

## Softball:

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Wilsonville defeated Lebanon 1-0 in the other semifinal to advance. The Wildcats have never won a state title.

Top-ranked Pendleton heads into the title game with just two losses — to Wilsonville and Ridgeview.

“This is a group that has a lot of grit and determination,” Cary said. “We have found ways to win when things are tight or we are down a bit. That’s what it takes to be a winner.”

Garton struck out the side in the first, second, third and fifth innings, striking out 19 on the day.

The Dragons’ lone hit came in the top of the seventh by Chloe Zajac, but she would be left stranded when Brook Dunkin struck out.

“Sauren did another outstanding job,” Cary said. “We feel confident if we put three runs on the board she won’t allow that many. She is an incredible competitor. She didn’t wear down and kept her energy high the whole game.”

The Bucks struggled a bit against Morrison the first time through the lineup, but in the fourth inning Pendleton put its bats to work.

Garton led off the inning with a double to center field, and Jaden Samp followed with a walk. Garton stole home, while Josie Jenness hit a double to left field that sent Samp across the plate for a 2-0 lead.

“Josie hit a blooper to left and it dropped in,” Cary said. “It was a timely hit at that.”

A single by Brie Youncs sent Jenness home, and Maddie Schumacher, the courtesy runner for Youncs, later scored on a wild pitch for a 4-0 game.

The Bucks had four hits on the day as Morrison finished with eight strikeouts and two walks.

“The Morrison girl is an outstanding pitcher,” Cary said. “We had a number of



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Pendleton's Sauren Garton winds up for a pitch during a state semifinal game Tuesday, May 31, 2022, against the Dallas Dragons at Steve Cary Field, Pendleton. The Bucks won the game 4-0 and play Wilsonville in the finals June 4.**



**Pendleton's Maddie Schumacher slides into home during a state semifinal game Tuesday, May 31, 2022, against the Dallas Dragons at Steve Cary Field, Pendleton. The Bucks won 4-0 and face Wilsonville in the finals June 4.**

Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

outstanding at-bats. Daisy (Jenness) did not get a hit today, but she (Morrison) threw her a couple of dozen pitches. Daisy kept fouling them off and that helped the batters after her. She wore her down.”

The Bucks last won a title in 2018, beating Putnam 7-0.

Pendleton also won the 5A title in 2014 with a 2-1 win over Putnam, and the 2012 title, beating Silverton 6-1.

Pendleton’s six seniors will miss their graduation ceremony Saturday, but Cary said there will be a graduation of sorts at home plate after the game.

## SPORTS BRIEFING

### EOU track coaches earn regional recognition

LA GRANDE — Nearing the conclusion of a successful track and field season, Eastern Oregon University head coach Ben Welch and assistant coach Connor Bracken both earned regional awards for their efforts.

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Welch the men’s West Region Coach of the Year. Welch, who has coached at Eastern for more than 30 years, guided the Mountaineers to a Cascade Collegiate



Bracken

Welch

Conference Championship earlier this month.

Eastern sent across the men’s and women’s sides to compete at the NAIA Outdoor Championships, which began May 25 and concluded May 27, in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Bracken has coached at Eastern since the start of the 2018 season, coaching sprints, hurdles and multi-events.

His role also includes coordinating the strength program for the team’s athletes.

Bracken was named the men’s West Region Assistant Coach of the Year in what is his first full-time season as an assistant coach.

It has been a productive year for both Welch and Bracken, who won the same awards at the conclusion of the indoor track season. Welch also earned the award last season in both outdoor and indoor. The Mountaineers men’s team is coming off its second consecutive conference title in outdoor track.

—EO Media Group

## Soccer:

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Pasena-Littlesky also helped lead her Three Rivers Soccer Club team to the Washington state title two weeks ago with a 4-0 win over the Washington Rush.

“The Loverchecks (Reilly and Kelsey from Pendleton) play on that team too,” she said. “It helped build a lot of new skills. It’s a good team with good communication. It’s a different environment. It prepared me for this fall.”

The Blues play at the NCAA Division III level in the Northwest Conference. The women’s soccer team finished 2-15-2 overall last season, but that doesn’t concern Pasena-Littlesky.

“That has been my calling,” she said of playing on teams that are in a rebuilding mode. “Playing at PHS and going to Hermiston, I don’t care about rankings or titles, I just want to play and get in the box and protect my team as much as I can when the season comes.”

The Blue have three goalies on their roster, but Pasena-Littlesky is willing to battle for playing time.

“I did ask if I would get to see playing time,” she said. “It’s a great factor to have those three keepers. I have them to give me those insights on soccer and

**“THIS HAS BEEN A CRAZY, LONG JOURNEY. THROUGHOUT MY SENIOR YEAR, I TOLD MYSELF I DIDN’T WANT TO RANK SCHOOLS SO I WOULDN’T CREATE AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT.”**

Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky,  
Hermiston senior

college. I am so ready for this season.”

While Voiland has a good stable of goalies, she’s

impressed with what Pasena-Littlesky brings to the pitch.

“I do have three goalkeepers who will all be juniors this fall, so they have an edge when it comes to college experience,” Voiland said. “Lindsey is coming off a fabulous high school and club career. She is a young goalkeeper with an outstanding work ethic and drive. I see Lindsey adding to the competitive spirit of our goalkeeper crew. I am excited to see how Lindsey grows, especially with additional specialized goalkeeper training. She has all the tools physically and mentally to be an outstanding goalkeeper here at Whitman.”

While Pasena-Littlesky has committed to the soccer team, she also enjoys basketball, a sport she has played since grade school.

“I will never forget my senior basketball season,” she said of the Bulldogs making it to the 3A state Elite 8. “The girls were so cool. I have never had that long of a season before. To go to the Elite 8 was so cool. We had good energy and we built each other up. I remember getting to the Tacoma Dome. It was insane, and the student fans were awesome.”

# Community Memorial Service

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