

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL

Knappa
tournament
begins today

The Daily Astorian

Two days of tournament basketball starts today at Knappa, as the Loggers host their annual Tip-Off Classic.

The action begins at 4 p.m., with Oregon Episcopal vs. Astoria girls, followed by OES vs. Astoria boys.

First-day action wraps up with Toledo vs. Knappa girls (7 p.m.) and Toledo vs. Knappa boys (8:30 p.m.).

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE:

(Game times are approximate)
9 a.m.: Knappa JV2 vs. Astoria JV2
11 a.m.: Toledo JV vs. Knappa JV boys
12:30: OES vs. Toledo girls
2:00: OES vs. Toledo boys
3:30: Astoria JV vs. Knappa JV girls
5:00: Astoria JV vs. Knappa JV boys
6:30: Astoria vs. Knappa girls
8:00: Astoria vs. Knappa boys

Warrenton girls
open with win
at Nestucca

The Daily Astorian

CLOVERDALE — The Warrenton girls basketball team had no trouble against Nestucca Thursday night, as the Lady Warriors won their season opener, 63-24, in nonleague action at Cloverdale.

Warrenton held an 11-0 lead after one quarter, and outscored the Bobcats 28-3 in the third quarter.

Tyla Little led all scorers with 21 points and Claire Bussert added 15 for the Warriors. Fernanda Alvarez scored all seven of her points in the first quarter for Warrenton, which hosts Junction City Saturday.

US bobsledder
Bailey hit
with 2-year
doping ban

Associated Press

U.S. bobsledder Ryan Bailey was banned for two years for what he contends was an inadvertent doping violation, ending the former track and field medalist's bid to compete in the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport publicly announced the ruling Friday, agreeing with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's stance that a six-month ban Bailey served earlier this year was not enough.

Bailey was part of the U.S. team that won a silver medal in the 4x100-meter relay at the London Games in 2012. That medal was stripped years later following the doping conviction of relay teammate Tyson Gay. Bailey, still angry about forfeiting that silver, turned to bobsledding last year with hopes of getting back to the Olympics.

"I feel terrible for the guy," said U.S. bobsled driver Nick Cunningham, who was racing with Bailey this season and won a World Cup silver medal with him last month in Lake Placid, New York.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Girls basketball — Gladstone at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.

Boys basketball — Seaside at Gladstone, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — Junction City at Warrenton, 5:15 p.m.

Boys basketball — Warrenton at Gaston, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Warrenton 63, Nestucca 24
Warrenton 11 16 28 8—63
Nestucca 0 12 3 9—24
WAR (63): Tyla Little 21, Bussert 15, Alvarez 7, Doney 5, Ramsey 5, M. Blodgett 4, Heyen 3, DeJesus 2, Kapua 1, Talancon, Foster, Diego.



AP Photo/Don FERIA

Seattle Seahawks tight end Jimmy Graham celebrates after a touchdown reception against the San Francisco 49ers.

Eagles bring 10-1 record to
Seattle to face Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — It took a moment for Bobby Wagner to recall four years ago and what it felt like to be on a team that was 10-1 at one point of the season.

"That was a long time ago. I just remember a lot of winning and a lot of laughter," Wagner said. "It kind of just feels like you understand you are going to get everybody's best game."

"I just remember teams would put in plays that they hadn't practiced, hadn't put on film, so we just had to prepare for a lot of things because when you're that top dog, everybody wants to take you down and they will do whatever they can to take you down."

A team that looks very similar to that 2013 version of the Seahawks comes to Seattle on Sunday night when the 10-1 Philadelphia Eagles visit, riding a nine-game win streak and showing many of the same characteristics of that Seattle team from four years ago that ended up winning a Super Bowl.

The Eagles have been pummeling opponents, winning the past four games by 20 or more points. Should they add the Seahawks to that list, they would join the 1999 Rams as the

UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

• Philadelphia Eagles (10-1)
at Seattle Seahawks (7-4)
• Sunday, 5:30 p.m. TV: NBC

only teams in the Super Bowl era to win five straight games by at least 20.

They are led by a second-year quarterback in Carson Wentz who has blossomed in a similar way to how Russell Wilson did in his second year. The Eagles are committed to running the ball with LeGarrette Blount and Jay Ajayi and are the best in the NFL at stopping the run.

If that all sounds familiar, it's because that mimics much of the same formula Seattle used to become an NFC power.

And after winning in Carolina, Kansas City and thumping the Cowboys in Dallas, a victory in Seattle would add even more validity to the Eagles being the favorites in the NFC.

"Their confidence, each week, gets a little stronger and they enjoy playing together as units, offensively, defensively, and obviously on special teams and they are having fun doing it," Philadelphia coach Doug Pederson said.

Middleton has 26, Milwaukee beats the Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Bucks tried to take 3-pointers away and contest every shot, a tactic that worked well against Portland.

Khris Middleton had 26 points, Eric Bledsoe had 25 and Milwaukee beat the Trail Blazers 103-91 on Thursday night to snap Portland's three-game winning streak.

Giannis Antetokounmpo added 20 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots for the Bucks, who have won their last four games against the Blazers.

"I think it was our defense," Middleton said. "(CJ) McCollum and Dame (Lillard), those are two dynamic scorers, especially from the 3-point line. We did a great job of keeping them off the line."

The Bucks led by 24 points in the third quarter and the Blazers struggled to keep up. Portland was also vexed by turnovers, with 19.

Jusuf Nurkic led Portland with 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Damian Lillard added 18 points.

Lillard's layup closed Portland within 94-81 with 5:52 left, and it appeared the Blazers may rally, but Middleton answered with an 11-foot jumper. Portland's frustration was clear when Nurkic and coach Terry Stotts both earned technicals for a foul call on Nurkic on a block.

"Tough game," Lillard said. "They played physical, they played aggressive defensively. We know they like to load up and use their length, and



AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo is tied up for a jump ball by Portland Trail Blazers forward Maurice Harkless, right, during Thursday's game in Portland.

UP NEXT: BLAZERS

• New Orleans Pelicans (11-10)
at Portland Trail Blazers (13-9)
• Saturday, 7 p.m. TV: NSNW

they were allowed to play that way. So it is what it is."

Portland was coming off a 4-1 trip, including a 103-91 victory over the Knicks on Monday. The Blazers also saw the return of forward Al-Farouq Aminu, who missed 13 games with a right ankle injury.

But they struggled with the Bucks from the start.

Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Bucks a 33-21 lead at the end of the first quarter. Portland

went on a 10-2 run to close within 35-31, but Middleton slowed the rally with a long jumper.

John Henson's short jumper put the Bucks up 46-33 as the Trail Blazers struggled to find much offensive flow. Lillard went up for a layup to end the half, and he was blocked by Antetokounmpo.

Milwaukee led 60-45 at the break, propelled by Bledsoe with 17 points. Bledsoe's jumper stretched the lead to 69-49 in the third quarter.

Bledsoe's layup made it 83-59, and boos could be heard among the hometown fans.

Henson had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who withstood any efforts by the Blazers to rally.

"That is a credit to the players and how well they prepare during the week. But yeah, they are gaining confidence in each other and it's exciting to watch them play."

Seattle has recently struggled at home. Combined with the loss of Richard Sherman, Kam Chancellor and Cliff Avril with season-ending injuries, some of the Seahawks are feeling as if they're being overlooked even if they are still only one-game behind the Rams in the NFC West.

"It's human nature. I'm not mad when people do that. I understand. I get it," Seattle linebacker K.J. Wright said. "But in this building we've got to know who we are, stay true to what we do and believe in ourselves."

Here's what else to watch as Seattle goes for its fourth straight win over the Eagles:

HOME DOGS: Seattle hasn't been this decided a home underdog since 2012 when Wilson was a rookie facing New England, and Sherman was the one walking off the field asking Tom Brady "U Mad Bro?" Playing in Seattle has been a fortress for most of Pete Carroll's tenure, but the Seahawks have lost two straight at home. The previous time they dropped three in a row at CenturyLink Field? 2008.

Sounders
return to MLS
Cup after rout
of Dynamo

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — On their way to a title last year, all the benchmark celebrations for the Seattle Sounders came away from home.

Finally with the chance to clinch in front of their fans, the Sounders weren't about to collapse. They were dominant on the way to another MLS Cup final.

Victor Rodriguez scored on a nifty give-and-go with Will Bruin in the 22nd minute, Clint Dempsey added his third goal of the play-offs early in the second half, and the Sounders advanced to the final with a 3-0 win over the Houston Dynamo on Thursday night.

The defending champions rolled through the Dynamo 5-0 on aggregate after their convincing two-goal win in Houston last week. Bruin added his second goal of the series in the 73rd minute as the Sounders advanced to face Toronto with the opportunity to become the first repeat MLS Cup champions since the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2011-12 — and on the same field Seattle won its first title a year ago. The Sounders and Toronto played to a 0-0 draw in the 2016 final before Seattle won on penalty kicks.