

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Sports shorts

NFL fines Lynch \$20,000 for obscene gesture

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL has fined Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch \$20,000 for making an obscene gesture during last Sunday's NFC championship game, a person with knowledge of the fine told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The league did not specify what the gesture was in the win over Green Bay. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the fine has not been publicly announced.

Lynch has a history of drawing fines from the NFL, mostly for not talking to the media as required under his contract. He also was told before last Sunday's game he could not wear gold shoes because they were a violation of the NFL's on-field dress code, and that he could be ejected from the game if he wore them.

Most recently, Lynch was fined \$11,000 for an inappropriate gesture in Seattle's win over Arizona on Dec. 21.

Aldridge needs thumb surgery; out 6-8 weeks

PORTLAND (AP) — Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge says he tore a ligament in his left thumb that will require surgery.

Aldridge said he could be out six to eight weeks. He spoke before Portland's game against the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

Aldridge hurt his thumb in the second quarter of the Blazers' 98-95 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night.

The 6-foot-11 power forward had X-rays immediately following the injury but they were inconclusive. An MRI early Thursday revealed the tear.

A three-time All-Star, Aldridge leads the Blazers (31-11) with averages of 23.5 points and 10.4 rebounds per game.

"This isn't ISIS, this isn't, you know, no one's dying."

— Tom Brady
New England Patriots quarterback on the controversy surrounding the 11 deflated football used in the AFC Championship football game last weekend. Brady and Patriots head coach Bill Belichick failed to offer explanations for "Deflategate" on Thursday at individual press conferences. Brady said he has yet to be contacted by the NFL regarding an investigation.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1959 — In the NBA All-Star game in Detroit, St. Louis' Bob Pettit and Elgin Baylor of Minneapolis become the first co-winners of the MVP award as their West team wins 124-108.

1975 — Ralph Kiner is elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his 15th and final year of eligibility.

1988 — Steffi Graf wins the Australian Open with a 6-1, 7-6 victory over Chris Evert.

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

HERMISTON

Spotlight aimed on top-rated Bulldogs

Hermiston poised for fifth consecutive CRC league crown

By ERIK SKOPIK
East Oregonian

Light bulb moments are commonplace in team sports.

Timing is everything. Set early enough in the season, they can provide a catalyst for the season's remainder. Too late and they provide a faint flicker for what could've been.

Last Tuesday's home loss to Sunnyside (WA) put the visceral reality of

losing on full display for the Hermiston girls basketball team. Sure, the Bulldogs had lost twice prior, but none had been in the imploding fashion of the 55-49 loss.

Hermiston (12-3) led throughout the first three quarters, before giveaways on the first five possessions of the fourth sank them. The loss was biting, and potentially deflating, but according to junior guard Jansen Edmiston, it might've been necessary.

"Something clicked in our heads or something," the team's leading scorer said, "We don't like losing, we hopefully aren't going to lose again this year."

"We don't want to have that feeling

See BULLDOGS/3B



Hermiston's Sara Ramirez drives during the Bulldogs victory over Milwaukie earlier this season. Hermiston grabbed the state's top-ranking with a win over then No. 1 La Salle Prep last Friday.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

MILTON-FREEWATER



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Mac-Hi's Alyx Shaw, in black, executes a double arm bar Baker's Dylan Feldmeier on his way to victory in the 160-pound weight class Thursday in Milton-Freewater.

Pioneers pin Bulldogs

Mac-Hi wins GOL dual over Baker

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Wrestling up a weight class and on short notice, Mac-Hi junior Alyx Shaw wasn't deterred.

The 160-pounder-for-a-day toyed with Baker's Dylan Feldmeier

for six minutes to earn a 13-5 decision, and it was just that kind of a night for the Mac-Hi Pioneers.

Mac-Hi won every match it expected to, and then some it didn't even expect wrestle on its way to a 47-30 win over Baker on Thursday in a Greater Oregon League dual.

Wrestling



Mac-Hi
47



Baker
30

a chance to fill a couple of its empty weights and make the match more competitive.

The result was some confusion,

but Mac-Hi coach Beau Chester said those impromptu switches are part of what makes duals fun.

"They kind of did some switching around to try to make it more interesting but luckily these guys were out there and ready to wrestle," he said. "That's what you can do in the dual, so it's kind of the fun thing that you can do in duals. Luckily we had the extra kids."

See PIONEERS/2B

HERMISTON



Sam Barbee photo

Hermiston's Sam Colbray (right) holds position on third-ranked Joe Linebarger from The Dalles during a 5A Columbia River Conference match on Thursday.

Hermiston pounds The Dalles

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

The score might say that Hermiston cruised to an easy Columbia River Conference dual meet wrestling win over The Dalles on Thursday night, but the Bulldogs had to fight and claw for each win.

Assistant coach Doug Tovey, filling in for Shaun Williams who was away at a conference, said the team has been dealing with some illnesses, mostly colds — including Sam Colbray and Liam Tarvin. Despite that, Tovey said the energy level

See HHS Wrestling/2B

NBA

Blazers beat by buzzer beater

Evan Turner lifts Celtics over Portland with last second three

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Evan Turner hit a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left and the Boston Celtics overcame the shorthanded Portland Trail Blazers 90-89 on Thursday night.

Avery Bradley had 18 points to lead the Celtics, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Jared Sullinger added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Damian Lillard had 21 points and seven assists to lead the Blazers, who have lost five of their last six as they struggle with injuries to their front line.

Wesley Matthews missed one of a pair of free throws to give the Blazers the edge,

See BLAZERS/2B

Wrestling



Hermiston
77



The Dalles
6



Boston
90



Portland
89