

SPORTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015

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Sports shorts

WR Carrington did not travel with the Ducks

DALLAS (AP) — Oregon wide receiver Darren Carrington did not travel with the Ducks to the national championship game, according to a person with knowledge of his absence.

The person, who is traveling with the team, spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the individual was not authorized to speak on the record. A spokesman for the team did not immediately respond to email inquiries seeking comment.

Carrington’s absence was first reported by CSNNW.com. The Ducks play Ohio State for the national championship on Monday.

The 6-foot-2, 191-pound redshirt freshman made his first career start in the victory over Arizona in the Pac-12 championship game, finishing with seven catches for 126 yards and a touchdown.

He also had seven catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns in Oregon’s Rose Bowl victory over Florida State on Jan. 1.

Christie will attend Sunday’s Cowboys game

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Gov. Chris Christie will be attending this weekend’s Dallas Cowboys game — and paying for it on his own dime.

FACES



Christie

A spokesman for the potential presidential contender confirmed the governor will attend this weekend’s playoff game between his be-

loved Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers.

Spokesman Michael Drewniak said Christie will pay his own way to keep any “silliness” out of it.

Christie’s Cowboys fandom has sparked outrage from Eagles, Jets and Giants fans in New Jersey as well as ethical question because Cowboys owner Jerry Jones paid for Christie’s recent tickets and travel.

The Cowboys co-own a company that has a contract with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Christie and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker have been trading barbs on social media about the game.

“In terms of historical significance, it’s just scintillating stuff. It’s really exciting.”

— Mark Presley, Canadian Museum of History, on purchasing for \$300,000 the world’s oldest known hockey stick

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1972 — The longest winning streak in major professional sports ends when the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 120-104. The Lakers had won 33 straight, but Kareem Abdul-Jabbar’s 39 points sends Los Angeles to defeat.

1982 — Joe Montana’s third touchdown pass of the game, a 6-yarder to Dwight Clark, with 51 seconds remaining, lifts the San Francisco 49ers to 28-27 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC title game.

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NFL

Seattle title defense begins at home

Seahawks look to avoid Super Bowl champ jinx

By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

SEATTLE — Here’s what has set the defending champion Seattle Seahawks apart: They seem to have perfected not overhyping an individual game.

While others are willing to acknowledge the enormity of the moment, the Seahawks thrive by keeping everything even.

“I’m just thinking to myself, ‘It’s the same for us. It’s not going to be different. It’s going to be another football game. It’s going to be us versus y’all,’” Seattle linebacker Bruce Irvin said. “That’s the biggest thing. Our mindset is different. Pete (Carroll) has us at a whole different level than other people think.”

That approach will be tested on Saturday night when the Seahawks (12-4) host the Carolina Pan-



thers in an NFC divisional playoff game. Aside from facing an opponent with similar qualities, the Seahawks will be trying to overcome recent history.

STANFIELD

Tigers roar past TigerScots

Stanfield blows out WMHS in CBC league opener

By SAM BARBEE EO Media Group



Stanfield’s Hunter Braithewaite shoots the ball in front of Weston-McEwen Grayson Zerba in the Tigers’ 73-43 win against the TigerScots on Friday in Stanfield.

Since Daniel Sharp has been head basketball coach at Stanfield, his boys have never beaten Weston-McEwen by 30 points. The matchups between the Tigers and TigerScots were always knock-down, drag-out affairs that were settled in the final two minutes.

Stanfield used a huge fourth quarter to down the TigerScots 73-43 in their Columbia Basin Conference openers Friday night in Stanfield.



“It feels great,” Stanfield senior Hunter Braithewaite said after the game. “To start off league like that ... We expect to carry it the rest of the way through.”

Stanfield (9-2, 1-0) started in its trademark press, and Weston-McEwen (5-7, 0-1) had a hard time handling it. The TigerScots committed 10 first-quarter turnovers and 13 total in the first half.

TigerScots head coach Brian Pickard said if his team wants to win games, it has to take care of the ball.

“You’re not gonna be in any kind of game if you’re turning the ball over 35-plus times,” he said. “I’m sure we had that plus. The kids played hard. We’ve been struggling from the field with our shooting, and (tonight) we got some good open looks that didn’t fall. We’re just struggling right now.”

Behind those 10 turnovers in the first quarter, Stanfield jumped to a quick 10-0 lead, but Weston chipped it down to as few as six in the first quarter.

In the second, back-to-back baskets — a 3-pointer from Cedric Hall and a layup by Lane Rosencrans — got Weston within four, but it would be the TigerScots would get to Stanfield.

The Tigers pulled away and led by 12 at the break, by 19 after three quarters, and they blew it wide open in the fourth.

“We stuck with things,” Sharp said. “I looked up at the board with about a minute and a half left in the third quarter, and we basically played even. Then it just popped ,and it popped quick. I think that was a big part of it.”

College Football

Oregon’s Dargan goes from sideline to spotlight

Senior safety making impact in final season

By ANNE M. PETERSON Associated Press

DALLAS — The last and only time that Oregon previously played for a national championship was to cap the 2010 season, when the Ducks faced Auburn.

Safety Erick Dargan redshirted that year, one of about a dozen current Oregon players who made the trip to Glendale, Arizona, for that game. He watched from the sideline as the Ducks fell to the Tigers and Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton 22-19.

Today, Dargan marvels at the evolution of the Ducks from their debut on the national stage against Auburn to this season’s college football playoff, which culminates on Monday night when Oregon (13-1) faces Ohio State (13-1) for the title.

“Definitely full circle,” Dargan said earlier this week in Eugene as the Ducks prepared for the title game. “A few of us on this team were redshirting that year and saw what it took to

get there. This year we’ve been able to repeat it. So it definitely feels crazy to go out on top and play in the national championship game.”

But, to be frank, he didn’t think it would take the Ducks this long to get back.

“No. We fell short a couple of times. But we’re back now. That’s all that matters,” he said.

The soft-spoken fifth-year senior leads the Ducks in tackles (90) and interceptions (seven) this season. He had a notable game in Oregon’s 59-20 Rose Bowl victory over Florida State on New Year’s Day, with a forced fumble and a third-quarter interception of Heisman winner Jameis Winston.

Dargan has also evolved. While he doesn’t normally grab headlines, following the Rose Bowl victory he found himself in the spotlight as part of a defense that overwhelmed the Seminoles.

“The longer you go, the stronger you get,” he said confidently following the game. “We went longer and we stayed stronger. Everyone kept demanding more out of each other.”

The performance helped dispel the perception that Oregon’s defense was soft. The

See DUCKS/2B

Prep Boys Basketball

Mustangs, Knights each open with routs

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — The top-ranked Mustangs blitzed Pilots for a 73-44 victory in each school’s Columbia Basin Conference league debut Friday night.

Heppner (10-1, 1-0 CBC) put to rest their first loss of the season — a 26-point walloping to Toledo its last time out — behind Weston Putman’s 21 points and eight rebounds.

It took only a few minutes of play for the Mustangs to assert their will. They burst out to a 16-5 lead after one quarter and then extended it to 36-16 intermission edge.

Heppner scored 27 points in the fourth quarter.

Stellar post play from Patrick Collins and Ross Cutsforth rounded out the Mustangs romp. Patrick Collins totaled 10 points and eight rebounds, while Cutsforth added 13.

The win sets up a matchup of 2A’s top two teams next Friday in Heppner. The one-loss Mustangs will host the defending state cham-

See PREPS/2B