

SPORTS

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Shiffrin secures overall World Cup title

OFTERSCHWANG, German — Mikaela Shiffrin can finally relax again.

After a tense build-up to the Olympics, the American won her second straight overall World Cup title on Friday, five races before the end of the season.

"It's been a big battle for me mentally to know exactly where my focus should be," said Shiffrin, who turns 23 on Tuesday. "It was quite a relief actually when the Olympics were over so I could focus on the rest of the World Cup season."

Shiffrin won the Olympic gold medal in the giant slalom, and it was in Friday's giant slalom that she clinched the overall World Cup title by finishing third. Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway, the Olympic silver medalist, won the race.

Even before her final run, Shiffrin was guaranteed of winning the title because her only remaining rival, Wendy Holdener, failed to finish in the top two, which she needed to maintain her mathematical title chance.

Rose signs with Minnesota, reunites with Thibodeau

For Derrick Rose, what's old is new again.

Rose has signed with the Minnesota Timberwolves, reuniting the 2011 NBA MVP with three mainstays from his days in Chicago: coach Tom Thibodeau and teammates Jimmy Butler and Taj Gibson. The Timberwolves did not release contract terms, but a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press the deal is for the remainder of the season.

Rose was in uniform for the Wolves on Thursday night against Boston, but he didn't get in the game.

"The only thing I'm missing now is the opportunity," Rose told reporters in Minnesota earlier in the day. "Talking to Thibs, he sounds like he's going to give me the opportunity, so it's all about learning the guys and fitting in at the right time."

Minnesota will be the fourth team Rose plays for and technically his fourth franchise in the last 11 months. Rose spent his first eight NBA years in Chicago, five of those with Thibodeau as his coach. He was with New York last season and started this season with Cleveland, but he appeared in only 16 games with the Cavaliers largely because of injuries.

— Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys basketball — OSAA 4A Semifinals, at Forest Grove High School: Valley Catholic vs. Banks, 6:30 p.m. Newport vs. Seaside, 8:15 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Seaside 51, Mazama 44
Mazama 6 4 15 19-44
Seaside 12 8 17 14-51
Mazama (44): Andrew Reynolds 18, Mario Segura 10, Trey Lopez 6, Aidan Schram 5, Javon Hall 4, Steven Luna 1, Christian Kasper.

Seaside (51): Ryan Hague 13, Payton Westerholm 12, Chase Januik 11, Beau Johnson 6, Colton Carter 4, Brayden Johnson 3, Duncan Thompson 2, Rafi Sibony.

Field goals: Mazama 16-58; Seaside 18-50. **3-point FG:** Mazama 2-17 (Lopez, Reynolds); Seaside 4-23 (Januik, Westerholm, Be.Johnson, Br.Johnson). **Free throws:** Mazama 10-16; Seaside 11-22. **Fouls:** Mazama 17, Seaside 16. **Fouled out:** none. **Turnovers:** Mazama 14, Seaside 9. **Rebounds:** Mazama 47 (Reynolds 11, Segura 11); Seaside 37 (Hague 10).

Players of the Game: Mazama-Andrew Reynolds; Seaside-Ryan Hague.

4A STATE TOURNAMENT

4A Boys Quarterfinals
Banks 46, Sisters 38
Valley Catholic 62, La Grande 39
Newport 55, Marshfield 48
Seaside 51, Mazama 44
4A Girls Quarterfinals
Marshfield 54, Valley Catholic 39
Banks 56, Baker 30
Cascade 22, Stayton 18
North Marion 40, Hidden Valley 26



Jeff Ter Har/For The Daily Astorian

Seaside's Duncan Thompson, right, challenges Mario Segura of Mazama for a rebound.

Seaside boys reach Final Four with 51-44 win over Mazama

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

FOREST GROVE — The countdown to a championship is on for the Seaside boys basketball team.

The Gulls will play three games in three days, and they took step one late Thursday night in Forest Grove, where they cruised to a 51-44 win over Mazama in a Class 4A quarterfinal game at Forest Grove High School.

One down, two to go.

Seaside struggled offensively for a half, then pulled away in the third quarter and held off a late challenge by the Vikings, as all eyes were on the defending state champions in Thursday's last game.

"We pulled away there in the second half," said Seaside coach Bill Westerholm. "We had some opportunities to put it away earlier at the free throw line, but we didn't shoot very well from the line in the fourth. We were 8-for-19."

"But just from the fact that we're moving on, I'm pleased. We had some different kids step up at different times."

For the third year in a row, it's on to the Final Four for Seaside, which will play Friday against Newport, with another late tip-off (8:15 p.m.). The winner will face either Banks or Valley Catholic in Saturday's state championship game, an 8:30 p.m. start at Forest Grove High School.

The Gulls split two games with Newport in the regular season. The Cubs scored a rare win at Seaside in the Holiday Classic, before the Gulls got revenge with a 64-63 win at Newport Jan. 5.

As for Thursday's win, the Gulls picked up where they left off following last week's 43-32 win over Gladstone, involving themselves in a low-scoring, defensive battle.

An offensive rebound basket by Colton Carter gave Seaside an early 9-2 lead, and Chase Januik's 3-pointer to end the first quarter had Seaside in front, 12-6.

Even fewer points in the second period ended with the Gulls leading at halftime, 20-10.

Carter added another score and Januik's drive to the hoop in the closing seconds gave Seaside the 10-point lead.

The Vikings were just 4-for-28 (14 percent) from the field in the first half. Seaside wasn't much better at 8-for-27, including 2-of-13 from the 3-point line.

The offense ran a little smoother for the Gulls in the second half.

A jump shot by Ryan Hague, a 3-pointer from Beau Johnson and a Januik jumper gave Seaside a 27-16 lead midway through the third quarter.

A triple from Brayden Johnson and a three-point play the hard way by Payton Westerholm at the 2:00 mark basically put the game away, at 35-20. Mazama made a

late run in the fourth quarter, but never threatened the Seaside lead.

Hague led Seaside with 13 points. Westerholm fought off an illness this week (including a 102-degree temperature) to score 12 points, and Januik added 11. The Vikings finished 2-for-17 from the 3-point line.

"Payton didn't make a practice all week," said Bill, his dad and coach. "His temperature finally broke (Wednesday) night — got it down to 98.6. He saw 23 minutes tonight. Colton did a good job off the bench, and Rafi (Sibony) did a good job of spelling Payton, too."

Seaside improves to 20-5 overall, for its third straight 20-win season.

The Cowapa League will have three teams in the Final Four for the second year in a row.

Banks advanced with a 46-38 win over Sisters, and Valley Catholic defeated La Grande, 62-39. The Braves and Valiants play each other in Friday's first semifinal (6:30 p.m.), clinching the fourth straight year that the Cowapa League will have a team in the championship game.

"It's the rubber match with Newport," coach Westerholm said. "We watched them against Marshfield, and they played well. (Kye) Blaser is one of the better guards in the state, and (Justin) Plechaty really shoots well."

"But it says a lot about the Cowapa League, to have three teams in the Final Four."



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear
Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman talks to reporters in October 2017.

Seahawks to release star cornerback Sherman

Associated Press

The Seattle Seahawks are cutting ties with star cornerback Richard Sherman after seven seasons.

The team has informed him that he will be released, and Sherman confirmed the decision in a text message to The Associated Press on Friday.

The move appeared to be building after he met with the team Wednesday. Sherman declined to comment after the meeting.

Sherman was an overlooked fifth-round draft pick who developed into one of the NFL's premier cornerbacks. He was a two-time All-Pro who helped anchor a defense that was the league's best for several years.

He will be 30 years old going into next season and coming off an Achilles tendon injury that cost him half of the 2017 season. Sherman was due \$13 million for the 2018 season and his release gives Seattle a salary cap savings of \$11 million.

Williams wins 1st match in comeback at Indian Wells

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Serena Williams has won her first match in her comeback at the BNP Paribas Open after a 14-month layoff for the birth of her first child.

The 23-time major winner beat Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan 7-5, 6-3 in the first round Thursday night.

"It was incredible," Williams said on court after the 1 1/2-hour match. "It's been over a year and a kid later and I get to go home to her now, and I'm excited about that."

With new husband and Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian looking on, Williams played from behind until breaking Diyas in the 11th game of the first set. Diyas netted a forehand and Williams yelled, "Come on!" as the crowd cheered.

PAC-12 TOURNAMENT

Oregon Ducks rally to beat Utah 68-66 in quarterfinals

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Elijah Brown scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half and Kenny Wooten had a second straight game-ending blocked shot, helping Oregon rally for a 68-66 win over Utah in the Pac-12 tournament semifinals on Thursday night.

Utah (19-11) shot well in a foul-filled game, hitting 51 percent from the field, 8 of 17 from the 3-point arc.

But the Utes had a hard time shaking the Ducks (22-11), their 11-point

lead dropping to 62-60 with just under three minutes left.

MiKyle McIntosh put Oregon up 68-66 on a 3-point play with 62 seconds left and the teams traded missed shots.

Utah got the ball with 9.7 seconds left and Sedrick Barefield drove the length of the court for a layup. Wooten, who blocked two shots in the final 13 seconds against Washington State in the first round, swooped in and swatted it away, sending the Ducks into the semifinals Friday against USC.

USC knocks off Oregon State 61-48 in quarterfinals

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Southern California had some good offensive moments against Oregon State, just not consistent through the entire game.

The Trojans' defense: Spot on all night.

Chimezie Metu had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Southern California smothered Oregon State defensively to beat the Beavers 61-48 in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals on

Thursday night.

"We really played team defense today," USC coach Andy Enfield said. "Very proud of our players. They challenged every shot, rebounded the ball, and we made enough shots to win."

Second-seeded USC (22-10) jumped on Oregon State early and hounded the Beavers all night, holding them to 31-percent shooting.

Jordan McLaughlin had 13 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Trojans, who move on to face the Oregon-Utah winner in Friday's semifinals.