

Sports & Recreation

Tight training schedule for High Desert Storm

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

REDMOND — Keith Evans, the head coach of the Oregon High Desert Storm, made one guarantee as the indoor professional football team opened training camp in preparation for its quickly approaching opening game.

For the first couple of days, there would be no football, he said. Instead the first part of training camp is to see which players came ready to play and those of whom might not be physically ready to help the team.

“We got 18 practices before we go to Idaho, and the goal is to get that win,” said Evans at the Deschutes County fairgrounds Friday evening. “I have 18 practices to first see who is in shape, who is going to start. If you aren’t in shape and I see that you can’t get in shape in a couple of days. I can’t do anything for you.”

The inaugural season for the Desert Storm kicks off May 8 at the Ford Idaho Center against the Idaho Horsemen. As much as getting into playing shape is important, the next couple of weeks will be vital to take a group of players from around the country and get them into a team that can contend for a title.

One of the players the Storm brought is a veteran of arena football, Chuck Jones, who has been in the league for nine seasons and has been part of championship teams throughout his career.

Jones was not sure if he would play another season, but Evans asked if he had one more left in him. “It is one



Members of the Oregon High Desert Storm indoor football team run laps during practice at the Deschutes County fairgrounds on Friday.

thing to have a lot of good players, but it is another thing to bring it all together and have everyone working on the same wavelength and towards the same goal,” said Jones. “I can offer the experience of going through camp, letting guys know that they have to continue to work hard, and play with consistency.”

A small handful of players have played ball together. But for many of these players, this is the first time they have played arena league football or have been to Oregon. A small group

of players got to experience a uniquely Oregon experience within the first day of being in the state.

While driving with a couple of players, assistant general manager Nick Moss stopped at a gas station to refuel. The players in the car were caught off guard, even shocked, a gas attendant came to the car to pump the gas, said Moss.

The chance to play professional football brought William Crest to Central Oregon from the east coast. Crest is a Baltimore native and played



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

Storm head coach Keith Evans blows his whistle to start a drill during practice at the fairgrounds Friday.

his college football at West Virginia and most of his knowledge of Oregon comes from following the University of Oregon football program.

He never got the chance to play for the Ducks, but is happy to finally make it to the west coast.

“You always hear about the Oregon program so much and I wanted to go there,” said Crest. “But Oregon is lovely. I’m grateful to be here and grateful for the people who invested in me. Now I’m going to invest into this community and this state.”

Less than three weeks away from their first game, the Storm must narrow down the roster to 21 active players who will suit up for games. While currently on the team for training

camp, there is still no guarantee that they will land on the active roster. But players are excited for the chance to compete and continue the game they have played most of their lives.

“This is an opportunity for me to get back in the game,” said Crest. “I want to be an asset to this team.”

For Jones, playing his final season, he wants to end his arena career the same way he started it — with a championship. “I love the game, I breathe the game, I miss the game, been training for months for this,” said Jones. “I decided to go out on that limb and try and win another championship and go out the right way.”

Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com

READER SUBMISSION

City councilor was correct in defending female athletics

BY LYNEIL VANDERMOLEN

Guest commentary
You know society is evolving when men criticize a woman for defending girls. I refer to the overreaction by three local men to a remark that Redmond City Council member Krisanna Clark-Endicott made in February.

She had agreed with South Dakota’s decision to keep biological males out of girls’ sports. Males who have already gone through puberty will always have denser bones and greater muscle mass, lung capacity and blood volume than biological girls — even after hormone treatments. Their narrower pelvises are also more efficient for running.

Given these biological differences, the states of Alabama, South Dakota, Kansas and Tennessee have formally legislated

against pitting biological males against girls in sports, but Oregon remains dominated by Portland culture and, in a cult-like denial of reality, forces biological females to put up with it. Some have had enough.

Tired of losing every track meet, title and athletic scholarship to two physical males, three teenage girls sued the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference last year. One of them, Selena Soule, expressed in an interview — “When we line up in front of our blocks and get into position, we all know how this race will end. We can’t win.”

In an angry response, a slew of Connecticut sports clubs, human rights groups, LGBT organizations and the state Department of Education condemned the girls’ lawsuit. Former President Donald Trump

signed an executive order to restrict girls sports to biological females, but President Joe Biden rescinded the order on his first day in office and restored the Title IX order for transgender athletic “equity.”

The issue has hit home now that three local men, John Riggs, Eric Garrity and Clifford Evelyn, criticized Councilor Clark-Endicott for her support for biologically separate sports.

First, Garrity said it was wrong to “mock” the transgender population because of its high suicide rate. But one of the world’s most outspoken ex-transgender people, Walt Heyer, attests that self-discomfort from dissociative disorder or body dysmorphia accounts for most of their depression — not society’s behavior.

Undermining the opportunities for biological girls in order to cater to a tiny fraction of athletes is grossly unfair. An open

gender division would be kinder than relegating all biological females to virtual coed sports.

Next, Riggs called Endicott’s remark “transphobic” and “clearly bigoted.” How does shielding females from physical domination by males fit either of those labels? Enraged, illogical hyperbole is a sad substitute for reason.

Lastly, Redmond City Councilor Clifford Evelyn claimed that Clark-Endicott’s statement was “contrary to us being a welcoming city.” It’s worse to be a delusional city. Would he want his daughter’s athletic hopes to be crushed by a biological male on the track or the wrestling mat? I think not.

All three men should have praised Clark-Endicott for wanting sports to be biologically fair. Given all the “safe spaces” that activists demand for participants in the victimhood Olympics, I’m surprised there’s no recognition of bio-

logical girls — but that would create a nightmare of conflicting, intersectional rights.

Instead, Riggs, Garrity and Evelyn staged a virtue-signaling contest against Clark-Endicott’s belief that girls sports shouldn’t mean coed sports. They seem happy to accept the redefinition the female sex without their permission and push them to the back of the sports bus for the sake of anyone appropriating their identity.

I’m calling foul. Men like these belong in Portland, not Redmond.

■ Lyneil Vandermolen is a graduate of Redmond High School and holds a B.A. in journalism from the University of Oregon.

SUBMISSIONS

The Spokesman welcomes letters to the editor and guest columnists. Submissions may be edited or rejected for clarity, taste, libel and space. They must be signed and include an address and a telephone number where the writer can be reached during business hours. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

For more information, call 541-633-2166

To submit, email is preferred: news@redmondspokesman.com

Submissions can also be mailed to: P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708

DEATH NOTICES

Vicki Ann Nicholson of Redmond, OR January 31, 1954 - April 13, 2021

Arrangements: Autumn Funerals of Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485 Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family on our website at www.autumnfunerals.net

Services: A private service will be held at a later date.

Contributions may be made to:

Contributions on Vicki’s behalf may be made to Autism Research Institute, 4182 Adams Ave., San Diego, CA 92116, or donate on line at www.autism.org, or donations may be made to Brightside Animal Center, 1355 NE Hemlock Ave., Redmond, OR 97756.

Donna Cecelia Hatch-Bartley of Redmond, OR December 30, 1938 - April 11, 2021

Arrangements: Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. 541-382-2471 Please visit the online registry for the family at www.niswonger-reynolds.com

Services: A gathering of family & friends will be held at a later date.

Contributions may be made to: Country Side Living 1350 NW Canal Blvd, Redmond, OR, 97756 or Alzheimers Association 777 NW Wall St, Bend, OR 97703

Glenn Alan Harris of Terrebonne, OR January 19, 1956 - April 12, 2021

Arrangements: Autumn Funerals-Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485. Condolences may be conveyed to the family at www.autumnfunerals.net

Services: Service information to be announced at a later date.

Viola Ruth Maisch of Bend, OR September 16, 1925 - April 8, 2021

Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Redmond 541-504-9485 www.autumnfunerals.net

Services: A Celebration of life will be held in Colorado in early summer.

Dale Ross Cheney, Sr. of Redmond, OR October 14, 1934 - April 5, 2021

Arrangements: Autumn Funerals - REDMOND www.autumnfunerals.net 541-504-9485

Services: Services have been held.

Rodney Lee Little of Prineville, OR Feb 7, 1942 - March 26, 2021

Services: Celebration of Life 4/16/21 @ 1:00pm Mitchell Baptist Church, Mitchell Contributions may be made to: American Cancer Society

Solution to crossword on Page 2

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OBITUARY

Glenn Alan Harris

January 19, 1956 - April 12, 2021

Glenn Alan Harris was born January 19, 1956 in Prineville, Oregon to Dell and Jessie (Osborne) Harris. He attended Terrebonne School and graduated from Redmond High in 1974. He married Sandy Fromdahl in 1979 in Redmond. Glenn worked as a timber faller throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest for much of his life. He loved falling timber and was good at it. We will always think of him when we smell fresh sawdust. An accidental fire took his life on April 12, 2021.

Glenn is survived by his mother Jessie Harris of Terrebonne; son Scott Lawrence, his wife Lesa, and grandsons John, Kagen, and Tate, all of Redmond; daughter Julie Cooley and her husband Marshall of Bend; daughter Stacy Harris and her children Cash and Ayla of Roseburg; brother Bill Harris of Arlington, Oregon; and brother John Harris of Terrebonne. He is preceded in death by his father, Dell.

The family will hold a private remembrance in the woods at a later date.



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