

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

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B1

PHS girls soccer coach gone

Rickman led the Bucks to the 5A state playoffs last fall

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

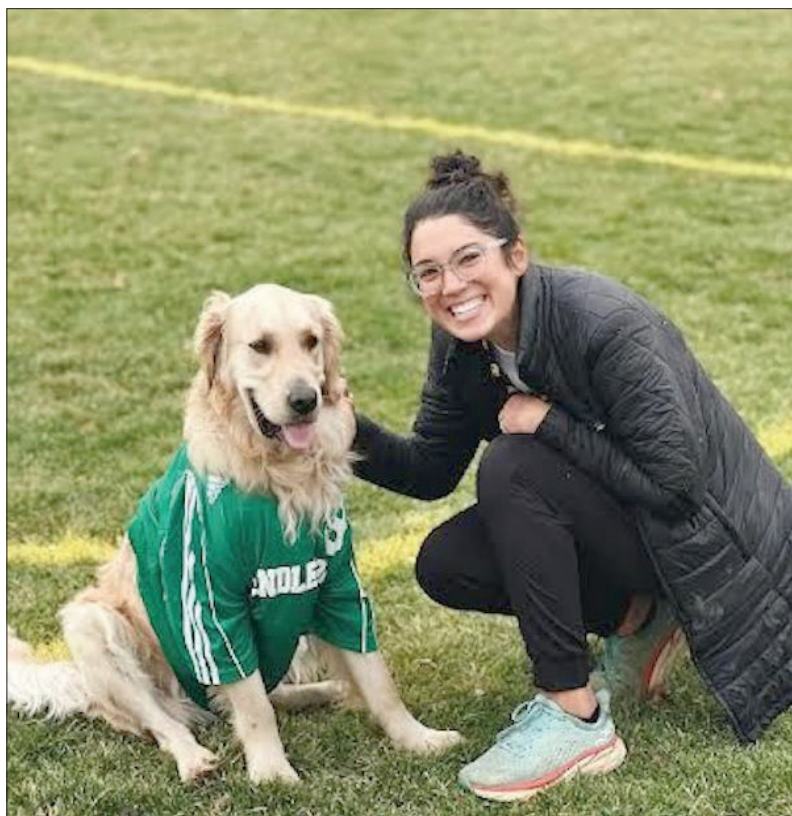
PENDLETON — Just when Pendleton Athletic Director Mike Somnis thought the flood of coaches leaving the school had stopped, girls soccer coach Kiana Rickman was added to the list.

“It is what it is,” Somnis said. “Sometimes it goes in bunches. All of these decisions are life decisions, chance and timing. She’s a phenomenal teacher (history) and coach. She’s a big loss for our soccer program. We are going to miss her.”

Rickman’s husband, Nate, has been accepted to physical therapy school in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and still is waiting to hear from a program in Hawaii. The program is two years long.

“I’m sad,” Rickman said. “I have been here three years and time has really flown by. It was an awesome first job. I am excited for the next adventure.”

The Bucks will be dropping down to 4A and the Greater Oregon



Dillon George/Contributed Photo

Pendleton girls soccer coach Kiana Rickman, with super fan Louie, announced in April 2022 she is leaving the role for personal reasons. She led the Bucks to the 5A state playoffs and was named the 5A Coach of the Year in 2021.

League this coming fall, and Rickman said she sees good things for the team.

“I’m so excited for them,” she

said. “They will do amazing things. I think we built a really good culture in the program. Going into the GOL will be a good transition for them.”

The hardest part of stepping down for Rickman was telling her team.

“It was super hard to tell the girls,” she said. “I was dreading it. They were really mature about it.”

This past fall the Bucks were 11-4-1 overall and 7-2-1 in the Inter-mountain Conference. Rickman was named IMC Coach of the Year and the 5A state Coach of the Year.

Pendleton won its first-ever state playoff game — a 2-1 victory over Thurston — before losing a 4-0 battle to La Salle Prep in the 5A state quarterfinals. It also was the first year the Bucks had ever won 10 games in a season.

A true Buckaroo

Rickman (nee Sperl), a 2015 Pendleton graduate, went on to play soccer at Nebraska-Wesleyan University for the Prairie Wolves. She also had offers to play college basketball, but chose the sport she had been playing since she was 4 years old.

“I liked basketball games a lot,” she said. “I liked playing, but not set plays. My basketball coaches were awesome.”

Rickman finished her Pendleton soccer career with 31 goals and the school’s record for hat tricks in a season with three.

Rickman returned to Pendleton three years ago to teach and took

over the soccer program two years ago.

“It was a job she didn’t know she wanted.”

“Troy Jerome (former athletic director) approached me about the job,” Rickman said. “He had to convince me. I didn’t know how long we would be here, and I didn’t know if I wanted the head job. I was so glad I did it. I had Rocky (Dillenburg) and Ty Burchard helping out my first year. This year, Dillon George helped me out. It was great having that experience behind me.”

Dillenburg was Rickman’s high school soccer and tennis coach her senior year.

“Most of my coaching style is based on what Rocky taught us,” Rickman said.

Rickman and her husband are high school sweethearts, having been together since their sophomore year in high school.

Nate Rickman was a standout swimmer for the Bucks. He was part of the 200-medley relay team, along with Jon Jennings, Layton Kirsch and Dylan Clemons, that placed fourth at the 5A state meet in 2015 with a time of 1:44.94.

He also placed fourth in the 50 meter freestyle and was part of the 200 freestyle relay team that placed second. The Bucks placed fifth in the team standings.

A fly rod for every occasion



BRAD TRUMBO

UPLAND PURSUITS

The night before my first desert rainbow trip of the year, I stared into my fly rod cabinet at the impressive lineup that had accumulated over the years. I sought two rods, approximately five-weight, one for a floating line to cast nymphs and the other for stripping streamers on a sinking line.

The trouble was that the number of rods and nondescript casing made it difficult to decipher which were the five-weights among them or which of the five-weights I was looking for. I would be casting from inflat-



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

Rods, reels, nymphs and streamers selected for a day on a desert lake.

able watercraft, which puts the angler right down on the water. A fast-action rod with some length would be important for handling

long leaders and heavy flies. The year prior, I made the

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ON THE SLATE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Prep baseball
Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock (2), 11 a.m.
Stanfield/Echo at Sherman (2), 11 a.m.

Prep softball
Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock (2), 11 a.m.
Echo/Stamfield at Union (2), 2 p.m.

Boys soccer
Hanford at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Prep Tennis
Hermiston at Tri-City Invite, 8 a.m.

Prep lacrosse
Hermiston at Wenatchee, 7 p.m.

Track and field
Hermiston, Pendleton, Pilot Rock at Pasco Invite, 9:10 a.m.
Ione at Sherman Invitational, 10 a.m.

College baseball
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain (2), 1 p.m.

College softball
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain (2), noon

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Prep tennis
Ridgeview boys at Pendleton, 3 p.m.
Pendleton girls at Ridgeview, 3 p.m.

Prep golf
Pendleton girls at Eagle Crest, Redmond, 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Prep baseball
Umatilla at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Union at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.
Kamiakin at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Heppner, 4:30 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.

Prep softball
Kennewick at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Umatilla at Echo/Stamfield JV, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner/Ione, 4 p.m.
Pendleton at The Dalles, 4:30 p.m.

Boys soccer
Kennewick at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Prep tennis
La Grande at McLoughlin, 3 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Riverside, 3:30 p.m.
Richland at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Ione/Heppner at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.

Prep lacrosse
Hermiston at Chiawana, 7:30 p.m.

Track and field
Heppner, Pilot Rock, Stanfield/Echo at District 2A-5 Preview, Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.

College softball
Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley (2), 1 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

Northwest University to add beach volleyball

The Observer

KIRKLAND — Northwest University Director of Athletics Gary McIntosh formally announced the sponsorship of beach volleyball beginning in 2022-23.

Following the addition of beach volleyball, Northwest will sponsor 11 athletic programs in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The addition of beach volleyball will add approximately 12 female student-athlete opportunities to the Northwest athletic program and will become the seventh female sport at Northwest University.

“We are excited about the opportunity to add beach volleyball to our department,” said McIntosh. “We are confident that beach volleyball will be a good addition here at Northwest and will achieve success in conjunction with our current women’s volleyball program. Beach volleyball is a growing sport in the NAIA, and we are excited to bring that growth to Northwest.”

Beach volleyball consists of two-player teams with dual matches featuring five pairs from each team. The school that wins three matches first is the winner. Each match consists of three sets with the first to 21 winning the first two sets and the third set to 15

points if needed.

“Beach volleyball competition at Northwest is set to commence in the spring of 2023. We are currently searching for a head coach,” McIntosh said.

Beach volleyball was declared an emerging sport by the NAIA in 2019 and has since garnered national invitational tournament status with more than 25 programs.

Though not a conference sport, the Cascade Collegiate Conference, which includes Eastern Oregon University, has six member or associate member schools sponsoring the sport: Arizona Christian, Bushnell, Corban, Life Pacific, Southern Oregon and Vanguard.



Bushnell University/Contributed Photo

Bushnell’s Camille Guerrero (20) prepares to spike the ball over the net as Corban’s Avari Ridgway (23) defends during the Warriors’ 4-1 win over Bushnell on April 2, 2022. Northwest University has announced it is joining Corban and Bushnell in sponsoring beach volleyball in 2023.

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