

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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B1

Pendleton Round-Up again wins Large Outdoor Rodeo

It's the 8th time the rodeo has won the PRCA award

East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — The Pendleton Round-Up won the Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year award for the eighth time on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at the annual Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Awards Banquet.

The prestigious award is voted on by members of the PRCA, which is made up of cowboy contestants and fellow rodeo committees.

"There is no higher honor than to be recognized by cowboy contestants, contract

personnel and fellow rodeo committees," Pendleton Round-Up Publicity Director Pat Reay said in a press release. "It is because of the dedication of many volunteers, staff, sponsors, fans, the community and loyal supporters that the Round-Up has been able to be recognized by our peers in the rodeo industry."

Pendleton, which also won in 2003, 2010, and 2015-19, was one of five finalists, along with Cody, Wyoming; Deadwood, South Dakota; Dodge City, Kansas; and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Pendleton's streak of winning the award five years in a row came to a halt in 2020 when the COVID-19

pandemic caused the cancellation of the Round-Up for the first time since World War II. The 2020 award went to Deadwood's Days of '76.

"To be crowned again in 2021 after not being able to host an event in 2020 is bittersweet and something we cherish and hold in the highest regard," Pendleton Round-Up Past President Randy Bracher said in the press release. "We are very proud to bring this award home to our community; to the people who have helped build and shape the traditions and authenticity that make this an event like no other in the world."

See Round-up, Page B2

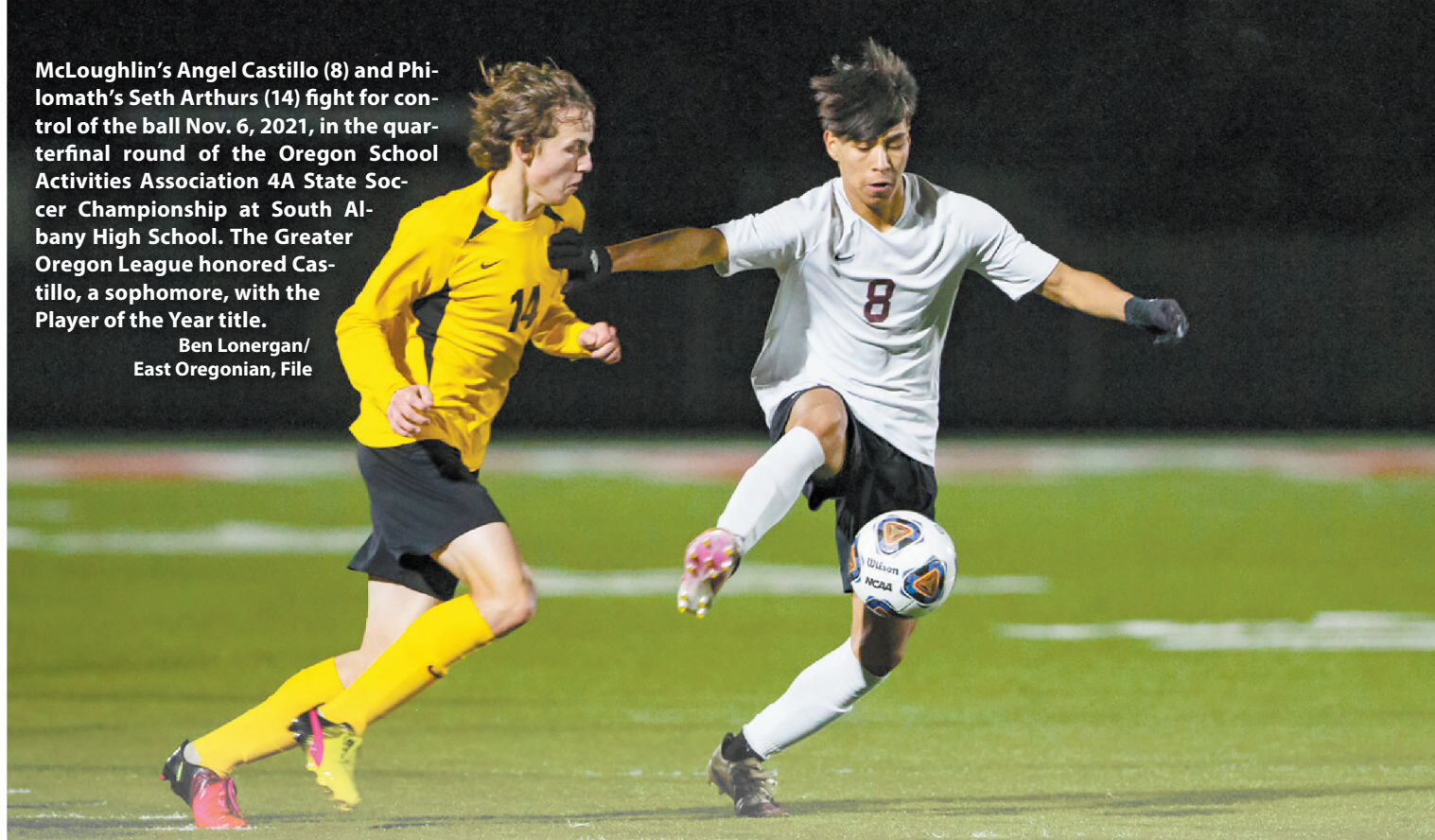


Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Cowboys sit in the infield Sept. 15, 2021, during the bareback competition on the opening day of the Pendleton Round-Up. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association on Wednesday, Dec. 1, named the Round-Up the Large Outdoor Rodeo of the Year for the eighth time.

McLoughlin's Angel Castillo (8) and Philomath's Seth Arthurs (14) fight for control of the ball Nov. 6, 2021, in the quarterfinal round of the Oregon School Activities Association 4A State Soccer Championship at South Albany High School. The Greater Oregon League honored Castillo, a sophomore, with the Player of the Year title.

Ben Lonergan/
East Oregonian, File



MAG-HI'S CASTILLO TABBED GOL MVP FOR BOYS SOCCER



Flores A. Garcia R. Garcia Leber Molina Munoz Rhoads Sanchez J. Garcia

Sophomore forward recorded 26 goals and 12 assists

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — There was no shortage of Greater Oregon League awards handed out to McLoughlin soccer and volleyball players this fall.

The boys soccer team had five players named to the first team, with sophomore

Angel Castillo named Player of the Year, and Jose Garcia Coach of the Year.

Garcia said it has been quite a few years since the Pioneers had someone earn Player of the Year honors.

"He is very excited and happy," Garcia said. "He is going to be working harder this year. He is a hard worker. He lives a mile from my house and I would drive by during the pandemic and he had cones out and was working hard."

Castillo led Mac-Hi with 26 goals this

season, along with 12 assists.

Also earning first-team honors were senior Daniel Flores, and sophomores Almir Garcia (8 goals, 6 assists), Sean Molina (11 goals, 7 assists) and Romario Garcia (6 goals, 5 assists).

"I feel like we could have had more," Coach Garcia said. "For some, it wasn't fair, but you have to give credit to the other teams."

See GOL, Page B2

Brown takes 5th in 1st NFR round

Baker City steer wrestler posted a time of 4.5 seconds

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — The National Finals Rodeo is back in Las Vegas, and Jesse Brown could not be happier.

The Baker City steer wrestler competed in his first NFR last year in Arlington, Texas, but he said there is something special about the Thomas & Mack Arena.

There must be after Brown turned in a time of 4.5 seconds to finish in a two-way tie for fifth place with Tyler Waguespack in the first round Thursday, Dec. 2. Each man won \$5,661 for their efforts.

"It's way different than Texas," he said. "Everyone is right on top of you here. It's where it belongs. It was awesome."

Dirk Tavenner and Riley Duvall tied for first in the opening round with times of 3.7 seconds. They each walked away with \$24,167.

Brown, who was sitting second in the world standings before the NFR, slid a little in the standings, but there are still nine rounds to go, and he started off right with a legal run and a few dollars to add to his earnings.

"I don't really pay attention to that," he said.

Brown, who was competing with a back strain, was happy with his first run.

"I had to make a horse change at the last minute," he said of riding his own horse Gunner. "He did well. It was good. The anticipation leading up to tonight was a rush. I can't wait until tomorrow."

The steer ropers will have a fresh pen of steers on Dec. 3. There are four pens, which means they won't see the steers from Dec. 2 again until Round 4 on Dec. 5.

While Las Vegas can be a fun place to visit, Brown said his day before the evening performance was jam packed.

"I had a packed day," he said Dec. 2. "I had physical therapy in the morning, then they had us doing signings and meet and greets. It's an honor they even want me to do something like that."



Brown

Riverside's Castillo named SD6 Player of the Year

Pirates have three named to 3A/2A/1A all-state soccer team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Riverside senior Layla Castillo was named the Special District 6 Player of the Year, and also earned first team all-state honors to cap a spectacular season.

Castillo, a midfielder/forward, led the team with 19 goals and two assists.

The Pirates won the SD6 title with a 9-1 record, and finished the season 11-3-1 overall. They beat Yamhill-Carlton 2-0 in the first round of the 3A/2A/1A state playoffs, then dropped a 4-0 game to top-ranked Oregon Episcopal in the quarterfinals.

Also earning SD6 first-team honors were senior defender Marta Barajas (1 goal), and sophomore defender Crystal Sanchez (1 goal)

and sophomore defender Aleydis Torres (1 goal, 1 assist).

Second-team selections were senior goalkeeper Arelly Cambero (41 saves, 7 shutouts, 6 GA), sophomore forward Monse Pacheco (4 goals), and freshman midfielder Jimena Maldonado (4 goals).

Honorable mention honors went to senior forward Valeria Echevarria.

Also named to the all-state team were Sanchez and Barajas, who were second-team selections.

"The girls had a great season," Pirates coach Yvonne Torres said. "We made it to the quarterfinals and



Barajas De La Fuente Durfey Kerns Rose Sanchez Sharp Torres

played a good game against the No. 1 team. This is the first year that three of Riverside's girls soccer players have been nominated for all-state. Coach (Viviana) Colin and I are very proud of our girls and our team. We have made good progress and will continue to work hard in years to come."

The Echo-Stanfield Cougars had four players selected to the SD6 first team — senior defender Jacque

SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Player of the Year: Layla Castillo, sr., Riverside
FIRST TEAM

Kate Vineyard, sr., Nyssa; Mayela De La Fuente, so., Echo-Stanfield; Jacque Kerns, sr., Echo-Stanfield; Lynzie Torres, sr., Nyssa; Taylor Durfey, sr., Umatilla; Abigale Nunez, fr., Four Rivers; McKenzie Rose, so., Echo-Stanfield; Crystal Sanchez, so., Riverside; Marta Barajas, sr., Riverside; Aleydis Torres, jr., Riverside; Maggie Sharp, jr., Echo-Stanfield.

SECOND TEAM

Morgan Gaines, sr., Echo-Stanfield; Asbel Jaquez, jr., Nyssa; Monse Pacheco, so., Riverside; Liliana Angeles, sr., Irrigon; Adriana Chavez, fr., Four Rivers; Emma Medera, sr., Four Rivers; Emily Hancock, jr., Echo-Stanfield; Anaiza Mendez, sr., Echo-Stanfield; Jimena Maldonado, fr., Riverside; Leticia Trinidad, so., Nyssa; Juliana Juaregui-Perez, jr., Umatilla; Arelly Cambero, sr., Riverside; Olivia Chavez, fr., Four Rivers.



Castillo

Kerns, sophomore midfielder McKenzie Rose, sophomore midfielder Mayela De La Fuente, and junior goalkeeper Maggie Sharp.

The Cougars finished 6-2-2 in SD6 play, and 6-7-2 overall. They lost to Oregon Episcopal 7-0 in the first round of the 3A/2A/1A state playoffs.

Also named to the first team

was Umatilla senior forward Taylor Durfey.

Second-team honors went to Echo-Stanfield senior defender Morgan Gaines, junior forward Emily Hancock and senior defender Anaiza Mendez; Irrigon senior defender Liliana Angeles; and Umatilla junior midfielder Juliana Juaregui-Perez.