

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ready for the next chapter

Pendleton's Taber headed to WWCC for softball

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — State champion. Intermountain Conference Player of the Year. Multi-sport athlete. Good teammate. What's not to like?

Walla Walla Community College softball coach Logan Parker finds Pendleton's Chloe Taber the complete package.

"One of the biggest things that drew me to her is her athleticism," Parker said. "I like recruiting multi-sport athletes. They are very well rounded and those traits transition to softball. I have a good feeling about Chloe. She will fit right in right away. On her visit, I could see her presence with the players. It makes my job easy."

Taber played right field for the Bucks, who won the 5A state title June 4 with a 2-0 win over Wilsonville. Pendleton finished the season 28-2.

"She is a great player," Pendleton coach Tim Cary said. "Good batter, good on defense and a good base runner. She is the whole package."

Taber, who grew up



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton's Chloe Taber throws the ball in from right field May 3, 2022, at Steve Cary Field, Pendleton, while playing Hood River. Taber has signed to play softball at Walla Walla Community College.

playing volleyball, basketball and softball, was leaning toward playing college basketball. Her mom Kim (nee McLeod) played basketball at Hermiston High School and Blue Mountain Community College. She also was an assistant at Pendleton while Taber was in high school.

"My mom is kind of sad," Taber said. "Basketball was one of the first sports I learned how to play. I didn't know I wanted to play college softball until two months before school

ended. Tim and his coaching staff helped me be a better player than I was two years ago. I was going to go and play college basketball, but I felt more comfortable on a softball field and felt I would have more success on the field."

Taber is going from one successful program to another. The Warriors went 34-0 in the Northwest Athletic Conference East this spring, and finished 46-4 overall. They finished fourth at the NWAC Tournament.

"When I went for a visit,

I felt welcome, and coach Parker really stuck out to me," Taber said. "He has had great programs. It feels great to be there. I'm very excited about it."

For the Bucks, Taber hit .500 over 30 games. She had 52 hits, including six doubles and three triples. She also drove in 23 runs and scored 38 times. She did not commit any errors in the field.

"She's fast, hits for power from the left side and meshed with my girls from the start," Parker said. "She has that winner's mentality. She has all the right pieces."

Taber has been playing softball since T-ball, but it was never her first love.

"All through high school, basketball was my main focus," she said. "I didn't even play softball my sophomore year. I didn't even sign up. Even though there wasn't a season, that was dumb of me. I think the year off helped me realize the love for softball that I had."

Being named IMC Player of the Year helped Taber see that softball was her true calling.

"That was a confidence booster," she said. "I think from the beginning we knew what we were capable of, for sure. Once we got into league play, we didn't know if teams were bad or we were that good. We got things put together overall. It was nice to end the season with the kids I played sports with since I was a little kid."

Bucks have 5 named to IMC first team

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PENDLETON — The Pendleton baseball team had five players selected to the Intermountain Conference first team, and four of them will return for another season with the Bucks.

Senior Collin Primus was named a first-team infielder, as was junior Payton Lambert. Also named to the first team were utility player Andrew Demianew, designated hitter Easton Corey and pitcher Luke Bensching — all of whom are juniors.

Hood River's Mason Spelley was named Player of the Year, while teammate Jake Von Lubken was selected as Pitcher of the Year. Max Reitz of Hood River was named Coach of the Year by his peers.

The Bucks finished the season 16-11 (with one tie). They were second in the IMC with an 11-4 record. They lost in the 5A state quarterfinals to Lebanon 4-3.

Primus hit .414 on the season with a team-high 41 hits, which included 12 doubles, three triples, one home run and 26 RBIs. On the field, he had 12 errors in 28 games.

Demianew, who played a variety of positions from catcher to outfielder, hit .398 with 37 hits, eight doubles, three triples and a team-high 28 RBIs. He had a fielding percentage of .941 with just seven errors in 28 games.

Lambert led the team with



Bensching



Corey



Demianew



Lambert

five home runs — half of the team's total for the year — among his 29 hits. He hit .326 with five doubles, two triples and 27 RBIs.

An elbow injury derailed Corey's pitching for the year, but he helped the Bucks at the plate, hitting .275 with 22 hits, including seven doubles and 18 RBIs.

On the mound, Bensching pitched a team-high 43 innings over 12 games. He finished with a 3-3 record with one save. He struck out 42, walked 18 and had an ERA of 2.93.

Pendleton also had first baseman Dylan Gomez and outfielder Aiden Gunter selected to the second team, while catcher Jace Otteson and infielder/pitcher Karson Lani were named to the honorable mention team.



Atilano Bradshaw Guerrero Sandoval Trevino Winebarger

Hermiston lacrosse players dominate All-Central team

Bradshaw earns first-team honors at 2 positions

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs raked in the awards for the Region 6 All-Central lacrosse team, placing six

men on the first team.

The Bulldogs finished the season 15-2 overall. They lost a 12-2 game to Mercer Island, Washington, in the 3A state semifinals.

Senior Carson Bradshaw was a first-team midfielder and the top face-off man.

Bradshaw scored a team-high 65 goals and added 41 assists. He also had 281 ground balls and won 259 of

298 face-offs (86.9%). He has signed to play at Rockhurst University in Missouri.

Senior Vinny Trevino was a first team attacker. He was second on the team with 47 goals. He also had 30 assists and 53 ground balls. He has signed to play at Newberry College in South Carolina.

Francisco Atilano was

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Hermiston's Cannell earns first-team MCC golf honor

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

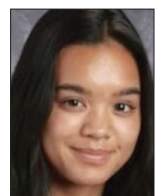
HERMISTON — Hermiston freshman Nadalie Cannell and senior Jocilyn Morrison were selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference golf team.

Cannell was named to the first team, while Morrison was an honorable mention selection.

Jillian Breedlove of Pasco was named Player of the Year,



Cannell



Morrison

while Janet Schuster of Richland, Washington, was named Coach of the Year.

During the regular season, Cannell finished sixth among

the Mid-Columbia Conference golfers with an average of 82.5 per round.

Of the six matches played, her lowest score was an 80 at Zintel Canyon in Kennewick.

Cannell was the top Hermiston golfer each week, while Morrison was No. 2. Morrison averaged a 100.7 per round. Her best week was a 93 at Horn Rapids Golf Course,

See Golf, Page B2

SPORTS BRIEFING

Two Mac-Hi players make all-Greater Oregon League softball second team

MILTON-FREEWATER — McLoughlin High's softball team placed two players on the all-Greater Oregon League teams

following the season.

Pioneers freshman infielder Rylee Herndon and senior infielder Darby Rhoads were named to the all-GOL second team.

League Most Valuable Player went to Ontario junior Annabelle Navarrete, and Coach of the Year to La Grande's Cody Bowen.

— EO Media Group



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