

ECHO
Warm weather excites race organizers

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

Ten years ago, Echo Bike and Board owner Shayne Myers and his friend Brian Cimmyotti needed a place to train. They’re mountain bike racers, but had nowhere to practice in Echo during the lengthy offseason. Lloyd Piercy owns a great deal of land outside of Echo where the Sno Valley Winery and Echo West Ranch and Vineyard, and Myers and Cimmyotti saw potential in that land to create a trail system so they could practice.

Piercy liked the idea and helped them create the trail systems that now weave around the vineyards and desert that surrounds the historic community of Echo.

Three years after that, an idea was hatched: What if a race is held that uses those trails, but also brings people into the area? So, the Echo Red to Red race was started, and seven years later it continues to grow.

The first year 175 racers signed up. By 2009, 548 participated. Low temperatures and freezing rain limited the field to 200, but organizers are expecting anywhere from 500 to 600 this year.

“If the weather plays nice with us, were really expecting at least 500 this year,” organizer Stephanie Myers said. “We always plan for 600, that’s always our goal. Realistically, 500 would make me happy.”

The race has grown into an important one on the Oregon Mountain Bicycle Racing circuit. A quick Google search “Echo Red to Red” yields YouTube videos of the Red to Red. Various mountain biking sites have small write-ups and lodging information pertaining to the Red to Red.

The race itself starts in Echo at the corner of Main St. and S Dupont St. in Echo and head west toward the trails and will finish on Bridgle St. in Echo. Riders can select one of three course lengths: 15 miles, 24 miles and 36 miles. It’s a sanctioned Oregon Bicycle Racing Association (OBRA) race, and is the first mountain bike race of the OBRA 2015 slate.

The track takes riders out west of town, through rolling desert hills and along cliff faces overlooking the Umatilla River before heading back into Echo. The trails are about 3.5 miles from town, and the race doesn’t formally start until the trails are reached.

“It’s a difficult course, but its definitely something any ability level would be able to do,” Myers said.

But the mountain bike race isn’t the only event at the Red to Red. A unique take on rides and runs is the Poker Ride/Run. It started a few years after the original Red to Red after the Myers’ noticed that people were staying an extra night and camping.

“There’s a lot of people who stay and camp out after the race and want to ride,” Myers said. “So we thought why don’t we use another thing to raise funds.”

If you go

WHAT: Echo Red to Red Mountain Bike Race/Poker Ride/Run
WHEN: Saturday, February 28, 11 a.m., March 1, 8:30 a.m.
WHERE: Race begins at corner of Main and Dupont Streets in downtown Echo
HOW: Prospective racers may register at EchoRed2Red.com or at Echo Bike and Board in Stanfield. If you pre-register, prices are \$40 for adults and \$15 for riders aged 10-18. Riders under the age of 10 are not permitted to participate. Pre-registered racers get free lunch and are entered into raffles. The Poker Ride/Run costs \$20 in pre-registration and breakfast and more raffles are included. The final day for pre-registration is Monday, February 23. Prices after pre-registration are still \$15 for juniors, but \$45 for adults.

MLB

Mariners enter spring with high expectations

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — During their 13-year playoff drought, whenever the Seattle Mariners entered a season with expectations, they managed to fall short.

Whatever the season — 2002, 2003, 2008, 2010 — if there was a public belief that Seattle was playoff worthy, the Mariners underachieved.

That will make how the Mariners handle the 2015 season a study on whether they’ve finally created a roster capable of handling lofty praise. Seattle starts spring training on Friday when pitchers and catchers report with many baseball observers believing the Mariners are among the favorites in the American League.

“That’s OK. That’s my job to take care of that in spring training,” Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon said. “If we get concerned about expectations we’re not focused.”

Before getting to the regular season, the Mariners have questions to answer during the spring.

Here are some things to watch as the Mariners get started:

CRUZ CONTROL: Last year all the attention was on the arrival of Robinson Cano. Now it’s the addition of Nelson Cruz and whether the league leader in home runs a year ago can duplicate that effort while playing for the Mariners.

While spring training and the arid desert conditions won’t be the best barometer of what kind of power Cruz can bring to Seattle, it will be an opportunity to see how he’ll fit



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File

In this July 19, 2014, file photo, Seattle Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon walks off the field after relieving relief pitcher Yoervis Medina during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif.

in Seattle’s lineup. Cruz will likely be sandwiched in the batting order between Cano and Kyle Seager, breaking up the two best bats in the Mariners lineup from last year and likely giving both better pitches to hit. Lack of offense was the reason Seattle missed the playoffs last season.

JACKSON’S REBOUND: Center fielder Austin Jackson was a disappointment after being acquired from Detroit before the trade deadline last summer. He struggled in making the midseason transition from the Tigers to the Mariners and didn’t have the impact at the top of the batting order

that McClendon had hoped for.

Getting Jackson closer to what his career numbers were in Detroit will be critical for Seattle’s offense. Jackson hit just .229 with six extra-base hits in 54 games after the trade last July.

SHORTSTOP SHOWDOWN: The biggest position battle during the spring will be at shortstop with Chris Taylor and Brad Miller competing for the full-time role. Taylor has the better glove. Miller has been shown to have more potential at the plate. There were rumblings in the offseason of a positional switch for Miller, but those are essentially

Play Ball: Champion Giants begin effort to win in ‘odd year’

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The San Francisco Giants roll in even years, winning the World Series in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Enough of that pattern, Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

“We want to have a lot of fun in an odd year,” he said while San Francisco pitchers and catchers reported for spring training on Wednesday.

Pitchers and catchers also reported to the Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland In-

dians and Philadelphia Phillies. The rest of the major league teams will get going over the next few days, half of them in Arizona, half in Florida.

As usual, pitching should be San Francisco’s strength. Bochy said he’s pretty set on the five-man rotation that will open the season.

He didn’t name them. But by eliminating the non-starters he did mention, the five would be ace Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Tim Lincecum, Jake Peavy and Tim Lincecum.

“We haven’t put the order down exactly but we’ve got a pretty good

idea of what it’s going to be,” Bochy said.

He said Ryan Vogelsong and Yusmeiro Petit would be long-relievers and spot starters. Vogelsong re-signed with San Francisco, a one-year, \$4 million deal, knowing the crowded starter situation he was rejoining.

“We talked a little bit about the situation and he understands it,” Bochy said. “You can’t have enough depth in the rotation. I’m glad that Ryan decided to come back with us and I think it’s going to be a workable situation. They can help each other out,

maybe give a guy a start off.”

Lincecum said he has rediscovered the mechanics that once made him among the best in the game.

“My body just started to kind of click and grasp onto the things I used to do naturally,” he said.

He isn’t taking the starting role for granted.

“I feel I have to re-earn my spot in the rotation,” he said. “I didn’t really finish off the year very well last year at all. That kind of left a drive in me. I want to get that back and discover what went wrong.”

TIGERS: Ione earns another game

Continued from 1B

Culver struggled to take care of the ball in the first half, which allowed Stanfield to take a 7-4 lead after a quarter and a 15-7 lead at the half.

But then the second half started. Suddenly, Stanfield’s inexperience began to show and Sharp said they started playing not to lose.

In the fourth quarter, Stanfield’s Natalia Esquivel opened the scoring with a pair of free throws, but Culver would score the next eight points and had the Stanfield lead down to two at 22-20. Jessica Johnson, Lewi s and Alesha Freeman got those baskets, and Culver was back in the game.

“It was a ten-point lead, then I look up and they kept scoring,” Watson said. “I was getting a little worried, but we pulled it out.”

Now, Stanfield takes on league champ Pilot Rock, whose only league loss of the season came to these Stanfield Tigers in a wild 54-49 overtime thriller on Feb. 6 in Stanfield.

They’re set for a 1 p.m. tip on Friday at the Pendleton Convention Center.

O. B. Watson 5, G. Chavez 0, Y. Chavez 0, B. Braithwaite 4, S. Connell 2, C. Hopper 2, N. Esquivel 4.
3-point field goals — Culver 1, Stanfield 2. **Free throws** — Culver 3-13, Stanfield 8-20. **Fouls** — Culver 17, Stanfield 14. **Fouled out** — none.

IONE 43, ARLINGTON 31 — At Arlington, state playoff aspirations remain alive following the Cardinals Big Sky District victory over Arlington Wednesday.

Fifth-seeded Ione (7-15) started off hot on the No. 4 Honkers (12-13) homecourt. The 11-2 first period sent the Cardinal ahead and they never looked.

Jessie Flynn led Ione with 13 points, Maggie Flynn drilled three three-pointer and Rachel Holland grabbed 14 rebounds.

The win earns the Cardinals the difficult draw of playing returning state champion and BSL top-seed Condon/Wheeler Friday at 6 p.m. at Hermiston High School. But all is not lost for Ione even if they do drop a game to the stout Knights. With three playoff berths, the winner of Saturday’s consolation match will also punch a state ticket.

No. 2 Dufur will No. 3 Sherman in the other district game Friday.

IONE 43, ARLINGTON 31
IHS (7-15) 11 8 13 11 — 43
AHS (12-13) 2 11 11 7 — 31
IONE — Jessie Flynn 13, M. Flynn 9, I. Sanford 3, R. Holland 5, L. Garrett 6, K. Garrett 7.
ARLINGTON — S. Collins 2, J. Patnode 7, R. McClure 10, Tutuvana 6, E. Kirby 6.
3-point field goals — IHS 5, AHS 2. **Free throws** — IHS 9-19, AHS 5-13. **Fouls** — IHS 16, AHS 13. **Fouled out** — none.

Scoreboard

Sports slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today

Mac-Hi at Baker, 4:45 p.m.
Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Friday

Weston-McEwen/Pilot Rock winner vs. Irrigon, (Pendleton Convention Center), 2:30 p.m.
Pendleton at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
Stanfield vs. Heppner (Pendleton Convention Center) 8:30p.m.

Saturday

Big Sky League district tournament (Hermiston HS), TBD
Old Oregon League district tournament (Baker HS), TBD
Columbia Basin Conference district tournament (Pendleton Convention Center), TBD

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday

Stanfield/Culver winner vs. Pilot Rock (Pendleton Convention Center), 1 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Heppner vs. Weston-McEwen (Pendleton Convention Center), 7 p.m.

Saturday

Big Sky League district tournament (Hermiston HS), TBD
Old Oregon League district tournament (Baker HS), TBD
Columbia Basin Conference district tournament (Pendleton Convention Center), TBD

PREP WRESTLING

Friday

Riverside, Echo at Special District 1 Tournament (Armand Larive MS, Hermiston), 5 p.m.

Saturday

Riverside, Echo at Special District 1 Tournament (Armand Larive MS, Hermiston), 10 a.m.
Heppner, Irrigon at Special District 4 Tournament (Enterprise), TBD

PREP SWIMMING

Friday

Pendleton at State Championships

(Gresham), 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

Pendleton at State Championships (Gresham), 6:45 p.m.

PREP RODEO

Friday

Intermountain Team at Eugene double-header, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Intermountain Team at Eugene double-header, 6 p.m.

Sunday

Intermountain Team at Eugene double-header, Noon

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday

Eastern Oregon at Northwest, 7:30 p.m.
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Evergreen, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday

Eastern Oregon at Northwest, 5:30 p.m.
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Evergreen, 5:30 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday

Eastern Oregon vs. British Columbia (NW Cup, Clackamas), 1 p.m.
Eastern Oregon vs. Simpson (NW Cup, Clackamas), 3 p.m.

Saturday

Eastern Oregon vs. Simpson (NW Cup, Clackamas), 11 a.m.

Sunday

Eastern Oregon vs. Carroll (NW Cup, Clackamas), 11 a.m.
Eastern Oregon vs. George Fox (NW Cup, Clackamas), 1 p.m.

Basketball

OSAA

Boys Basketball

2A Columbia Basin Districts

Pilot Rock 59, Weston-McEwen 58

Girls Basketball

2A Columbia Basin Districts

Stanfield 26, Culver 22

1A Big Sky League Districts

Ione 43, Arlington 31

NCAA Top 25

Wednesday's Games

No. 4 Duke 92, No. 14 North Carolina 90 (OT)

No. 5 Wisconsin 55, Penn State 47

No. 11 Northern Iowa 58, Loyola (Ill.) 39

Syracuse 69, No. 12 Louisville 59

No. 18 Arkansas 84, Missouri 69

Today's Games

No. 3 Gonzaga at Pacific, 8 p.m.

No. 7 Arizona vs. USC, 6 p.m. (PACN)

No. 9 Utah at Oregon State, 8 p.m. (PACN)

No. 16 Maryland vs. Nebraska, 4 p.m. (BTN)

No. 21 SMU vs. Temple, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

Pac-12 Standings

Conf Ovr Str

Arizona 10-2 22-3 W2

Utah 10-2 20-4 W4

Oregon 9-5 19-8 W1

UCLA 8-6 11-1 L1

Stanford 7-6 16-9 L2

Oregon St. 7-6 16-9 L2

California 6-7 16-10 L1

Arizona St. 6-7 14-12 W2

Colorado 5-7 12-12 W1

Washington St. 5-11 14-1 L1

Washington 3-10 14-11 L7

USC 2-11 10-15 W1

Wednesday's Games

Oregon 73, Colorado 60

Arizona State 68, UCLA 66

Today's Games

USC at No. 7 Arizona, 6 p.m. (PACN)

No. 9 Utah at Oregon State, 8 p.m. (PACN)

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W L OT Pts GF GA

Montreal 37 16 4 78 152 127

Tampa Bay 36 18 6 78 195 160

Detroit 32 14 10 74 163 143

Boston 28 20 9 65 150 149

Florida 25 19 12 62 138 155

Ottawa 23 23 10 56 159 160

Toronto 23 30 5 51 162 178

Buffalo 16 37 4 36 105 195

Metropolitan Division

W L OT Pts GF GA

N.Y. Islanders 38 19 1 77 188 163

N.Y. Rangers 34 16 5 73 174 136

Pittsburgh 32 16 9 73 162 144

Washington 31 17 10 72 171 146

Philadelphia 24 23 10 58 153 167

Columbus 25 27 3 53 147 172

New Jersey 22 26 9 53 126 155

Carolina 20 29 7 47 127 154

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

W L OT Pts GF GA

Nashville 39 12 6 84 175 132

St. Louis 37 16 4 78 179 141

Chicago 35 18 5 75 174 134

Winnipeg 30 19 10 70 165 157

Minnesota 29 21 7 65 158 154

Dallas 27 22 8 62 179 180

Colorado 24 23 11 59 150 165

Pacific Division

W L OT Pts GF GA

Anaheim 35 16 7 77 170 164

Calgary 32 22 4 68 168 150

Vancouver 32 21 3 67 158 147

Los Angeles 27 18 12 66 159 151

San Jose 29 22 8 66 165 170

Arizona 20 31 7 47 131 194

Edmonton 17 32 10 44 139 199

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's Games

Detroit 3, Chicago 2, SO

Edmonton 4, Boston 3, SO

Ottawa 4, Montreal 2

Minnesota 3, Calgary 2, OT

Los Angeles 4, Colorado 1

Tampa Bay 4, Anaheim 1

Thursday's Games

Nashville at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.

Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.

Columbus at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.

Winnipeg at Washington, 4 p.m.

Florida at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

San Jose at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

WHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

EAST DIVISION

W L OTL SOL GF GA

x-Brandon 43 9 4 2267 179

Regina 30 19 4 3205 181

Swift Current 27 25 1 4173 185

Moose Jaw 23 30 4 1166 215

Prince Albert 23 32 2 1164 205

Saskatoon 17 37 2 1164 242

CENTRAL DIVISION

W L OTL SOL GF GA

Medicine Hat 37 19 1 2230 179

Calgary 34 18 1 4239 163

Red Deer 30 18 4 5194 184

Kootenay 58 29 27 1 1193

213 60

Edmonton 26 26 4 2167 162

Lethbridge 18 33 3 3168 239

WESTERN CONFERENCE

B.C. DIVISION

W L OTL SOL GF GA

x-Kelowna 45 9 3 1262 145

Victoria 32 22 3 1203 179

Vancouver 25 30 1 2168 199

Kamloops 22 31 3 3171 222

Prince George 23 33 2 2175 252

U.S. DIVISION

W L OTL SOL GF GA

x-Everett 35 16 3 3202 152

Portland 33 20 1 3210 184

Seattle 29 21 3 4162 158

Spokane 27 25 3 1159 172

Tri-City 26 29 0 3155 185

Wednesday's Games

Deer 3 Moose Jaw 2 (OT)

Red Deer 4 Saskatoon 3

Kelowna 11 Kamloops 4

Tuesday's results

Moose Jaw 4 Victoria 3

Red Deer 2 Prince Albert 1 (SO)

Calgary 4 Medicine Hat 1

Kootenay 5 Lethbridge 2

Portland 5 Tri-City 1

Thursday no games