

SPORTS

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RUN TO VICTORY

Knappa graduate Devin Lewis-Allen in the blocks for the Eastern Oregon University track team.

Eastern Oregon University

Knappa's Lewis-Allen part of relay title

The Daily Astorian

PITTSBURG, Kan. — The Eastern Oregon University men's distance medley relay team — which includes a former Knappa Logger — won a national title at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships last Saturday in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The foursome of Michael Slagowski, Thomas Morrell III, Dustin Zimmerly and Knappa High graduate Devin Lewis-Allen won EOU's first national title in a relay event, making every second in the race count.

Down to the final leg of a thrilling 4,000-meter race, Slagowski just outstretched a runner from Olivet Nazarene to win the race by .01 seconds.

The Mountaineers of Eastern Oregon took home the national title with a program-record of 10 minutes, 0.45 seconds, while Olivet Nazarene took second at 10:00.46.

"What a way to finish the meet," said EOU head coach Ben Welch. "Those young men came into the meet ranked 10th with the goal of winning, stayed focused over three days of hard racing and delivered."

The Mountaineers enter the outdoor track and field season with the EOU Team Challenge 1 in Hermiston, March 17. Lewis-Allen is in his junior year at Eastern Oregon.



Eastern Oregon University

EOU's winning distance medley relay squad, including Knappa's Devin Lewis-Allen, lower right.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Dempsey's late goal lifts Sounders past Chivas, 1-0

SEATTLE — Clint Dempsey scored from straight in front of the goal in the 78th minute, giving the Seattle Sounders a 1-0 victory over CD Chivas Guadalajara on Wednesday night in the first leg of the CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinal series.

Defender Jordan McCrary started the play that led to the goal with a through ball down the right wing side. Henry Wingo who had just subbed in five minutes earlier, caught up it and took it almost to the end line. He crossed it into the penalty area, Dempsey met it at the penalty spot and drilled a hard shot into the back left corner past goalkeeper Rodolfo Cota.

NBA reviewing sexual assault allegations against Cuban

DALLAS — The NBA is reviewing 2011 allegations of sexual assault against Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and the investigation that led to a decision by prosecutors not to pursue the case.

League spokesman Mike Bass said Wednesday the NBA was looking into the matter, a day after a weekly alternative newspaper in Portland reported a woman's claim that Cuban put his hands down her pants and touched her inappropriately while they were taking a photo at a Portland nightclub.

"The NBA league office is reviewing the 2011 allegations against Mark Cuban and the subsequent findings from the Portland police investigation," Bass said.

— Associated Press

PAC-12 TOURNAMENT

Oregon State Beavers beat Washington 69-66 in OT win



AP Photo/Isaac Brekken

Washington's Matisse Thybulle, left, and Jaylen Nowell, right, and Oregon State's Alfred Hollins reach for a loose ball during Wednesday's game in the first round of the Pac-12 men's tournament in Las Vegas.

By JOHN MARSHALL
 Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Oregon State had a penchant for finding ways to lose instead of win for most of the regular season. If the opposing team hit a big shot or one of the Beavers missed a key free throw, they would slump their shoulders and watch the other team walk off with a victory.

With a chance to move on in the Pac-12 tournament, Oregon State found a way to make the big plays down the stretch.

Drew Eubanks scored 19 points, Stephen Thompson Jr. added 14 and the Beavers outlasted Washington 69-66 in overtime on Wednesday night in the opening round of the tournament.

"We said at halftime: 'Guys, when we make mistakes and we coach you and get after you, you can't drop your chins,'" Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. "That's part of developing toughness and maturity. And I thought the second half we really did that. That was the difference."

Oregon beats Washington State 64-62 in OT

By JOHN MARSHALL
 Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Payton Pritchard scored on a runner late in overtime and Kenny Wooten had a pair of blocked shots in the final 13 seconds, lifting Oregon to a 64-62 victory over Washington State in the opening round of the of the Pac-12 tournament on Wednesday night.

Washington State (12-19) led by three, but Troy Brown scored on a hard drive and Pritchard put Oregon (21-11) up 63-62 on his runner. After Wooten blocked Malachi Flynn's drive, Pritchard missed two free throws and Brown was fouled after grabbing an offensive rebound.

Brown made 1 of 2 to give the Ducks a final chance, but Wooten swooped in to erase Milan Acquah's drive just before the buzzer sounded.

Oregon moves on to play No. 3 seed Utah in Thursday's quarterfinals. Pritchard and MiKyle McIntosh had 18 points each to help Oregon rally from a dismal first half.

Flynn had 22 points and Robert Franks added 16 for Washington State.

Oregon had a 20-win regular season and a winning record in the Pac-12, yet still is considered a fringe NCAA Tournament bubble team.

The Ducks need a good run in the conference tournament, possibly all the way to the title game.

The first step there was the second game against Washington State in six days. The Cougars won that game 78-76 behind a superb all-around game by Flynn.

Oregon's push didn't get off to a very good start. The Ducks missed their first six shots and didn't score in the opening 5:15.



AP Photo/Isaac Brekken

Washington State's Robert Franks, left, tries to pass as he falls to the court as Oregon's Elijah Brown defends during Wednesday's game in the first round of the Pac-12 men's tournament in Las Vegas.

Mariners bring back 44-year-old Ichiro Suzuki

PEORIA, Ariz. — Ichiro Suzuki's wish was granted. He is back in the familiar white and blue jersey of the Seattle Mariners.

"Even in the offseason when I would go back to Japan, I always came back to Seattle. This was my home ... has always been my home," the 44-year-old outfielder said through a translator Wednesday after finalizing a \$750,000, one-year contract. "Somewhere deep inside, I wanted to return and wear this uniform again."

Almost six years away, Suzuki returned to help patch an injury-depleted outfield on the team he played for from 2001-12. The 10-time All-Star can earn an additional \$1.25 million in performance bonuses based on plate appearances: \$200,000 each for 150 and each additional 50 through 350, and \$250,000 for 400.

Suzuki earned the 2001 AL Rookie of the Year and MVP, with the Mariners and won a pair of AL batting titles. He was traded to the New York Yankees midway through 2012, played parts of three seasons with the Yankees, then spent three seasons with Miami.

He has a .312 average and 3,080 hits, not including the 1,278 hits he amassed in nine seasons in Japan. Suzuki appeared in 136 games last year for the Miami Marlins and hit .255 with a .318 on-base percentage.

— Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY
 Boys basketball — OSAA Class 4A state tournament quarterfinals (at Forest Grove High School):
 Sisters vs. Banks, 1:30 p.m.
 Valley Catholic vs. La Grande, 3:15 p.m.
 Newport vs. Marshfield, 6:30 p.m.
 Mazama vs. Seaside, 8:15 p.m.