

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

Cardinals slip in rankings after loss

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Louisville Cardinals women's basketball team dropped four spots to No. 8 in both the AP Top 25 and USA Today Coaches Poll this week after losing its first Atlantic Coast Conference game of the season.

The then-No. 4 Cardinals fell behind then No. 17 Florida State 21-1 and couldn't recover in a 68-63 loss last Thursday in Tallahassee, Florida.

Jude Schimmel, of Mission, had 10 of her 14 points in the first half to lead the comeback effort and the Cardinals (18-2, 6-1 ACC) were down just 35-32 at halftime. Schimmel added eight rebounds and four assists.

The Cardinals bounced back to beat Miami 68-55 with Schimmel contributing three points, three rebounds and four assists.

The Cardinals' Feb. 2 game at Duke will be broadcast on ESPN2 at 4 p.m.

Yankees consider stiffing A-Rod

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees are thinking about not making a \$6 million payment to Alex Rodriguez if he hits six home runs and ties Willie Mays at 660 for fourth place on the career list.

Rodriguez signed a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the team in December 2007 and a separate marketing agreement that called for \$6 million

payments for up to five milestone accomplishments designated by the Yankees and thought to be related to home run milestones. The Yankees are thinking of letting any accomplishment pass without declaring it a milestone.

Rodriguez returns to the team next month after a season-long drug suspension and has three seasons and \$61 million in guaranteed money remaining in his contract.

"I know what happened to the sport of cycling from 1990 to 2005. I saw its growth, I saw its expansion. I know what happened to the industry ... do all those people want to, do we want to take it away? I don't think anybody says yes."

— **Lance Armstrong**
Banned cyclist to BBC Sport explaining why he would again choose to use performance enhancing drugs if he was allowed to go back to 1995 and make the decision over. The interview was part of an upcoming documentary.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1901 — The American League is founded. The league plans for a 140-game schedule, set player rosters at 14 and recognizes the Players Protective Association, the players' union.

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

Super Bowl Media Day

Beast Mode shows

Lynch speaks to media, could still face discipline

By **ROB MAADDI**
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Marshawn Lynch smiled politely, waved at the crowd and answered every question the same.

"I'm here so I don't get fined," the Seattle Seahawks' star running back constantly repeated for five minutes before leaving the podium at Media Day on Tuesday. It's not clear if his plan will work.

See **MEDIA DAY/3B**

"I'm here so I don't get fined."

— **Marshawn Lynch**, Seahawks running back to reporters at Tuesday's Super Bowl XLIX media day. Lynch repeated variations of the response 29 times in a five minute interview session.



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel
Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch, right, talks to teammate Brandon Mebane as he makes his way out off the floor at the beginning of media day for NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Tuesday in Phoenix.

PENDLETON

Persinger elevates Bucks

Senior center nets 29 points in victory

By **ERIK SKOPIL**
East Oregonian

Upon Pendleton coach Brian Broaddus' howling instruction Buckaroo center Wes Persinger planted himself at the block and waited for the rock.

His teammates found him there time and time again, leading to a career-best 29 points and a needed 58-50 bounce-back victory over La Grande in a nonleague contest at Warberg Court Tuesday evening.

"He found where guys weren't and let us get him the ball and he scored," said guard Kai Quinn, who was credited with assists on four of his 12 made field goals.

"Most of the shots were wide open, my teammates were creating space for me," Persinger said. "I didn't really do much. I just set up at the block, they'd get me wide open... it kept working so we kept running it."

Persinger made 12 of 20 attempted field goals, crashed the glass hard for 19 rebounds and defended the tin to the tune of three blocked shots.

The win snapped last week's two-game losing streak with Friday's road Columbia River Conference match-up with The Dalles lingering.

Persinger seized firm control in the second half when he netted 21 of his 29 points including two old-fashioned three-point plays early in the third quarter to help extend the Bucks lead to double figures. He scored the Bucks (10-6) final 12 points.

"We didn't really actually start playing as a team until halftime," Persinger said. "We had a big talk at halftime about how we needed to play together and we needed to do differently to come out and compete in the second half."

Still, Broaddus felt he was un-



Pendleton's Wes Persinger puts up a shot over La Grande's Zack Jacobs in the Bucks' 58-50 win against the Tigers on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Boys Hoops



Pendleton
58



La Grande
50

deritized, especially with Isaiah Cranford — the Tigers (12-5) starting center — held out with illness. La Grande star guard Jake Powell — who had 18 points in the team's first meeting — was also sidelined.

"Really the only one that could stop Wes was Wes or our guards getting it to him," he said. "I think he had 29 and 19 and probably could've had 38 and 28."

That wasn't the aspect of the

Buckaroos victory that bothered Broaddus. Just when it looked like Pendleton was pulling away with a 15-point lead in the fourth period, they allowed La Grande to convert six consecutive field goals — turning the double digit edge into a seven-point margin with a minute remaining.

"With them on the road and missing two guys, it should've been 15, 20 or 25 instead of eight," he

said. "We're content to win when it's one or two or five, when a good team that's used to winning — like an Irrigon — they're going to put the hammer down and beat you by 45 if they can. We just don't have that killer instinct."

"We can be really good and we can be really bad."

Broaddus isn't the only who

See **BUCKS/2B**

Stanfield's Cynthia Curiel (3) drives the lane as lone's Rachel Holland waits during the second half of Stanfield's 42-36 win Tuesday night in Stanfield.

Sam Barbee photo



Preps

Tigers hold off Cardinals

EO Media Group

STANFIELD — The Stanfield Tigers avoided disaster on Tuesday by holding off the lone Cardinals 42-36 for a non-league girls basketball win.

Past Tigers teams may have folded when the Cardinals surged into the lead on a 19-10 fourth-quarter run, but trailing 33-29 with 4:45 left to play the Tigers made a move of their own.

A pair of free throw makes by Bailey Watson and a long two-pointer by Ashlee O'Neil tied the game at 33-all, and then Yazzmin Chavez banked in a 3-pointer to put Stanfield (8-9) up for good with three minutes and change showing on the

Girls Basketball



Stanfield
42



Lone
36

clock. "That seven-point swing was huge, and it happened lightning quick," said first-year Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp. "It shows what they can do when they're making some shots."

The Tigers extended their game-clinching run to 13-0 with added points from Chavez, Watson and Maddie Griffin.

Stanfield also lengthened its

See **PREPS/2B**