

Sports shorts

Semifinals break cable TV records

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — The first College Football Playoff semifinals drew the two largest audiences in cable television history. ESPN had a 15.2 rating and averaged 28,271,000 viewers for its Sugar Bowl broadcast Thursday night after drawing a 14.8 rating and averaging 28,164,000 viewers for the Rose Bowl, Nielsen said Friday.

Both games had significant increases from last year on ESPN when the Rose Bowl had a 10.2 rating and averaged 18,636,000 viewers and the Sugar Bowl had a 6.6 rating and averaged 11,304,000 viewers.

Kelly takes larger role with Eagles

PHILADELPHIA — Chip Kelly has gained control of the Philadelphia Eagles’ player personnel department after Howie Roseman was promoted from general manager to

FACES executive vice president of football operations.

The shake-up announced Friday ends speculation about Kelly’s future in Philadelphia following a turbulent week that included the dismissal of vice president of player personnel Tom Gamble two days ago.

The 39-year-old Roseman had been the youngest GM in the NFL and held the position for five seasons. He began his career with the Eagles as an unpaid intern in 2000.

Kelly has led the Eagles to consecutive 10-6 seasons. He already had final say on the 53-man roster. Now he’ll hire a new personnel executive who will answer directly to him.

“We are aware of the inappropriate behavior in the postgame. This is not what our program stands for, and the student-athletes will be disciplined internally.”

— **Mark Helfrich**
Oregon football coach responding to a video released online of several players celebrating their 59-20 win in the Rose Bowl by mocking Florida State QB Jameis Winston with chants of “No means no” to the tune of “Warchant” used by FSU fans. Sexual assault allegations have followed the 2013 Heisman Trophy winner the last two years.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1920 — Boston Red Sox owner Harry Frazee sells pitcher-outfielder Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for \$125,000 plus a \$350,000 loan.
1973 — A 12-member group headed by George Steinbrenner buys the New York Yankees from CBS for \$10 million.
1993 — The Buffalo Bills stage pro football’s biggest comeback to beat the Houston Oilers 41-38 in overtime in the first round of the NFL playoffs.

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

College Basketball

Beavers’ new Payton

Payton II seeks to make own mark at Oregon State

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Earlier this season against Mississippi Valley State, Oregon State guard Gary Payton II appeared to swoop in out of

343rd Civil War



Oregon St.
(9-3)



Oregon
(10-3)

- Saturday, 5 p.m.
- at M. Knight Arena, Eugene
- TV: ESPNU, Online: ESPN3
- OSU leads series 185-157

nowhere for a one-handed put-back dunk. The fans at Gill Coliseum

were momentarily stunned before erupting into cheers. It was almost like old times, when the junior guard’s famous father electrified crowds while confounding opponents.

But make no mistake, the younger Payton is his own man.

“We’re two totally different players. We play two

See PAYTON/3B



Oregon State’s Gary Payton II, right, runs down the court pursued by Grambling State’s Carlton Lowe, left, during an NCAA college basketball game at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, Ore. Monday, Dec. 15, 2014.

AP Photo/The Corvallis Gazette-Times, Jesse Skoubo

College Football



AP Photo/The Register-Guard, Andy Nelson

Katie Marie Snyder folds sweatshirts before packing them in boxes to be shipped from McKenzie Sew On in Springfield, Ore., on Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, to The Duck Store on the University of Oregon campus. Production was ramped up for the sweatshirts and other commemorative wear after Oregon’s 59-20 Rose Bowl victory over Florida State. Oregon will face Ohio State in the first College Football Playoff championship game, on Jan. 12.

Ducks not done yet

Oregon looks to add another win to statement season

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Within moments after winning the Rose Bowl for a spot in the national championship, the T-shirts were up on Oregon’s website. “Won Not Done,” the shirts read. The sentiment — also on tees made for opponent Ohio State — was perfect for the Ducks, who are a win away from proving once and for all that they belong among the nation’s elite. It’s a position they’ve been in once before, when they faced Auburn for the national title to cap the 2010 season and came up short. “We’ve still got to finish this. We’re one step closer to achieving everything we ever worked for, everything we ever wanted,” senior

linebacker Derrick Malone Jr. said. Oregon has never won a national championship. The Buckeyes have seven national titles dating back to 1942.

Just a decade ago, the Ducks finished the season 5-6 but they’d flirted with national prominence in 2001 when quarterback Joey Harrington helped lead Oregon to the Fiesta Bowl.

Then Chip Kelly arrived in Eugene in 2007 and reworked Oregon’s offense into a distinctive high-flying spread. Since then, the speedy Ducks have been consistently ranked.

Kelly was promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach before the 2009 season and the next year the Ducks went 12-1 and first played for the title. Oregon fell to Auburn 22-19 on Wes Bynum’s 19-yard field goal as time expired.

Afterward Kelly vowed, “We’ll be back.”

Kelly’s successor, Mark Helfrich, made good on the promise:

Here the second-seeded Ducks are, following a 59-20 victory over Florida State in the Rose Bowl. Ohio State defeated Alabama 42-35 in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans later Thursday night.

The loss in college football’s first-ever playoffs snapped a 29-game winning streak by the third-seeded Seminoles, and Oregon emphasized its dominance by piling up the most points ever scored in a Rose Bowl game. It was quarterback Jameis Winston’s first — and maybe only, if he decides to go to the NFL — college loss.

“They were undefeated the last two years, and I mean just that in itself says a lot about what they’ve been able to do. Coming in, we didn’t focus on that,” quarterback Marcus Mariota said. “We just wanted to focus on ourselves and really just trying to execute to the best of our abilities.”

But in the midst of the game, Oregon also took a huge step in chang-

See DUCKS/2B

Preps

Bulldogs nip Viks

Nyssa completes comeback, tops Umatilla in OT

East Oregonian

SALEM — The reigning Eastern Oregon League champion Nyssa Bulldogs rallied from a late deficit to defeat league rival Umatilla 68-66 in overtime on the second day of the Salem Academy Tournament Friday.

The Vikings (6-6) held a 10-point lead with two minutes remaining in regulation, but the Bulldogs (4-4) upped the defensive pressure and tied the game on a Damien Olvera rebound-basket with 10 second remaining in regulation. Olvera was fouled on the shot, but failed to convert the potential game-winning free throw.

The basket capped a 24-point fourth quarter for Nyssa.

Nyssa senior Jacob Huffman, last year’s league Player of the Year, repeated Olvera’s effort in the waning seconds of overtime, snagging a teammate’s miss and converting it for two to earn them their first lead since the first half.

Umatilla’s Eric Garcia fired a jump shot from the top of the key at the buzzer, but the shot found rim instead of net.

Tristan Sanguino led Umatilla with 15 points. Garcia added 13 and Juan Coria had 12.

The game acts as a preview of next Saturday’s EOL conference premiere, which will pit the school’s against each other at Nyssa.

Umatilla looks to avoid a winless trip to Salem this morning at 10:30 a.m. when they’ll face third-ranked Creswell.

NYSSA 68, UMATILLA 66 (OT)
UHS (6-6) 11 17 15 19 4 — 66
NHS (4-4) 10 17 11 24 6 — 68
UMATILLA — D. Ayala 7, J. Ramirez 4, E. Garcia 13, J. Coria 12, K. Webb 2, A. Jaime 4, Tristan Sanguino 15, A. Simmons 7, E. Morales 2.
NYSSA — D. Olvera 8, Jacob Huffman 16, M. Lazo 9, Freddy Pascacio 16, J. Simpson 7, A. Chavez 4, A. Gonzalez 8.
3-point field goals — UHS 9. Free throws — UHS 17-25. Fouls — UHS 14.

See PREPS/2B

Bowl Roundup

Houston shocks Pittsburgh

Cougars complete third-largest comeback in bowl history

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Greg Ward threw three touchdown passes in the final 3:41 of the Armed Forces Bowl, two after Houston recovered onside kicks, and completed a winning 2-point conversion in the Cougars’ 35-34 victory over Pittsburgh on Friday.

Pitt (6-7) took a 31-6 lead on James Conner’s touchdown run with 14 minutes left, but Houston (8-5) had the biggest comeback in an FBS game this season and matched the third-largest ever in a bowl game.

Ward threw an 8-yard TD pass to Deontay Greenberry, the Cougars re-

covered their first onside kick and Ward teamed with Demarcus Ayers on a 29-yard scoring play on fourth-and-13 with 1:58 left.

Houston’s onside kick didn’t go 10 yards on the rain-slickened field, but the ball was touched by the same Pitt defender who couldn’t handle the first one and Houston running back Kenneth Farrow jumped on it at the Cougars 43. Greenberry started the drive with a 38-yard catch, then on third-and-16 had a 25-yard touchdown catch with 59 seconds left. Interim coach David Gibbs opted for a win-or-lose 2-point conversion try, and Greenberry made a leaping catch in the back corner of the end zone.

Gibbs, the defensive coordinator, was filling in for fired Houston coach Tony Levine. The Cougars’ new coach is Ohio State offensive coordinator Tom Her-

See BOWLS/2B



Houston Markeith Ambles (21) and DeMarcus Ayers (10) celebrate after Ayers caught a touchdown pass during the second half of the Armed Forces Bowl NCAA college football game against Pittsburgh, Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, in Fort Worth, Texas. Houston won 35-34.

AP Photo/Sharon Ellman