

Sports

BRIEFING

Eastern Oregon riders compete at Condon

CONDON — Several members of the Eastern Oregon rodeo team competed at two high school rodeos at Condon Sept. 2-3.

Sept. 2, Lexie Harrell was second in team roping headers, Michelle Williams first in barrels, and Logan Nedrow eighth in barrels.

Sept. 3, Williams was first in barrels, second in goat tying and third in breakaway roping. Harrell was third in pole bending and sixth in breakaway roping.

Nedrow was seventh in barrels. Maggie Mackenzie was ninth in breakaway roping and third in goats.

Imbler defeats Pine-Eagle in three sets

IMBLER — Imbler defeated Pine-Eagle 25-9, 25-16, 25-7 in an Old Oregon League volleyball match Thursday.

Wallowa shuts out Powder Valley

WALLOWA — Wallowa handed Powder Valley a 60-0 shutout Friday in Old Oregon League football action.

Pine-Eagle slips past Cascade

CASCADE — Pine-Eagle edged Cascade, Idaho, 38-32 in a nonleague football game Friday at Cascade.

Pine-Eagle nips Nixyaawii in five games

HALFWAY — Pine-Eagle earned its first volleyball win of the season Friday, defeating Nixyaawii in five games.

Eastern Oregon riders compete at Eugene

EUGENE — Several Eastern Oregon rodeo team riders competed in a pair of high school rodeos Aug. 24-25 at Eugene.

In the first rodeo, Lexie Harrell was second in team roping headers, and Michelle Williams fifth. Logan Nedrow was ninth in barrels.

In the second rodeo, Harrell was second in breakaway roping and sixth in poles. Williams was fourth in team roping headers, second in barrels and seventh in goat tying. Nedrow was first in barrels.

Courtney wins first U.S. world title since '01

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland (AP) — Kate Courtney is the first American to win the mountain bike world championships in nearly two decades, holding off Danish rider Annika Langvad to win the rainbow jersey.

Langvad took an early lead and Courtney spent much of the day decreasing a 20-second gap. The 22-year-old from California caught Langvad, the 2016 world champion, with a few laps left.

She eventually opened a 48-second advantage. That turned out to be the winning margin, with Emily Batty of Canada finishing third.

The U.S. once dominated mountain biking, but the growth of the discipline in the late 1990s largely left the Americans behind. Alison Dunlap was the last to win a world championship in 2001.

Joseph shuts out Burnt River

JOSEPH — Joseph handed Burnt River a 60-0 shutout in 6-man football action Saturday.

Huntington tops Spray/Mitchell/Wheeler

HUNTINGTON — Huntington evened its season record at 1-1 Friday with a 46-16 win over Spray/Mitchell/Wheeler in 6-man football play.

Osaka defeats Williams in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Naomi Osaka walked to the net, the excitement of being a Grand Slam champion mixed with a bit of sadness.

She grew up rooting for Serena Williams, even did a report on her way back in third grade. Her dream was to play her idol at the U.S. Open.

So when she had actually done it, beating Williams 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday night to become the first Grand Slam singles champion from Japan, why was it so difficult?

"Because I know that, like, she really wanted to have the 24th Grand Slam, right?" Osaka said. "Everyone knows this. It's on the commercials, it's everywhere.

"When I step onto the court, I feel like a different person, right? I'm not a Serena fan. I'm just a tennis player playing another tennis player. But then when I hugged her at the net ... I felt like a little kid again."

Osaka teared up as she was finishing her answer, still overwhelmed as she juggled the idea of her winning and Williams losing.

Though her nerves on the tennis court don't show it, it was a reminder of just how youthful the 20-year-old Osaka is. Not since Maria Sharapova was 19 in 2006 has the U.S. Open had a younger women's champion.

The way Williams lost, of course, was what stood out most in the match. The arguments with chair umpire Carlos Ramos and the three code violations — one that gave Osaka a game for a 5-3 lead in the second set when Williams was trying to rally — will be what was most remembered.

But not for Osaka, who claimed to not even hear the interactions between Williams and Ramos. What will stay with her is the hug at the net afterward, and Williams' kind words during the trophy presentation, when she asked a booing crowd to focus its intention on Osaka's moment.

"So for me, I'm always going to remember the Serena that I love," Osaka said. "It doesn't change anything for me. She was really nice to me, like, at the net and on the podium. I don't really see what would change."

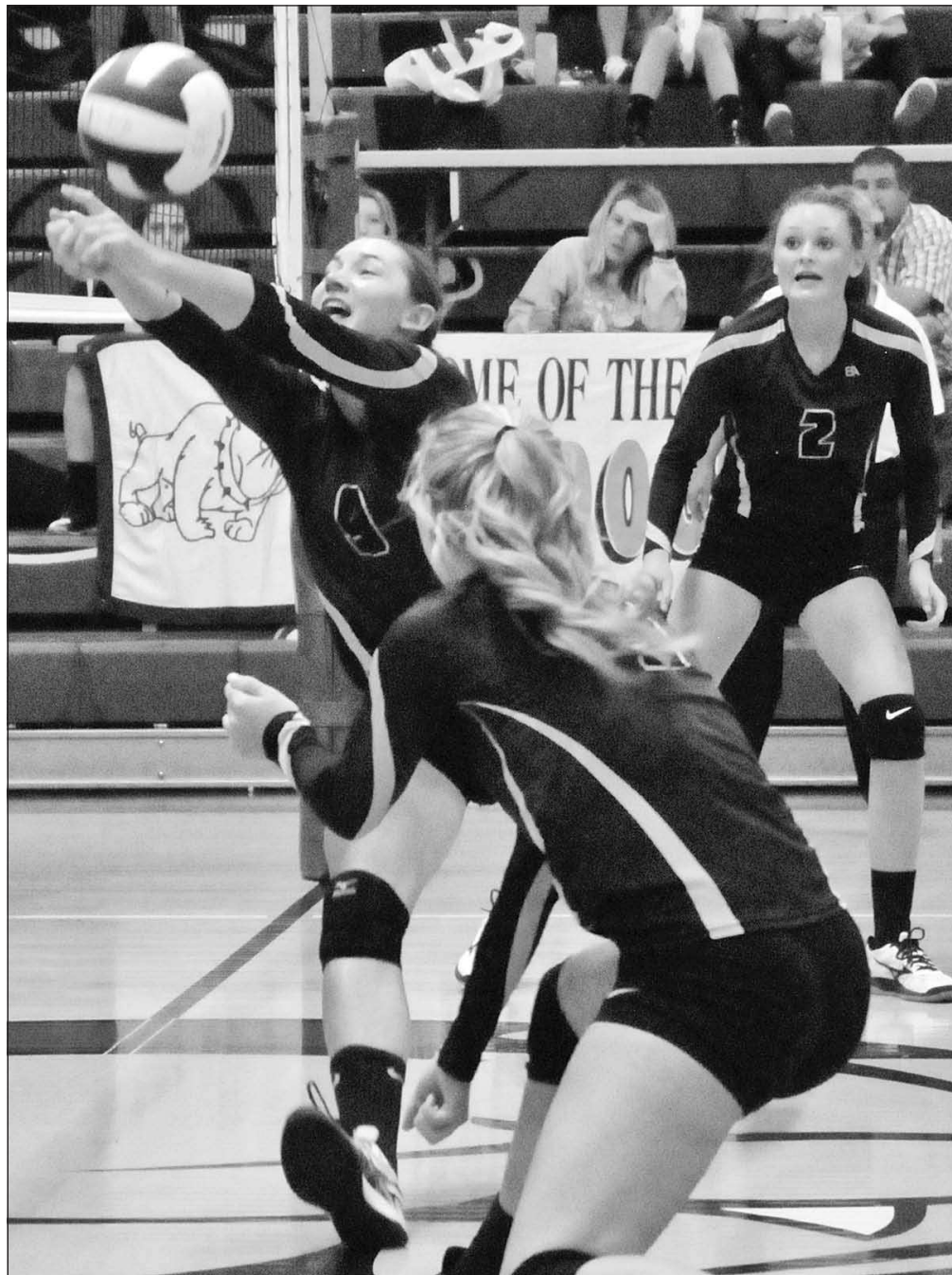
Williams was certainly impressed.

"She was so focused," the 36-year-old Williams said.

"I think, you know, whenever I had a break point, she came up with some great serve. Honestly, there's a lot I can learn from her from this match. I hope to learn a lot from that."

It was that way throughout the tournament for Osaka, who won the second title of her career. She was mostly dominant, dropping only one set in her seven matches.

BAKER VOLLEYBALL



S. John Collins/Baker City Herald

Emma Finley and her Baker teammates placed second at Burns Saturday.

POWDER VALLEY VOLLEYBALL

Powder unbeaten

By Gerry Steele
gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Powder Valley's volleyball team had a much quieter week than earlier in the season.

The Lady Badgers remained unbeaten on the season, winning their Old Oregon League-opening match at Wallowa.

Powder coach Marji Lind said the games were all very close, 25-20, 20-25, 25-20 and 25-20, with Powder Valley able to close it out in four games.

"Wallowa played amazing defense through out the match and we were just not able to find a rhythm on our own side, but the girls were able to keep their focus and composure and close out the game," Lind said.

The win keeps Powder undefeated at 12-0, with a record of 1-0 in league.

Lind said the Powder Valley JV were only able to play one game against Wallowa due to the number of players available for Wallowa, but the younger Badgers too played great volleyball and took the win. The improvement each week is amazing to watch in these younger athletes, Lind said.

This week, the Lady Badgers face Imbler Thursday, Saturday the JV girls host a small tournament, then end the day with a varsity league match against Pine-Eagle at home. Saturday Powder hosts a large and super tough tournament in Powder between 8 teams.

"A lot of volleyball coming our way and each week the girls are working hard and constantly improving in various facets of the game," Lind said.

Bulldogs second at Burns

By Gerry Steele
gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Baker placed second at the annual Burns Invitational volleyball tournament Saturday at Burns High School.

The Bulldogs lost 25-10,

21-25, 5-15 to Nampa Christian in the championship match.

Baker finished first in its pool, splitting with Bonanza 21-25, 25-17, beating Adrian 25-23, 25-21 and topping

Nyssa 25-23, 25-17.

In bracket play, Baker defeated Ontario 25-22, 25-10, and Burns 25-19, 23-25, 15-7.

Baker opens Greater Oregon League play Tuesday at Ontario.

Baker JV wins Weiser title

By Gerry Steele
gsteele@bakercityherald.com

Baker's junior varsity volleyball team won the championship at the Weiser tournament Saturday.

The Bulldogs defeated Tri-Valey 25-17, 25-19 in the title match.

In pool play, Baker defeated Cole Valley 30-24, Weiser 30-26, and Parma 30-8 while

losing to Tri-Valley 30-23.

Baker was seeded fourth in bracket play, facing No. 1 seed Skyview in its first match. Baker won the semifinal match 26-24, 25-21.

PORTLAND TIMBERS

Timbers win 2-0, up to 5th in playoff race

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Jeremy Ebobisse scored in just his second game of the season and Diego Valeri added a goal to give the Portland Timbers a 2-0 victory over the Colorado Rapids on Saturday night.

The Timbers went into the game hanging on to the sixth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference and needing the win with just seven games left. The victory moved them up a spot into fifth, ahead of the Seattle Sounders.

Portland (12-7-8) is unbeaten in three straight games after a four-match losing streak that threatened their playoff hopes.

"I thought the team played very well today, defensively strong, offensively creating a lot of chances," Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said.

"You know, credit to the guys; because I thought this was one of the best games we've played so far. It was very, very good."

It was the third straight loss for the Rapids (6-15-6). Colorado is in second-to-last place in the West, just above San Jose.

"Obviously I'm gutted for the players. There was a lot that was good tonight. It's tough because I thought they deserved a little bit more out of the game," Rapids coach Anthony Hudson said. "I can't ask any more from the players. They've given everything. They're trying to do things the right way.

Both teams were miss-

ing players because of the international break. The Rapids were without Kellyn Acosta, who is with the U.S. men's national team for a pair of friendlies. Brazil defeated

the United States 2-0 Friday night in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The U.S. team plays Mexico on Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee.

Colorado was also missing Niki Jackson and Bismark Boateng, who were sent off in Colorado's 6-0 loss to Real Salt Lake two weeks ago.

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