

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

Ravens security head accused of groping at stadium

BALTIMORE (AP) — Court documents say the Baltimore Ravens' security director is accused of groping a woman and pressing up against her at the team's stadium after a December game.



Charging documents filed in Baltimore City District Court say 48-year-old Darren Sanders is also accused of kissing the 34-year-old woman's neck and attempting to force her to grab his genitals.

Sanders had a role in the domestic violence case involving former Ravens running back Ray Rice, who is pursuing a grievance against the team over his release for hitting his then-fiancee in a casino elevator in Atlantic City. Sanders launched the team's investigation of the incident, and Rice's grievance centers on how much the Ravens knew about the situation while the team decided how to punish the player.

Broncos grind out Fiesta Bowl win

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The Boise State Broncos are no longer just trick-play ponies.



They did score a touchdown on a Statue of Liberty play. This was the Fiesta Bowl, so of course they did.

But once the tricks were used up and the offensive fireworks dulled, Boise State had to grind out this Fiesta Bowl victory with its defense.

Donte Deayon returned an interception for a touchdown in third quarter and sack specialist Kamalei Correa had his biggest takedown of the season on the game's final play, lifting No. 21 Boise State to a 38-30 victory over No. 12 Arizona in the Fiesta Bowl on Wednesday.

Boise State (12-2) lived up to its unpredictable reputation in the first quarter, pulling off the Statue of Liberty play while racing to a 21-0 lead in the opening 10 minutes.

"As a defensive lineman, people are always stepping on you. People always are hitting you in the head. There's always something happening to you, but nobody cares because we're defensive linemen."

— **Michael Bennett**

Seattle Seahawks defensive lineman in response to a question about the one-game suspension given to Detroit DT Ndamukong Suh for stepping on Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers as he lay on the ground during a game last Sunday. Suh's suspension was later reduced to a \$70,000 fine.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1934 — Columbia upsets Stanford 7-0 in the Rose Bowl when Al Barabas scores in the third quarter on a 17-yard hidden-ball play.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com



No. 1 Hermiston left tackle Dylan Caldwell holds the state championship trophy after the Bulldogs defeated top-ranked Silverton 34-12 on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014 at Hillsboro Stadium.

Titles defined 2014 Counting down the year in local sports

East Oregonian

Eastern Oregon's year in sports was never without a dull moment in 2014.

Championships poured into the region at a record clip and in every season, but one clearly stood out in its local impact.

The Hermiston football team delivered its first state championship this fall — something that was unthinkable just five years ago — to steal the top spot on the countdown away from the most decorated basketball player to ever emerge from the dusty hills of the dry side.

1 Bulldogs' new tricks
Unified behind a common cause, the Bulldogs bounded through regular season play, mauled opponents in the opening three rounds of the playoffs before unseating undefeated Silverton 34-12 to earn the school its first ever state football championship.

The banner year also supplied a slew of other firsts for the program. Quarterback Chase Knutz became the first Bulldog to win the Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year award, coach Mark Hodges followed suit as the first Class 5A Coach of the Year and the team was honored as the MaxPreps.com National Team of the Week for its 63-14 decimation of Pendleton in the Columbia River Conference finale. The 49-point margin was the largest ever by Hermiston in the series with the Buckaroos.

The Bulldogs (12-1) were balanced in their offense approach, combining the school's most prolific passer with the two-headed running monster of Cory Adams and Sam Colbray — each of whom nearly notched 1,000 yard rushing seasons. And it's impossible to

No. 3 Blue Mountain volleyball celebrates winning its third straight NWAC championship as coach Dave Baty watches on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014, in Tacoma, Washington.

Contributed file photo



No. 2 Eastern Conference All-Star Shoni Schimmel, of the Atlanta Dream, holds the MVP trophy after the WNBA All-Star basketball game, Saturday, July 19, 2014, in Phoenix. The East won 125-124 in overtime.

AP Photo/Matt York

forget the Bulldog defense, which included seven All-State team representatives, including CRC Defensive Player of the Year Tre Neal.

Hermiston graduates 22 seniors — including Knutz, but returns plenty, with the likes of Colbray, Neal and two-way All-State performer Ethan Snow coming back.

2 The Year of Shoni
Shoni Schimmel was truly living the dream in 2014.

After helping the Louisville Cardinals return to the Elite 8 at the national tournament and earning all-American honors, Schimmel was selected No. 8 overall in the first round of the WNBA draft by the Atlanta Dream. She was the highest selected Native American

in WNBA history.

Immediately nicknamed "Showtime" by head coach and former Los Angeles Laker Michael Cooper, Schimmel quickly lived up to the moniker with a record 33 assists in her first four games.

Schimmel was voted a WNBA starter with the third-most votes, and was named the All-Star MVP after lifting the Eastern Conference to a 125-124 overtime win with an all-star game record 29 points.

The Dream went on to win their first Eastern Conference regular season championship before being eliminated by Chicago in the conference semifinals.

While 10 of her Dream teammates signed to play overseas

See TOP 10/2B

College Football

Present meets past in Rose Bowl

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For years, college football fans pleaded for a playoff. Now it's here and it starts at the sport's most hallowed venue, with two Heisman Trophy winners and the defending national champions.

Welcome to the College Football Playoff at the Rose Bowl, where the past and present intersect to usher in a new era.



ROSE BOWL



#3 Oregon (12-1)

vs.



#2 Florida St. (13-0)

• Today

• 2 p.m.

• TV: ESPN

Thursday in the first national semifinal ever played at college football's highest level.

Ducks coach Mark Helfrich and Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher held their final news conferences Wednesday at a downtown Los Angeles hotel. They posed for pictures with the Rose Bowl trophy, shook hands and went their separate ways.

"We're looking forward to the challenge," Fisher said. "We know it's a heck of a challenge. They've got a great team. We've got a great team. It ought to be fun."

Next stop, Pasadena. But it's not the last stop. The winner gets a trip to Texas to play either Alabama or Ohio State on Jan. 12 for the national championship.

The Seminoles bring in a 29-game winning streak and last year's Heisman winner, Winston, into its second straight trip to the Rose Bowl. Florida State won

See ROSE/2B

Preps

Bulldogs lay bricks

East Oregonian

GRESHAM — Senior guard Dillon Zimmerly didn't get much help in Wednesday's consolation bracket contest versus Sunset at the Sam Barlow Tournament.

Zimmerly's 22 points totaled more than half of Hermiston's scoring output, as the Apollos rained in nine threes to sink the Bulldogs 63-39 for Hermiston's seventh loss of the season.

He was the only Bulldog (2-7) player to make more than one field goal during the contest, as Hermiston struggled to finish at the rim, according to coach Jake McElligott. Shot selection was also an issue, the first-year coach added.

See PREPS/2B



Sunset 63



Hermiston 39