

Winter (Hawk) Wonderland

Mike Guidice

Sports Editor

If you are an Oregonian, chances are, at any given time of the year, you are not feeling particularly fulfilled in regards to sports entertainment. Whereas many states have as many as three professional basketball and/or baseball teams (dirty California comes to mind), Oregon is relegated to cheering on the young, inexperienced Trailblazers.

Being as we are part of the Pacific Northwest, along with Washington, many people seem to root for the Seahawks and Mariners. I am a fan of neither of these teams, and hopefully you aren't either. The Mariners let Pay-Rod, Griffey Son and The Big Mullet all leave. At least when Piniella was around, things were kept somewhat entertaining with his sporadic tirades and base-chucking antics.

The Seachickens, on the other hand, finally achieved the unthinkable, and were credible this last season. The parting image football fans have of them, however, is them losing the Super Bowl and crying about it afterwards to anyone who would listen. Pittsburgh was clearly the superior team. Man up and accept it, Holmgren.

The 'Hawks have been inconsistent this season and have much adversity to overcome, as both their Pro Bowl QB (Hasselbeck) and RB (Alexander) are out with injuries. At least their stadium is shiny and immaculate, there's always that.

This all brings me to my main point. Go watch the Portland Winter Hawks! The major junior hockey team was recently cited in an article by ESPN's Terry Frei as one of the 10 best hockey experiences in all of North America.

Memorial Coliseum (yes, the glass palace is still in existence) is home to Portland's poppin' hockey team. The Winter Hawks have produced such NHL all-stars as Marian Hossa and Cam Neely, and continue to develop young high school and college prospects.

The games are full of hard hits, gut-wrenching goals, and stellar saves. Most entertaining and exciting would be the fights that are almost guaranteed to erupt at any given time. I'm not one to generally advocate violence ... but, this is hockey, and fists of fury are just as much a part of the game as Wayne Gretzky operating in his "office" behind the goal.

The Winter Hawks' season is young and will run for about another five months, so you have adequate time to get involved in the excitement and attend some games at the Coliseum. Games are fun for people of all ages and backgrounds.

It's a great family event being as the organization offers a plethora of family promotional give-aways and themed festivities. On the other hand, you can also just go with a group of buddies and drink beer and cheer loudly during the altercations between teams, getting ugly looks from the elderly persuasion, who are always easily offended. Either are fun, either are perfectly acceptable.

Get in on the action and see what everyone (even ESPN) is talking about. It's not hard to get a ticket or to find the venue, just ask Bill Walton.

Oregonians may not have a professional baseball, football or hockey team, but the Portland Winter Hawks are the closest thing to it, and don't just take my word for it.



All photos by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Sophomore Midfielder Stephanie Catt pushes the ball upfield past multiple Clark defenders. After being a three-year varsity letter winner at Madison HS, Catt briefly played at Southern Oregon University before transferring to Clackamas.

RIGHT: Sophomore Alle Petty slide tackles her opposition as a means of separating the ball from the player. Petty hails from Port Angeles, Wash.



Soccer Schedule:

Oct. 27 @ Eugene vs. Lane C.C.

Oct. 28 @ Coos Bay vs. SW Oregon C.C.

Nov. 1 @ Vancouver vs. Clark College

Ducks get mucked, Beavers achievers, gazers like Blazers

Frank Jordan

The Clackamas Print

Just a few musings on our current athletic state of affairs ...

The Oregon Ducks dropped the ball (literally) in Pullman, Wash. last Saturday and lost to the Washington State Cougars 34-23. This pretty much sealed their fate as a second-tier football team in the Pac-10 and, barring a miracle (a Cal loss or two, a USC loss or two, a WSU loss or two), will be making reservations for either El Paso and the Sun Bowl (ugh!!), or Las Vegas come Christmas time and a bowl in Sin City. Just think, Oregon could finish at 10-2 and finish in fourth place in the conference. So much for the down year in the Pac-10 ...

Oregon State, on the other hand, squeaked out a win in Tucson, Ariz., and await the USC Trojans this Saturday at Reser Stadium in Corvallis. USC will be a big favorite, but the Trojans have struggled this year and may be ripe for an upset. The Beavers will have to bring their A, B and C games to stay with the mighty Trojans, but a loss won't be the end of their season. Should make for an interesting

Civil War this year (by the way, to be held at Reser) ...

Going professional, the Portland Trail Blazers are about to kick off another NBA season next week, and is it just me, or are people generally excited about this team? I am, but I will take a wait-and-see attitude with this squad. I just hope they show the same fire night after night that they have shown so far in the preseason. Just think, in two or three years, all of our recent suffering may pay off with some runs for the title. One can only hope and dream ...

One more thing, then I will leave everyone be. Isn't the six-class OSAA realignment a wonderful thing? I really think so. Everyone is so much more competitive than in the old four-class system. High school athletic programs that got stomped on a regular basis have found new life in their new leagues, and to those schools, playoffs and state championships are a real possibility. And to those schools in Eugene and Medford that didn't want to have this system happen, look at your brethren in Eastern Oregon that have had to put up with the travel and lost class time for years. They have endured, why can't you?

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