **1B** — Kennedy Abbas, so., The Dalles. **Infield** — Danner Hemphill, fr., Crook County; Sauren Garton, jr., Pendleton; Tayha DeGrande, so., Ridgeview; Zoe LeBreton, fr., The Dalles. **Outfield** — Ally Henry, sr., Ridgeview; Bella Moore, jr., Hood River Valley; Isis Solorzano, sr., Hood River Valley. **Utility** — Ani Crichton Tunai, fr., The Dalles. **Pitchers** — Kennedy Abbas, so., The Dalles and Kyra Davis, jr., Hood River Valley.

Honorable mention

C — Brie Youncs, jr., Pendleton. **1B** — Aspen Bradley, jr., Redmond. **Infield** — Jordyn Looney, jr., Ridgeview; Elizabeth Barker, sr., Crook County; Marina Castaneda, fr., Hood River Valley. **Outfield** — Jaden Samp, jr., Pendleton; Daisy Jenness, jr., Pendleton; Ella Smith, so., The Dalles. **Pitcher** — Maddie Wissell, so., Redmond.

an 11-game win streak, won the IMC regular-season title with a 9-0 record, but dropped an 8-4 game to Ridgeview in the district title game. They finished the season 15-2.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton’s Kylie Parsons (15) throws out a pitch against the Ravens. The Ridgeview Ravens defeated the Pendleton Buckaroos 8-4 to win the Intermountain Conference title on Saturday, May 22, 2021, in Pendleton.

OSU FOOTBALL

Beason emerging as big-play threat after sensational spring

By JARRID DENNEY
Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS — During a spring football practice last month, Oregon State offensive coordinator Brian Lindgren spontaneously gathered his first-string players and set them up in a third-down situation deep in their own territory.

On the first play of the impromptu scrimmage scenario, freshman receiver Zeria Beason caught a short pass on a slant route near the right hash mark, made one cut to evade a linebacker and broke loose for a 70-yard touchdown.

Not five minutes later, in the exact same scenario, Beason lined up on the left side of the field. When the ball was snapped, he out-muscled a cornerback at the line of scrimmage, shuffling off the defender’s attempt to jam him, and broke free down the sideline.

Quarterback Chance Nolan dropped a perfect pass into his hands and Beason walked into the end zone for another 70-yard touchdown. His teammates went ballistic celebrating.

That five-minute sequence epitomizes Beason’s evolution as he enters his second year with the Beavers. He burst onto the scene as a talented true freshman in 2020 and worked his way into the starting lineup by season’s end, putting up modest numbers.

Now, though, he is ready for an encore. If this spring was any indicator, Beason could be ready to emerge as a consistent big-play threat for Oregon State.

“I felt like last year I was just sort of running around,” Beason said. “The game was pretty fast for me. Now I’m understanding coverages and I feel like everything is slowing down.”

Beason’s version of “just running around” still resulted in a major tangible impact for the Beavers. As an 18-year-old freshman, he started five of Oregon



Amanda Loman/Associated Press, File

Arizona State’s DeAndre Pierce (2) brings down Oregon State’s Zeria Beason (18) during a game in Corvallis in December 2020.

State’s seven games and tied for the team lead with three touchdown receptions.

While mainly operating in the slot, he served as a reliable target for Nolan late in the year and finished 2020 with 148 yards on 16 catches.

Even with a receiver room that was stocked with seven or eight starting-caliber pass catchers, Lindgren and coach Jonathan Smith still constantly kept the youngest member of that group on the field.

“I think his precision in his route running has always been really good,” Smith said. “But now he understands the complete package. We’re able to move him around to multiple positions inside and out. That’s been a nice step.”

On Oregon State’s last play of the season, Beason caught an 18-yard pass from Ben Gulbranson on a 50-50 ball at the back of the end zone. The play came in a blowout loss, but served as a glimpse at the future with two talented freshmen combining for a dazzling play.

However, Beason puts less stock in that particular moment as providing momentum for him to succeed moving forward. Instead,

he believes that the work he puts in on a day-to-day basis is a better indicator that consistent in-game success will come in 2021.

Those who are tasked with trying to slow him down at practice tend to agree.

“I love that competition everyday at practice,” cornerback Alex Austin said. “Zeria, he’s a guy that’s gonna work. Every day, every play. He’s not gonna take a snap off. Being able to compete with him everyday, I love it. He’s a baller.”

A standout at Duncanville High School in Texas, Beason and the Panthers went to back-to-back 6A state title games amidst the most competitive high school football landscape in the country.

“A lot of people compare high school football there to junior college,” Beason said. “I feel like the competition level really translated and really helped me get to the next level and understand the basics.”

In that sense, Beason arrived in Corvallis physically prepared for the jump from high school to the Pac-12 that so many players struggle with. At 6-feet, 198 pounds, he is one of Oregon State’s bigger receivers and played like it.



Bikram Rai/Associated Press

Arthur Muir, 75, of Chicago, became the oldest American to scale Mount Everest, beating the record by another American, Bill Burke, at age 67.



Bikram Rai/Associated Press

Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong, scaled Mount Everest from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes, becoming the fastest female climber.

Oldest American, fastest woman on Everest return safely

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal— A retired attorney from Chicago who became the oldest American to scale Mount Everest, and a Hong Kong teacher who is now the fastest female climber of the world’s highest peak, on Sunday, May 30, returned safely from the mountain where climbing teams have struggled with bad weather and a coronavirus outbreak.

Arthur Muir, 75, scaled the peak earlier this month, beating the record set by another American, Bill Burke, at age 67.

Tsang Yin-hung, 45, of Hong Kong, scaled the summit from the base camp in 25 hours and 50 minutes, and became the fastest female climber. The record of 10 hours and 56 minutes is held by a Sherpa guide, Lakpa Gelu.

A climbing accident on Everest in 2019, when Muir hurt his ankle falling off a ladder, did not deter him from attempting to scale the peak again. He began mountaineering late in life, and said he was scared and anxious during his latest adventure.

“You realize how big a mountain it is, how dangerous it is, how many things that could go wrong. Yeah, it makes you nervous, it makes you know some anxiety there and maybe little bit of scared,” Muir told reporters in Kathmandu. “I was just surprised when I actually got to there (the summit) but I was too tired to stand up, and in my summit pictures I am sitting down.”

Muir began mountaineering at age 68 with trips to South Amer-

ica and Alaska before attempting Everest in 2019, when he fell off the ladder.

Climbing was closed last year due to the pandemic.

Married and a father of three, Muir has six grandchildren. The last one — a boy — was born while he was still in the mountains during his current expedition.

Tsang made only two stops between the base camp at 17,390 feet to the 29,032-foot summit to change, and covered the near vertical distance in 25 hours and 50 minutes.

She was lucky because there were barely any climbers on the way to the highest camp at South Col. After that, on her way to the summit, she met only climbers making their descent, which did not slow her speed climb.

There are only a few days of good weather left on the mountain this year, when hundreds of climbers line up to the summit, many having to wait for a long time in the traffic jam on the highest trail.

“I just feel kind of relief and happy because I am not looking for breaking a record,” she said. “I feel relieved because I can prove my work to my friends, to my students.”

She made a previous attempt on May 11, but bad weather forced her to turn back from a point very close to the summit. She then returned.

“For the summit, it is not just your ability, team work, I think luck is very important,” she said.

An outbreak of the coronavirus among climbers and their guides at the Everest base camp has forced at least three teams to cancel their expeditions.