

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Sports shorts

### Ohio city changes name to clarify game allegiance

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio city of Oregon is adding a twist to its name and declaring its allegiance to its home state Buckeyes as they face the Oregon Ducks in college football's championship game next week.



The mayor of the Toledo suburb announced Monday that the city will be known over the next week as "Oregon, Ohio: Buckeyes on the Bay, City of Duck Hunters."

The move comes after a petition called for the Ohio city to make a temporary name change in honor of the Buckeyes. City leaders decided against dropping its name entirely while also declaring it will be "The Ohio State Buckeye Week."

The name debate in Oregon, Ohio, started after two natives of the city who don't normally cheer for Ohio State started the petition. One of the men is more into soccer and, perhaps shockingly, the other roots for rival Michigan.

"Call it anything but Oregon," Matt Squibb, one of its organizers, said.

### Rams owner plans Los Angeles stadium project

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — A development group that includes a company controlled by the owner of the St. Louis Rams announced Monday to build an 80,000-seat stadium in the Los Angeles suburbs that could become home for an NFL team.

The proposal that envisions a stadium rising on the site of a former horse track again raised the hopes of fans that Los Angeles could end its two-decade drought without an NFL team. It becomes the latest in a string of stadium proposals in the Los Angeles area since the 1994 exit of the Rams and Raiders from Southern California.

The proposal stands out, however, because of the involvement of St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke. His company, The Kroenke Group, has entered a joint venture with Stockbridge Capital Group, which had been developing a 238-acre tract of homes, parks and office space at the former Hollywood Park track in Inglewood, on the edge of Los Angeles.

"I think without question it was probably not officiated correctly in my estimation."

— Jim Caldwell

Detroit Lions coach on Sunday's fourth quarter defensive pass interference call on Cowboys linebacker Anthony Hitchens. Hitchens was flagged for interfering with a Detroit receiver but the flag was picked up and Dallas went on to win the game 20-17. Detroit was eliminated from the NFL postseason.

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1999 — The NBA and players union reached an accord that ended the 191-day lockout. The season, which was in jeopardy of being completely cancelled, was reduced to a 50-game season.

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

## College football

# Lone loss provided valuable lesson for Ducks

## Title run spurred on by home defeat to Wildcats

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

EUGENE — When the Oregon Ducks look back at their lone loss of the season, sure there's lingering disappointment, but not a lot of second-guessing.

Instead, some players have pointed to the Arizona loss as the turning point of their season, when they woke up and revived for their march to the national championship.

"I think we learned a lot in terms of having that loss early in the year and kind of experiencing failure a little bit," quarterback Marcus

Mariota said a few games afterward. "Now that we have had our backs against the wall, guys feel the need to fight, play loose and play with high intensity."

Lesson learned, Oregon will play for the national title next Monday night against Ohio State in Arlington, Texas. The second-seeded Ducks (13-1) defeated Florida State in college football's first playoffs to advance, while the fourth-seeded Buckeyes (13-1) upset Alabama.

Back in early October, Oregon was undefeated and ranked second in The Associated Press poll. The Ducks were boosted by a key victory earlier in the season over Michigan State and looking to avoid the pitfalls that had thwarted them the season before, when late-season losses against Arizona and Stanford took them out

See DUCKS/2B



(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)  
Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota holds up the Rose Bowl trophy after a 59-20 win over Florida State.

## NBA



AP Photo/Don Ryan  
Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, drives on Los Angeles Lakers guard Ronnie Price during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland Monday.

# Lillard lifts Blazers

## Portland point guard scores 39 points in victory over Lakers

By NICK DASCHIEL  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard scored 39 points and made the go-ahead basket with 36 seconds remaining as the Portland Trail Blazers rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 98-94 Monday night.

Lillard hit four 3-pointers, and scored 16 points during the fourth quarter to lead the Blazers (27-8). He has scored at least 39 points in three of his past nine games.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points, and reserve center Meyers Leonard had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Portland.

Jordan Hill led Los Angeles (11-24) with 23 points and 14 rebounds. Five Lakers scored in double figures, including Jeremy Lin with 14 points.

Kobe Bryant, the Lakers' leading scorer at 23.6 points per game, stayed home for a scheduled day of rest. It was the fourth game Bryant has skipped after sustaining two leg injuries the past two seasons.

The Lakers briefly took a 92-91 lead with 43 seconds remaining on two free throws by Lin. But then Lillard immediately went to work, driving to the basket for the go-ahead layup 7 seconds later.

See BLAZERS/2B



## HERMISTON

# Edmiston breaks Hermiston shooting record

## Bulldog junior guard drills 10 threes in win over Kennewick

East Oregonian

KENNEWICK, Wash. — Swish. Swish. Swish. And repeat that sound 14 times more.

Hermiston (10-2) made a school-record 17 three point shots Saturday, junior Jansen Edmiston made 10 of them — also a school-record — as Hermiston won its 10 consecutive game 85-56 over Kennewick (WA).

"That's just crazy, I know," Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert said. "That's the most I've seen in 30 years of coaching."

The sharpshooting junior shot at an amazing 10-for-14 clip from distance and finished with 34 points. Edmiston made seven of the 10 in the first half to lead Hermiston to a 48-26 halftime lead. The Bulldogs made 11 three point shots in the opening 16 minutes.

"She's the type of kid that that can happen to," Hoffert said of Edmiston. "We've got a few kids that can score a bunch and tonight was just her night."

The hot shooting proved contagious. Tavin Headings, Sara Ramirez and Sydney Moore all also caught the long bomb bug.

Edmiston added eight assists, contributing in over 50 points of Hermiston offense.

Ramirez was next best with 17 points and Heddings had 15.

The 85 points were a Bulldog season-high. The previous best was 67 versus Hanford (WA).

Hermiston plays at La Grande on tonight at 7 p.m.

HERMISTON 85, KENNEWICK (WA) 56

HHS (10-2) 22 26 23 14 — 85  
KHS (2-4) 12 14 16 14 — 56  
HERMISTON — Moore 9, Foley 4, Jui 2, Edmiston 34, Padilla 0, Heddings 15, Ramirez 17, Harrison 2, Lind 2, Andreason 0, Gilbert 0.  
KENNEWICK — Deng 13, Templeton 2, Fiander 12, Jimenez 2, Chavez 1, Kima 3, Quast 1, Norwood 17, Osmondson 5.  
3-point field goals — HHS 17, KHS 1. Free throws — HHS 10-14, KHS 19-24.  
Fouls — HHS 20, KHS 16.

# Playoffs give college football better chance to get it right

The new NCAA football playoff system isn't perfect. It might take eight teams for that to happen.

But based upon its inaugural year, it is off to a good start.

Otherwise, there's a 99 percent chance Alabama and Florida State would be facing off January 12 instead of Oregon and Ohio State.

Although in some ratings Oregon ended up ahead of FSU, the old system could never have overlooked the undefeated Seminoles.

And it's also a sure thing poll-based biases would have dictated the presence of the SEC in a two-team playoff.

At one point during the 2014 campaign, the SEC completely dominated the upper end of the polls and both the pundits and the talking heads were jubilant.

When the teams in your conference are overrated, it isn't hard to get those poll numbers.

How many times this season were we reminded the western division of the SEC was literally dominating college football? And while those programs certainly deserve a historical measure of respect, what do Alabama, Ole Miss, Auburn, LSU and Mississippi State all

have in common this week? They all lost their bowl games and in three of the five cases, to lower ranked teams. The western division was 2-5 going head-to-head against major programs from across the country. Had not Texas A & M and Arkansas — teams which struggled through the season and ended up at the bottom of the division — not won, it would have been downright embarrassing.

Or, as ESPN columnist Ted Miller noted, the SEC West, which was slated to seriously out-muscle its opponents, simply did a face plant.

It's possible the SEC has yet to come to grips with the reality that beset them in the current campaign. There's no question reality was lost on FSU quarterback Jameis Winston who, in the wake of a 39-point loss to the Ducks, told reporters the "game could have gone either way."

The PAC-12 and Big Ten, conferences which get far less respect than they deserve, turned a few heads during the bowl season, as did a few members of the Big-12 although perennial powers Oklahoma and Texas

See MURDOCK/2B

## Prep Basketball

# Knights rebound from first loss with overtime win

## Irrigon outlasts Toledo night after 19-game win streak ended

East Oregonian

TOLEDO — Irrigon coach Mitch Thompson was pleased with the "resilience" his Irrigon Knights showed one night after Dayton snapped the team's 19-game win streak.

Once again facing one of the state's top teams, this time Class 2A's Toledo, the Knights received late game heroics from its top player. Defending 2A player of the year Adrian Romero drove the lane and converted an old-fashioned three-point play to earn the Vikings a 76-73 double overtime win over the Boomers Saturday.

"It was important for the guys to bounce back like we did," Thompson said.

The Knights gained possession with the score knotted at 73-73 before draining clock to set up Romero's game-winner. After more than 50 seconds ran off, Romero slashed to the basket to score with seven seconds remaining.

Toledo senior guard David Ammons forced overtime with a 35-footer at the buzzer of regulation that made the score 62-62.

See PREPS/2B



GEORGE MURDOCK  
Sports