

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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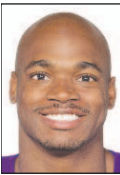
Sports shorts

Judge rules in favor of Peterson

(AP) — In NFL limbo for the last five-plus months, Adrian Peterson’s future with the Minnesota Vikings is still in question.

The path toward resolution of his status has been cleared. The league-union clash over

FACES



Peterson

the personal conduct policy, though, has only cranked up. Commissioner Roger Goodell and the NFL were handed a second high-profile legal defeat Thursday, when U.S. District Judge David Doty overruled league arbitrator Harold Henderson’s December denial of the six-time Pro Bowl running back’s appeal.

Doty ruled that Henderson “failed to meet his duty” in considering Peterson’s punishment, for the child abuse charge that brought national backlash for the league on the heels of the bungled handling of the assault case involving former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

Hill makes it through season despite brain tumor

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Mount St. Joseph’s women’s basketball team held its postseason banquet in a hospital room warmed by Lauren Hill’s smile.

The 19-year-old freshman made it through a full season while raising more than \$1.3 million for research into the type of brain tumor that will likely end her life. She’s occasionally hospitalized for treatment now, but still holding to each day as tightly as she can and urging others to appreciate their time together.

“That’s truly Lauren,” coach Dan Benjamin said in an interview on Thursday. “That’s the message she’s been saying forever. She’s just thankful God gave her that opportunity and that role because she’s the one that could handle it. And she’s done it so gracefully.”

“I think we’re into the generation where everybody gets a trophy. And those guys are getting to the big leagues now. I know I’m going to take some heat about it, but I’m telling you what I know.”

— **LaTroy Hawkins**
Colorado Rockies closer, 42, and MLB’s oldest player as he prepares for his final season. Hawkins saved 23 games last year and became the 16th pitcher to reach 1,000 major league appearances.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1959 — The Boston Celtics beat the Minneapolis Lakers 173-139 as seven NBA records fall. The Celtics set records for most points, most points in a half (90), most points in a quarter (52) and most field goals (72). Boston’s Tom Heinsohn leads all scorers with 43 points and Bob Cousy adds 31 while setting an NBA record with 28 assists.

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

State Wrestling

Bulldogs looking for bonus



EO file photo

Hermiston’s C.J. Hendon trips up Pendleton’s Brendon Bedolla in during a dual match earlier this season in Hermiston. Hendon is one of several Bulldogs taking the mats at the OSAA state wrestling championships starting today in Portland.

Quarterfinal matches crucial for team score

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston Bulldogs have won Class 5A state wrestling titles each of the past two years and enter this weekend’s meet at Veteran’s Memorial Coliseum in Portland poised to compete for a third consecutive and ninth overall.

The title defense begins in earnest during tonight’s quarterfinals. That’s when the Bulldogs will have chances to separate themselves from title challengers Hillsboro and Eagle Point.

“You’ve got to pick up the bonus points,” said Hermiston coach Shaun Williams, who helmed the last two title runs. “Sometimes you can win a state title without any champions. That’s OK, too.”

Those bonus points will come in the form of head-to-head preliminary action against the Spartans and Eagles. CJ Hendon (126) and John-Henry Line (182) are each slated to meet rivals during today’s quarterfinals. With opening round wins, Hendon will face fourth-seeded Levi Pomeroy of Eagle Point in the quarters, while second-seeded Line will get a shot against Hillsboro’s TJ Cavender.

Hillsboro provides the Dawgs’ biggest challenge. The Spartans finished third place in Class 6A a year ago, but dropped to 5A due to reclassification. They got the better of Hermiston in a dual at the Oregon



EO file photo

Pendleton’s Morgan Holcomb pins Hermiston’s Robert Crane during a dual match this season in Hermiston. Holcomb is one of four Pendleton wrestlers competing at the OSAA state championships starting today in Portland.

Wrestling Classic in January.

Team champions or not, it’s unlikely the Bulldogs will leave Portland without an individual winner. Liam Tarvin (113) and Sam Colbray (195) each brought championship wins back to Hermiston a year ago and return for another go. Tarvin won last year as a freshman at 106 but has bumped up a weight class this season. Colbray is going for his third win at 195 pounds.

Other Bulldogs will contend for first time individual crowns. Andy

See WRESTLING/2B

Prep Basketball

Knights begin title defense

Irrigon, Condon/Wheeler host playoff games

East Oregonian

IRRIGON — The Irrigon Knights open their 2A boys basketball title defense tonight when they host No. 16 Vernonia at 7 p.m.

Led by the trio of seniors Adrian Romero and Anthony Landeros, and junior Fredy Vera, the No. 1 Knights have averaged a classification-high 72 points a game this season.

Irrigon (25-1) suffered its only loss 69-67 to Class 3A No. 1 Dayton on Jan. 2, and enters tonight’s contest on a 16-game winning streak.

The Knights are also red hot coming off a dominant district tournament in which they beat Pilot Rock 88-27, then topped No. 3 Heppner 67-36.

Vernonia (14-12) has won five of its last six, but is coming off a 80-68 loss to Knappa in the Northwest League district tournament championship. The Loggers average just 54.5 points a game.

The Knights are just one of the nine local teams competing in a state postseason this weekend. Here is a quick look at the rest of the area’s match-ups:

No. 14 Faith Bible at No. 3 Heppner, 6 p.m. — The Falcons (13-12) took their lumps in the Northwest League a year ago, but returned with a senior-heavy roster to earn a state playoff berth.

A key match-up to watch as the teams battle for a berth in the final bracket will be

See BASKETBALL/2B

College Basketball Sluggish Gonzaga survives

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Przemek Karnowski scored 11 of his 14 points in the second half, Domantas Sabonis added 11 off the bench, and No. 3 Gonzaga overcame a sluggish first half to beat San Diego 59-39 on Thursday night for its 22nd straight victory.

With the West Coast Conference regular-season title already wrapped up, the Bulldogs (29-1, 17-0) were mostly uninspired for the first 20 minutes against the Terrors before pulling away in the second half. Karnowski scored eight points in the first six minutes of the second half and the Bulldogs’ superior size on the interior overcame an off shooting night from the outside. Kevin Pangos hit a 3-pointer to start the game, but Gonzaga missed its next nine and finished just 3 of 12 behind the arc.

Brandon Perry led San Diego (14-15, 7-10) with nine points.

MENS HOOPS



59



39

Connor Harris, with ball, of Sasquatch Rugby Club is lifted by teammates during a line-out in their game against Bend Rugby Club on Saturday, Feb. 21, in Pendleton.

Contributed photo by Debby Green

Prep Rugby

Sasquatch excited for upcoming season



Defense shows improvement in preseason tournament

East Oregonian

The 5th Annual East of the Cascades Rugby Classic kicked off the preseason for youth players on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton.

The local side, East Oregon Sasquatch Rugby Club, played three games and finished with a 0-2-1 record, but showed enough to get head coach Eric Gabriel excited for a competitive season.

Past year’s squads had struggled defensively, but Gabriel expects that to be a strength this season after some strong efforts on that side of the ball.

The defense got to work right away in a 7-7 tie with Schoolhouse Rugby Club out of Wenatchee, Washington.

The Sasquatch have never beaten Schoolhouse, which Gabriel said is one of the best teams at the tournament each year. Billy Walton Jr.

scored the local side’s try and Noah Szumski converted the two-point drop kick.

The opponents only got tougher from there, but while the Sasquatch offense struggled to cross the goal line, the defense held the scores respectable.

A 15-0 loss to eventual tournament champion Capital Rugby Club of Boise, Idaho, could have gone either way, Gabriel said.

See RUGBY/2B