

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

Sports shorts

Bills hire Rex Ryan as head coach

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Rex Ryan is officially going from Broadway to Buffalo.

The Bills announced in a news release Monday that Ryan has been hired to take over as coach.

The news came a day after the former New York Jets coach tentatively accepted the Bills' contract offer. Ryan replaces Doug Marrone, who stepped down abruptly on Dec. 31.

Ryan will be formally introduced during a press conference scheduled for Wednesday.

The 52-year-old is a defensive specialist, and noted for a brash personality and having a deep loyalty to his players. Ryan had a 50-52 record, including 4-2 in the playoffs, in six seasons coaching the Bills' AFC East rival. He was fired along with general manager John Idzik following a 4-12 finish last season.

Fox out after latest playoff nosedive

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Coach John Fox and the Denver Broncos are parting ways following the team's latest playoff meltdown.

Fox won the AFC West all four of his years in Denver, but each of those seasons ended in ugly fashion in the playoffs, culminating with Sunday's 24-13 loss to Indianapolis.

Fox might already have something in the works with another team. Neither Fox nor John Elway would say what was discussed Monday when they met other than it was time to split up.

"It became clear that it was best for both the Denver Broncos and Coach Fox to move on and make this change," Elway said in a statement.

"Let's face it, just a little while back, people were saying that the Spurs were past their prime, not just old but kind of boring," Obama said. Now they're fresh and exciting, which is basically the exact opposite of what happens to presidents."

— President Barack Obama
Congratulating 2014 NBA champion San Antonio during its visit to the White House Monday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1962 — Wilt Chamberlain scores an NBA regulation-game record 73 points to lead the Philadelphia Warriors to a 135-117 triumph over the Chicago Packers.

1971 — Lenny Wilkens of the Seattle SuperSonics, at 33, becomes the oldest All-Star MVP. He scores 21 points to give the West a 108-107 victory over the East.

1987 — Lewis Lloyd and Mitchell Wiggins of the Houston Rockets become the third and fourth NBA players to be banned from the league for using cocaine.

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

20-42



Oregon's Marcus Mariota walks off the field during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Grounded

Ohio State halts prolific Oregon offense for national championship

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ohio State can add the newest version of the national championship trophy to a case that already has a bunch of the old ones.

The Buckeyes' third-stringer matched Oregon's Heisman winner as Cardale Jones led Ohio State past Marcus Mariota and the Ducks 42-20 in the first College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night at the \$1.2 billion home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Behind their bullish backup quarterback and the relentless running of Ezekiel Elliott, the Buckeyes (14-1) completed a remarkable in-season turnaround with a dominating performance against the Ducks (13-2).

"The chase is complete," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said. "It's done. It's over. They accepted their final mission, their final assignment and their final directive, and they did it. That was our whole mantra this last couple of weeks. A job well done, and we're very grateful."

Ohio State began the first major college football playoff as the fourth and final seed, and as a team that faced questions about whether it belonged at all. It was a team that never would have had a chance to win a title under the old postseason system.



Oregon's Evan Baylis is tackled by Ohio State's Marshon Lattimore (2) during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

No question about it now: Ohio State is the truest champion big-time football has ever crowned, showered by golden confetti as its band played "Hang on Sloopy" when the clock hit 0:00.

Meyer's Buckeyes overcame two injured Heisman contenders and one awful early season loss at home to Virginia Tech to win their first national title since 2002. Back then, the Bowl Championship Series decided the top team at the end of the season — usually.

Before that, it was up to The Associated Press and coaches' polls to sort out which team was best, with

a little help from the bowls. The Buckeyes have three of those championships, too.

And Meyer now has three, adding this one for his home state team to the two he won for Florida. It's taken just three seasons in Columbus for Meyer to put the Buckeyes — and the Big Ten — back on top, with a team that looks built to last.

Elliott, a sophomore, ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries. In the last three games against Wisconsin, Alabama and Oregon, Elliott had 696 yards rushing.

See CHAMPIONSHIP/2B

Mariota decision to come soon

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas) — Marcus Mariota's season ended without the honor that mattered to him most. Now Oregon waits to see if he will be back for another try.

Going into Monday night's game against Ohio State, the standout junior quarterback said he would trade the Heisman Trophy he won this season for a national title. Instead, the Buckeyes bottled up Mariota and overpowered the Ducks in the first College Football Playoff championship.

It may have been Mariota's final game at Oregon. He has until Thursday to decide if he will skip his senior season and declare for the NFL draft. Mariota, who has already completed his degree, is expected to be a top pick.

Did the devastating loss change his mind about coming back?

"I'm sure it will weigh in a little bit, but there's a lot of other things that have to play into that decision," he said. "There's starting grad school, coming back for another year to improve, there's a lot of other things that could bring me back. It's just not specifically this loss."

Preps

Bucks rebound for blowout victory in battle of Top 10s

No. 7 Pendleton boys basketball tops No. 9 Lebanon

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The seventh-ranked Buckaroos put their two-game losing streak behind them to hand ninth-ranked Lebanon a 75-52 defeat, its worst loss of the season, Saturday at Warberg Court.

Pendleton (7-4) grabbed the lead early and grew it steadily before icing the game with deft accuracy from the free throw line. The Buckaroos made all 11 attempts in a 23-point final period.

"The kids had really good poise," coach Brian Broaddus said. "Probably the best we've done this season."

The hot shooting wasn't unique to the charity stripe. The Buckaroos

shot over 60-percent from the field as a team in the win, with Caden Smith and Sonny Green leading the way with 25 and 19 points respectively.

Smith scored all 25 before the final period of play.

Senior center Wes Persinger didn't miss any action after suffering an elbow injury in Tuesday's loss at Century. The 6-foot-6 post battled in the key with the tall Lebanon (7-3) frontcourt, more than holding his own with 14 points Saturday.

Kai Quinn chipped in with 12 points.

PENDLETON 75, LEBANON 52
LHS (7-3) 19 8 17 8 — 52
PHS (7-4) 22 10 20 23 — 75
LEBANON — I. Smith 11, J. Garber, 4, T. Romeo 2, J. Bates 2, Ty Hargis 21, C. Graham 5, T. Funk 2, Elliott 0, Nissen 0.
PENDLETON — S. Green 19, O. Cockburn 3, K. Quinn 12, W. Persinger 14, C. Smith 25, J. Bradt 2, Winterton 0, Rowe 0, Morris 0, George 0, Hancock 0, Foreman 0.
3-point field goals — LHS 3, PHS 6. Free throws — LHS 17-30, PHS 17-20. Fouls — LHS 16, PHS 26. Fouled out — T. Romeo (LHS), O. Cockburn (PHS).

SUMMIT 63, HERMISTON

disappointed that it was consistency that once again was a pitfall.

Keegan Crafton led Hermiston with 14 points, nine rebounds, four assists and two blocks. Chase Knutz netted 13 and Dillon Zimmerly added 10.

SUMMIT 63, HERMISTON 55
HHS (3-9) 9 17 13 16 — 55
SHS (11-1) 21 18 12 9 — 63
HERMISTON — T. Neal 1, Keegan Crafton 14, Nailon 6, D. Zimmerly 10, C. Knutz 13, Lloyd 5, Smith 6.
SUMMIT — Garcia 6, Kent 3, Mason 4, Cornett 18, Hurley 15, Michalski 6, Mason 3, McCormick 2, Baker 6.
3-point field goals — HHS 6, SHS 5. Free throws — HHS 9-16, SHS 16-19. Fouls — HHS 24, SHS 16.

NIXYAAWII 62, ECHO 33 — At Mission, the Cougars (6-7, 2-2 Old Oregon League) trailed 40-15 at halftime to the defensive-minded Golden Eagles (8-6, 3-0 OOL) Saturday.

The clamp down effort included limiting Echo guard Carlos Chavez to just one made basket a night after

See PREPS/2B