

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### NASCAR driver says ex is assassin

DOVER, Del. (AP) — The NASCAR driver known as “The Outlaw” testified Tuesday he believes his ex-girlfriend is a trained assassin dispatched on covert missions around the world

## FACES



Driscoll

who once returned to him in a blood-splattered gown. “Everybody on the outside can tell me I’m crazy, but I lived on the inside and saw it firsthand,” Kurt Busch said when his attorney, Rusty Hardin, questioned why he still believed Patricia Driscoll is a hired killer.

Busch, appearing in court again over Driscoll’s request for a no-contact order, continued the push of his legal team to discredit his ex as a scorned woman out to destroy his career, portraying her as a character fit for a screenplay.

Busch said Driscoll repeatedly asserted her assassin status and claimed the work took her on missions across Central and South America and Africa. He recounted one time when the couple was in El Paso, Texas. He said Driscoll left in camouflage gear only to return later wearing a trench coat over an evening gown covered with blood.

### Charges dismissed against Hope Solo

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP) — A judge near Seattle on Tuesday dismissed domestic violence assault charges against soccer superstar Hope Solo, a week before the case was set for trial.

## FACES



Solo

Solo, a goalkeeper for the U.S. women’s national soccer team and the Seattle Reign professional club, had been charged with two misdemeanor counts of fourth-degree assault stemming from an altercation with her half-sister and 17-year-old nephew at a party in June.

Kirkland Municipal Court Judge Michael Lambo dismissed the charges on Tuesday.

“I always had faith that once the facts of the case were presented, I would be cleared of all charges and I am so happy and relieved to finally have it all behind me,” Solo said in a statement Tuesday.

“I think we have the right kind of guys on our staff, the right kind of guys on our team and we’re excited about the opportunities and the challenges ahead.”

— Jason Garrett  
Dallas Cowboys head coach after agreeing to a new five-year contract with the team on Tuesday. The Cowboys also signed defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli to a new three-year deal.

## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1973 — The Miami Dolphins, who went 14-0 in the regular season and won two playoff games, beat the Washington Redskins 14-7 in the Super Bowl.

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

## HERMISTON

# Grizz stymie Bulldogs

## Hermiston girls fall to undefeated Sunnyside

By ERIK SKOPIK  
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Bulldog girls basketball team’s 11-game win streak seemed ripe for further extension through three quarters Tuesday — on the way they would be collecting a signature win over undefeated Sunnyside (WA).

However, the Grizzlies’ pressure defense played a cumulative effect in the final quarter’s opening minutes, forcing the Bulldogs into uncharacteristic turnovers on each of first five possessions. The takeaways helped the Grizzlies erase a four-point deficit and eventually earned them a 55-49 victory over Hermiston to stay perfect on the season.

“I can live with losing to a team that’s 12-0,” Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert said of the loss to the Grizzlies. “It was the fourth quarter that leaves a sour taste in your mouth knowing that you probably shouldn’t have lost except for your fourth quarter.”

All five Bulldogs (11-3) starters lost control of the ball during the Grizzlies’ torrid first two minutes of play.

“They got in our heads,” said junior guard Sara Ramirez, whose turnover led to the Grizzlies’ go-ahead points. “Their pressure it got in our heads. That’s what effected us and made us turn the ball over.”

“It’s really frustrating that we were leading and they came back



Hermiston’s Abi Drotzman reaches for a loose ball contested by Sunnyside’s Liddy Valle in the Bulldogs’ 55-49 loss to the Grizzlies on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Photo by E.J. Harris

in the fourth quarter and wanted it more than we did.”

Hermiston controlled the action for all of the third quarter, and built a 41-36 lead on a Macey Foley put-back basket with 49 seconds left in the period and held a 43-39 at the period’s conclusion.

Ball control aided the third quarter effort. Hermiston turned it over just three times during the period. But, seven costly turnovers did them in during the fourth.

“We rested on about half a dozen possessions that we shouldn’t have

See BULLDOGS/2B

## HERMISTON

# Dawgs stumble at end

## Sunnyside holds on for first win of season

By SAM BARBEE  
EO Media Group

Sunnyside was winless and hungry.

The Grizzlies hadn’t lost a game by fewer than nine points all season but were rewarded for their patience, downing the Hermiston Bulldogs 47-45 Tuesday night in a tight and stressful affair at the Dawg-house.

Sunnyside (Wash.) freshman Trey Sanchez stole the show, leading all scorers with

Sunnyside  
47

Hermiston  
45

18 points and made a key free throw with 2.3 seconds left to help the Grizzlies (1-11) to their first win of the season. For the Bulldogs, Dillon Zimmerly scored 12 points on his 18th birthday, and Austin Naillon chipped in with nine.

Hermiston had a chance to win with eight seconds left in the game, but a costly turnover doomed the Bulldogs before a game-winning shot could be taken.

Hermiston head coach Jake McElligott

See DAWGS/2B



Hermiston’s Austin Naillon lays the ball in guarded by Sunnyside’s Trey Sanchez in the Bulldogs’ 47-45 loss to the Grizzlies on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Photo by E.J. Harris

## College Football

# Final loss does not define Ducks’ season

## Mariota’s future remains up in air

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated press

DALLAS — Oregon’s season was so much more than the final game to quarterback Marcus Mariota.

Just because his team ultimately came up short against Ohio State in the national championship, it doesn’t diminish what the Ducks accomplished together as a team, he said.

When history judges the 2014 Oregon Ducks, however, it will likely be remembered as the year of Marcus Mariota.

The junior quarterback was the face of the 13-2 team that defeated Florida State in the Rose Bowl in college football’s first playoffs, but then fell 42-20 to the Buckeyes. Ohio State ended the season ranked No. 1, Oregon was No. 2.

“Being the champions from the Pac-12, being Rose Bowl champions, that says a lot about what we



Oregon head coach Mark Helfrich talks to Marcus Mariota (8) before the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

AP Photo/David J. Phillip

were able to do this year,” Mariota said. “Proud of the guys. We fought through a lot of stuff and just ended up short, but it shouldn’t take away from what we were able to do this year.”

Mariota won every major award he qualified for, starting with the

Heisman Trophy, as well as AP Player of the Year and Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year.

He set a conference record for most touchdowns in a single season with 58; 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touchdown catch. He set the conference mark for career touch-

downs with 134.

He threw at least one touchdown pass in all 41 college games he started in his career, the second-longest streak in NCAA history behind Marshall’s Rakeem Cato (46). And he’s one of just four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

By Thursday, he’ll have to decide if he’s going to forgo his senior year and declare his eligibility for the NFL draft. He left the door slightly open for a return to Eugene following the loss to the Buckeyes.

“There’s starting grad school, coming back for another year to improve, there’s a lot of other things that could bring me back,” he said.

But many expect that this was the humble team leader’s last season as a Duck.

“I love this guy, and will forever,” coach Mark Helfrich said. “Absolutely couldn’t be luckier to coach him and be around him every day.”

Then the question becomes: Who will replace him?”

He backup this season and heir apparent for the job — at least for

See DUCKS/2B

## Preps

# Bucks hold off Tigers

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The Pendleton boys basketball team held off a long-distance barrage from the La Grande

Tigers to earn a 62-58 non-league win on Tuesday.

The Tigers (10-4) connected on four of their 11 three-pointers in the fourth quarter, cutting a double-digit

lead to one basket before Pendleton (8-4) was able to stop the rally.

“We knew they could shoot the three, but we didn’t know they were that good,” Pendleton coach Brian Broaddus said of La Grande. “They would kind of triple drive and kick it out, and they three or four kids that were good.”

Brandon Dall and Jake Powell each scored a game-high 18 points for the Tigers, but Pendleton — which made just three long balls — was able to take a 31-24 lead into halftime thanks to a physical advantage.

Pendleton trailed 14-8 af-

See PREPS/2B

## BOYS HOOPS

Pendleton  
62

La Grande  
58