

Sports shorts

NCAA not expected to discuss play pace

The NCAA coordinator of college football officials says he does not expect pace of play to be a major topic when the rules committee meets this week.



Rogers Redding said Monday the use of technology on the sideline will be a focus during committee meetings Tuesday and Wednesday.

Redding said the conversation about pace of play has been “muted.”

“There hasn’t been an awful lot of concern about that this year,” Redding said. “We’ll probably talk about it in the meeting, but I don’t anticipate any changes.”

The NCAA football rules committee does not usually stir up controversy, but last year it made headlines and talk-radio fodder for weeks with its proposal aimed at slowing down the game and limiting the number of plays for safety reasons.

Hall of Fame coach Smith dies

Dean Smith accomplished so much on and off the court during his time as North Carolina’s coach, leaving a lasting influence both on the game and the world around him.

He preached the value of team play and turned the Tar Heels program into a family, inspiring fierce loyalty in the countless players and

coaches who came through Chapel Hill during Smith’s 36-year tenure there. Away from the bench, Smith took stands on societal issues — most notably in civil rights — that resonated in the once-segregated South

The retired Hall of Fame coach died “peacefully” Saturday, his family said in a statement released by the school Sunday. He had kept a lower profile amid health issues in recent years, with his family saying in 2010 he had a condition that was causing him to lose the memory that was once unshakable.

But his legacy never wavered. It will include his “four corners” offense that slowed down games and ultimately lead to the adoption of the shot clock, “point to the passer” in attempt to credit assisting players, welcoming black players, shaping more than 50 NBA players — including Michael Jordan — and dozens of coaches and executives.

“People were fainting. Everyone stepped over the other. My luck was I was the last on the pile.”

— Mahmoud, 27, A survivor of a stampede Sunday at an Egyptian soccer game that killed 22 people.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1952 — The Baltimore Bullets play the 48-minute game without making a single substitution and beat the Fort Wayne Pistons 82-77.

1968 — Peggy Fleming wins the women’s Olympic figure skating gold medal in Grenoble, France.

1992 — Bonnie Blair becomes the first woman to successfully defend an Olympic gold medal in 500-meter speed skating and the first American woman in any sport to win gold medals in consecutive Olympics.

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

Ducks snap up record-setting QB

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Eastern Washington quarterback Vernon Adams, an FCS All-American, said Monday he will transfer to Oregon, where he will be eligible to play next season and compete to replace Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota.

“Oregon it is!” Adams posted on Twitter, with an Instagram of the Oregon logo.

Adams has been a record-breaking, three-year starter at Eastern Washington and is on target to graduate in May with a degree in recreation management. NCAA rules allow players who have graduated to transfer to another school without having to sit out a season.

The Ducks are looking to replace Mariota, who declared for the NFL draft after his junior season, giving Adams a chance to start.

Adams said the move was best for himself and his family.

Oregon and Eastern Washington will open the 2015 season against each other on Sept. 5.

Adams has passed for 10,438



In this Sept. 2014 file photo, Eastern Washington quarterback Vernon Adams Jr. throws a pass against the Washington Huskies in Seattle.

yards and 110 touchdowns, with 31 interceptions at EWU. He also helped the Eagles upset Pac-12 team Oregon State two seasons ago and

nearly beat Washington last year.

Oregon officials said little about the transfer. Under the transfer rules, EWU had to sign off on the deal.

AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

PILOT ROCK

Rockets bounce back in strong second half

League-leading girls team returns to winning ways

By ERIK SKOPII
East Oregonian

Saturday offered Pilot Rock girls coach Butch Wilson a peek at his young team’s resolve.

What he found a day after the Rockets dropped their first league game was a mixed bag.

One bad half, another good, blending for a 45-29 rebound victory over Culver Saturday at Pilot Rock High School.

“This whole season has been kind of a mystery because it’s a completely different team than I’ve had for two years,” Wilson said.

“Role players or freshman that weren’t even here in the program are now key players and contributors.

“I honestly wasn’t sure what to expect (Saturday).”

The opening 16 minutes looked to Wilson like a rerun of Friday’s 54-49 loss to Stanfield. Initiating the halfcourt offense resulted in miscues as often as success, Culver had their pick of easy shots — making them was another sto-

ry — and save for an 7-0 run to close the half, the Rockets (11-6, 7-1 CBC) were unable to create any separation from the Bulldogs (10-10, 2-6 CBC).

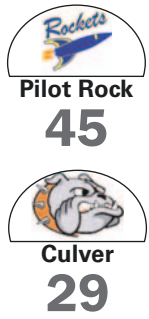
In the third quarter the Rockets recaptured the aggressive style that led them to an undefeated 6-0 start in Columbia Basin Conference play. Culver struggled to advance the ball across the midcourt line, turning it over on five of their first eight tries. Meanwhile, the Rockets got plenty accustomed to attempting and converting contested layins on their way to a 14-2 second half start and a 21-point lead.

“The third quarter we came out and immediately jumped on them,” Wilson said. “I liked the way we played the whole second half. That’s the way we need to play the whole rest of the season.”

“Our first half was a little rusty still but we had a good

See GIRLS BBALL/2B

GIRLS HOOPS



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Rocket Kayla Diest (10) drives to the basket past Jazmin Ruiz, of Culver, during a conference game Saturday in Pilot Rock.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Mac-Hi nabs their first league win in two years

MILTON-FREEWATER — Hunter Yensen sank a pair of game-winning free throws with three seconds remaining Saturday and Mac-Hi celebrated its first Greater Oregon League victory in two years.

Trailing Ontario by one point with 24 seconds remaining, the Pioneers had three looks at the rim before Yensen was finally fouled and converted two from the charity stripe to lift Mac-Hi over the Tigers 51-50 in a rare league win.

The victory broke an 11-game league losing streak for the Pioneers (3-14, 1-3 GOL) and is only their second of the last four years.

On the final possession Carlos Angel missed a jump shot, but the ball bounced off of a Tiger (4-18, 1-4 GOL) player and out of bounds. After the sides swapped timeouts to set up the final shot, the Pioneers got Yensen a good look off the inbounds play. He missed the shot but got his own rebound and was fouled to set up the go-ahead foul shots.

The final board gave the 6-foot-1 forward an even 10 for the game to go along with 17 points.

The Pioneers connected on 9 of 23 three point tries to pace their offense. An-

gel was particularly effective from deep. The senior hit 4 of 6 opportunities. He led Mac-Hi with 18 points, six assists and four steals.

BOYS HOOPS



MAC-HI 51, ONTARIO 50
ONT (4-18) 18 15 9 8 — 51
MAC (3-14) 18 12 12 9 — 50
ONTARIO — Collins 14, Perrera 0, Majilla 2, Navarro 0, Sanchez 0, Reyes 0, Monzo 0, Williams 4, John Hart 20, Reyes 8, Contreras 2.
MAC-HI — Sandberg 0, Alvarez 0, Zaragoza 8, Yensen 17, Perez 2, DeBord 4, Ng 0, Angel 18, Zitterkopf 2.
3-point field goals — ONT 2, MAC 9. Free throws — ONT 6-10, MAC 6-11. Fouls — ONT 13, MAC 10. Fouled out — Williams (ONT), Collins (ONT).

PILOT ROCK 50, CULVER 35 — At Pilot Rock, the Rockets (6-11, 2-6 CBC) snapped their four-game losing streak with a runaway win over Bulldogs (2-19, 0-8 CBC).

Pilot Rock received a gutsy effort from center Justin Willingham. The 6-foot-5 senior dislocated his shoulder in the second quarter but returned for the second half to help pace the Rockets to victory. He finished with 14 rebounds as the Rockets nearly doubled Culver up on the boards (47-to-27).

Guard Dillon Fritz filled up the stat sheet in the win, tallying nine points, eight

See BOYS BBALL/2B

Wrestling

Bulldogs run away with another tourney win

East Oregonian

OREGON CITY — Nearly every wrestler Hermiston put on the mat brought home a medal from the Oregon City Invitational on Saturday, allowing the Bulldogs to run away with the team title in the last tournament of the regular season.

Hermiston had 19 wrestlers place in the top five, including four champions, and scored 304 team points to easily hold off Hood River Valley in second place with 223.5.

Pendleton finished sixth at the nine-team event with 123.5 points, two champs, and five top-five placers.

Hermiston’s champions were Brock McDonough (160 pounds), Bob Coleman (170), John-Henry Line (182) and Jesee Rodelo (220). Two-time state champ Sam Colbray did not wrestle.

McDonough beat teammate Julio Leiva 5-3 in the championship bout, and Leiva was one of three Bulldogs to earn silver. Robert Rodriguez (106) and Beau Blake (220) were the other two.

Coleman won his title with a 16-5 major decision over Oregon City’s Ethan Holt. In the semifinals he defeated Pendleton’s Terrel Platt 6-1 in a rematch of Thursday’s overtime bout, also won by Coleman.

Line beat Hood River Valley’s Steven Swafford 7-0 in his title match, and Rodelo earned gold by a 6-2 margin over Oregon City’s Mack Civil. Placing third for Hermiston were: Jack Meads (113), Robert Crane (138), Mitchell Lincoln (182) and Brian Gutierrez (195). Fourth place Bulldogs were: CJ Hendon (132), Jacob Dodge (145), Devin Bosner (152) and Kenny Bevan (170). In fifth for HHS it was: Wade Fitzpatrick (126), Joey Gutierrez (138) and Emilio Landin (285).

Pendleton’s champions were Morgan Holcomb (138) and Marcus Taylor (195).

Holcomb beat Estacada’s Justin Drury 6-3 for his title, and Taylor pinned Hood River Valley’s Mark Reyes in 56 seconds for his.

Tristan Holcomb placed

See WRESTLING/2B