

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Sports shorts

AP source: Weeks signs with Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — A person familiar with the negotiations says Rickie Weeks and the Seattle Mariners have agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because the deal is pending a physical. Weeks can earn another \$2 million in performance bonuses plus additional award bonuses.

Weeks gives the Mariners additional versatility in the infield. In 121 games last season with Milwaukee, he hit .274 with eight home runs and 29 RBIs. He became a free agent after the Brewers voided his \$11.5 million salary for 2015, a right the team had because Weeks failed to have at least 1,200 plate appearances in 2013-14, including 600 or more last year.

In his career, Weeks has played only second base and designated hitter, but he could be an option as a backup at first base and possibly in the outfield.

Karl to take over Sacramento Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The Sacramento Kings announced Thursday that they had reached an agreement in principle with George Karl to become the head coach.

The team said a news conference to introduce Karl would be scheduled when the agreement is finalized.

Karl, the sixth-winningest coach in NBA history, is expected to coach the Kings in their first game following the All-Star break at home against Boston on Feb. 20.

Karl will be Sacramento's third coach this season.

The Kings made the surprising move to fire Michael Malone in December after an 11-13 start in his second season as coach, even though they had shown progress until All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins was sidelined for an extended period with viral meningitis. Malone was replaced by Tyrone Corbin, but the Kings said Thursday that Corbin had been relieved of his head coaching duties.

"People have an opinion about everything, especially when you get into that world of animal rights or tree rights or whatever rights."

— Danica Patrick

The NASCAR driver defending the GoDaddy puppy commercial that was pulled from the Super Bowl after criticism from animal-rights groups. The original ad with Patrick featured a puppy that fell off the back of a truck after it was sold online by occupants of a farm.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1937 — Washington gets its current franchise, which moves from Boston.

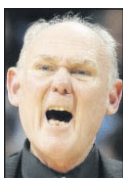
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FACES

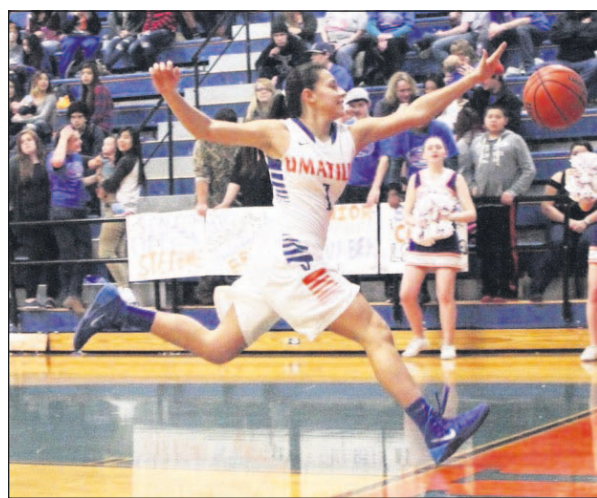


Weeks

FACES



Karl



Umatilla senior Berenice Chavez tries to save a loose ball during the second half of Umatilla's 47-26 senior night win over Riverside on Thursday in Umatilla.

Sam Barbee photo

UMATILLA

Umatilla sends seniors off with victory over Riverside

Paz sparks Viking run in 2nd quarter

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

Thursday night was senior night for the Umatilla girls basketball team, but it was a couple of juniors who stole the show.

Courtney Dohman had a double-double with 13 points and Mari

Paz scored six straight points in the second quarter to rally the eighth-ranked Lady Viks past the Riverside Pirates 47-26 at The Pit.

Down 12-11 late in the second quarter, Paz hit a pair of free throws and a pair of run-out layups to start an 11-0 run that bled into the third quarter to take control of the final matchup with the rival Pirates.

With the win, Umatilla (18-5, 6-2 Eastern Oregon League) is a

See VIKINGS/2B

GIRLS HOOPS



Umatilla
47



Riverside
26

HERMISTON

Head back in the game

Senior guard making impact after swearing off sport

By ERIK SKOPII
East Oregonian

It's not uncommon for college coaches to reach out to Hermiston girls basketball coach Steve Hoffert and ask about one of his players.

The Bulldogs have built a powerhouse in the state's northeastern corner and success on the court provides ample opportunity for his players to continue their playing careers at the next level.

So it wasn't exactly a surprise for Hoffert to find his in-box filling up with inquiries about his 5-foot-11 senior sharpshooter. It's just not something he could've predicted a year ago.

"Last year I made the decision that I was not going to play college ball," said Tavin Headings, the aforementioned dead-eye.

That's not all she decided to give up following a tumultuous sophomore season. Overwhelmed by anxiety to excel and with her passion dwindling, Headings elected not to return to the hardwood for her junior year. Instead she swapped the court for the pool and competed for the Hermiston swim team.

The pool was where Headings began her athletic endeavors as a grade schooler in Lebanon, Ore., before her attention switched to basketball when her family moved to Eastern Oregon in third grade.

A freestyle and butterfly specialist, the re-immersion to the water provided her with solace.

"Swimming is an individual thing," Headings said. "So I didn't feel like I was letting anybody down. With basketball it felt like I had to be a lot more reliable and I had a lot more responsibility ... I felt like if I made a mistake it was the end of the world."

Although she quickly rose through the Bulldog swim ranks, the passion for hoops was rekindled soon enough. From the student section in The Dawghouse last February, Headings watched

See HEADINGS/2B

"I felt like I was ready and I was hoping I that I'd be more mature this time around."

— Tavin Headings,
Hermiston girls basketball player



Hermiston's Tavin Headings puts up a jump shot in the Bulldogs' 79-24 win against Hood River on Tuesday in Hermiston. Headings opted not to play basketball her junior year, swimming for the Bulldogs instead, before returning to the hardwood for her senior year.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

College Basketball

Utes have little trouble downing Cardinal

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Delon Wright scored 15 points as No. 11 Utah ran away from Stanford with a 75-59 victory Thursday night, the Utes' 16th in a row at home.

Dallin Bachynski finished with 13 points, while Jordan Loveridge chipped in 12 and Brekkott Chapman added 12 for the Utes (19-4, 9-2 Pac-12), who opened the second half with a 15-2 run to cruise past the Cardinal.

Anthony Brown led Stanford (16-8, 7-5) with 15 points, and Marcus Allen scored a career-high 13.

Utah closed the first half with a 6-0 run, including two buzzer-beating baskets from Bachynski, to take



Stanford forward Anthony Brown, top, and Utah forward Brekkott Chapman, bottom, battle for a loose ball Thursday in Salt Lake City.

AP Photo/Rick Bowmer



#11 Utah
75



Stanford
59

the school's all-time leader in 3-point baskets, was 0-for-4 from behind the arc. His first field goal came with 6:23 remaining in the game. He finished with 10 points

The Utes have not allowed more than 69 points in 22 consecutive games. They entered as one of five teams in the nation not to allow more than 72 points all season. ...

Point guard Brandon Taylor scored just five points after coming into

See HOOPS/2B

a 33-27 lead into halftime. Stanford led 10-4 out of the gate with the help of four offensive rebounds, but Utah responded with a 17-5 run sparked by eight straight points from Chap-

man. Stanford starting guard Chason Randle entered averaging 20.3 points per game, but was held scoreless in the first half. Randle,