

Sports shorts

Cruz homers in Mariners debut

PEORIA, Ariz. — Nelson Cruz hit a two-run homer in his spring training debut with the Seattle Mariners, helping his new team to a 9-4 victory over the San Diego Padres on Thursday.

Cruz, who finished with two hits, was the Mariners' highest-profile pickup in the offseason after being an All-Star with Baltimore last year. He curled a pitch from Ian Kennedy near the left-field foul pole in the bottom of the third to give Seattle a 4-1 lead.

"Felix asked me for a home run," Cruz said of Mariners ace Felix Hernandez. "I said I normally don't hit homers in the spring but I'll try today. It was pretty close. The call was fair."

It was close enough for Padres manager Bud Black to come out of the dugout for a chat with plate umpire Brian Knight.

"I had foul ball," Black said. "These games don't count."



Pence breaks arm in win over Cubs

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Hunter Pence broke his left forearm and will be sidelined six to eight weeks after being hit by a pitch in the sixth inning of the San Francisco Giants' 8-6 win over a Chicago Cubs split-squad on Thursday.

One of the clubhouse leaders for the World Series champions, the quirky Pence had played in all 162 games for the Giants the past two seasons. He hit .277 with 20 homers and 74 RBIs last year.

He was hit by a pitch from the Cubs' Corey Black and went to first base before being removed from the game. X-rays showed Pence has a non-displaced fracture in his left forearm.

FACES



Pence

"Floyd is so disrespectful. Manny is the perfect role model for this fight and Mayweather is not. I told Manny we've got to beat him for the whole world. There's no way we can't win this fight."

— **Freddie Roach**
Trainer for Manny Pacquiao, who will box Floyd Mayweather in two months.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1954 — The Milwaukee Hawks beat the Baltimore Bullets twice 64-54 and 65-54, in the only double-header in NBA history involving the same two teams.
1958 — Silky Sullivan, ridden by Bill Shoemaker, wins the Santa Anita Derby by three lengths after trailing by 40 early in the race and by 20 entering the final turn.
1971 — Joe Frazier wins the world heavyweight title with a unanimous 15-round decision over Muhammad Ali.
2005 — Oakland (Mich.) upsets top-seeded Oral Roberts 61-60 to win the Mid-Continent Conference tournament and an automatic bid to the NCAAs. It's the fourth straight season a team with a losing record has made the men's NCAA tournament.

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



Irrigon's Anthony Landeros draws contact from Burns' Trey Recanzone in the Knights' 64-38 win against the Hilanders on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

IRRIGON

Irrigon burns Hilanders

Knights clamp down on defense, pull away for quarterfinals win

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Irrigon Knights made a second-half statement to open the Class 2A boys state basketball tournament Thursday, holding Burns to 13 percent shooting after intermission on the way to a 64-38 victory at Pendleton High School.

Irrigon, the top-ranked team in the state and reigning 2A champs, held a 27-26 lead at halftime before turning up the heat.

Burns foiled Irrigon's attempt to take the last shot of the half when Ty Hueckman stole the ball from a driving Adrian Romero and took it the other way for a layup at the buzzer.

The Knights senior said it wasn't alarming to see the No. 8 Hilanders sticking around, though.

"We scouted them pretty well for the most part," said Romero, who had 10 of his 14 points in the first half. "At practice we ran through their sets and figured out how to defend them."

"In the first half we had some mental lapses on some of their sets that they were able to capitalize on, so that's what happened in the first half."

"We knew we were going to come out with more aggression in the second half, and we did," said Irrigon junior Fredy Vera, who notched a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

BOYS HOOPS



Irrigon
64



Burns
38

The Knights opened the third quarter on an 11-3 run to push their lead to double digits for the first time at 38-29 after Anthony Landeros scored inside with 3:31 left in the frame.

Landeros finished with a game-high 21 points on 7-of-11 shooting, and went on a one-minute, seven-point burst to erase Burns' only lead of the game midway through the first quarter.

Hueckman led Burns with 16 points, but scored just three in the second half. Austin Feist finished with a double-double.

See IRRIGON/2B

HEPPNER

Mustangs survive Loggers

Heppner reaches state semis for first time ever with overtime win

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

With the game hanging the balance, Patrick Collins let his football instincts kick in.

Leading by a deuce with less than two ticks remaining on the clock, Heppner's two-sport star snared Knappa's baseline inbounds pass out of the air, halting the Loggers final possession before a final heave was possible. Collins' interception sealed the deal for the No. 3 Mustangs, earned them a 56-54 overtime state quarterfinal win over No. 6 Knappa and advanced the school further into the state basketball tournament than ever before.

"I saw the end zone," he said of the final play. "I was ready to score. I read that and I knew game over."

Heppner (19-5) has never played in a state semifinal in basketball contest. Tonight that will change. They'll face off with No. 2 Toledo at 8:15 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center with a berth in the state championship on the line.

"This was our goal from the beginning of the season to get to this moment," sophomore guard Logan Grieb said. "I'm just really happy."

The historic victory was far

BPYS HOOPS



Heppner
56



Knappa
54



Heppner's C.J. Kindle shoots the ball guarded by Knappa's Jason Miller and Dale Takalo in the Mustangs' 56-54 win against the Loggers on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Pioneers open girls bracket with blowout

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Four Western Menonite players scored in double digits Thursday and the No. 1 Pioneers scored 34 points off turnovers on the way to a 70-30 win over Myrtle Point to open final bracket play.

Emma Gibb led the charge with 21 points and 15 rebounds.

The Pioneers face Union in the semifinals today at 1:30 p.m.

See 2A GIRLS/2B



Union's Keesha Sarman shoots the ball over Monroe's Kaitlyn Rictor in the Bobcats' 44-33 win against the Dragons on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

CONDON

Knights off to fast start at state

East Oregonian

GIRLS HOOPS



C/W
54



Chiloquin
38

BAKER CITY — The Condon/Wheeler Knights scored the game's first 12 points and their lead only dipped below double digits once the rest of the way in a 54-38 win over Chiloquin in the 1A girls basketball quarterfinals at Baker High School.

Matney Jamieson scored a game-high 19 points for Condon/Wheeler and pulled in a game-high 18 rebounds as well.

See 1A GIRLS/2B