

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, MARCH 7-8, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### NCAA suspends Jim Boeheim for Syracuse violations

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — The NCAA denounced one of the country's most decorated basketball programs Friday, suspending Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim for nine conference games next year and outlining a decade-long series of violations that included academic misconduct, improper benefits, and drug-policy failures.

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The governing body, saying the school lost control of its athletic department, placed Syracuse on probation for five years for breaking with the "most fundamental core values of the NCAA."

The bulk of the violations concerned athletic department officials interfering with academics and making sure star players stayed eligible.

### Jets to acquire Brandon Marshall from Chicago

NEW YORK (AP) — Brandon Marshall is on the move, heading from the Chicago Bears to the New York Jets.

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press that the Jets agreed to acquire the star wide receiver on Friday, pending a physical exam.

The trade, the first by new Jets general manager Mike Maccagnan, is for an unspecified draft pick, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because neither team had announced the deal. The trade cannot become official until the NFL's new league year begins next Tuesday.

It was a busy and headline-making day for Maccagnan, who earlier Friday re-signed linebacker Davis Harris to a three-year contract.

Marshall, who turns 31 on March 23, has played the last three seasons with the Bears. He dealt with injuries and had 61 catches last season, his lowest total since his rookie year with Denver in 2006, for 721 yards and eight touchdowns.

The Bears will save \$7.7 million by dealing Marshall, and also create nearly \$4 million in salary cap space.

"If it had been any other club, I probably wouldn't have. But I didn't need a 3-iron for the rest of the round, so I thought, 'Why not?'"

— Rory McIlroy

After heaving the club into the middle of a lake at the Cadillac Championship

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1951 — Ezzard Charles wins a unanimous 15-round decision over Jersey Joe Walcott to retain the world heavyweight title in Detroit.

1954 — The Minneapolis Lakers and Milwaukee Hawks experiment with the baskets raised from 10 feet to 12 feet during an exhibition game. George Mikan and the Lakers win 65-63.

1977 — Anthony Roberts of Oral Roberts scores 65 points in a 90-89 loss to Oregon in the first round of the NIT.

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

## IRRIGON

# One win from knighthood



Irrigon Adrian Romero shoots the ball over Regis' Blake Minten in the Knights' 74-43 win against the Rams on Friday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Irrigon on point in semifinals rout of Regis

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

Once again proving the whole to be greater than its parts, the Irrigon Knights steamrolled their way back into the Class 2A boys basketball title game with a 74-43 dismantling of Regis.

Eight Knights combined to shoot 60.5 percent (26 of 43) and buried the Rams under an early barrage of three-pointers in one of the best shooting performances by a team at the state tournament since the OSAA went to six classifications in 2007.

The defending state champions made four of their 11 treys in the first quarter, which was punctuated by senior Zach Rice's fade-away three-pointer that rattled in with :03 left in the frame.

Every Irrigon starter scored in the opening eight minutes, and the No. 1 Knights took a 21-10 lead into the second quarter. Both their shooting percentage and converted three-pointers were within sneezing distance of established single-game tournament records.

"Everything just felt really good today. In warm-ups everybody was hitting their shots," said Rice, who finished with 14 points on 5-of-8 shooting (4 for 7 from three) and

was named Irrigon's Moda Health Player of the Game.

One player who wasn't hitting his shot in warm-ups was senior Anthony Landeros, who after leading the Knights with 21 points in a physical quarterfinals win over Burns, was spending as much time as possible stretching a habitually tight lower back on the sideline.

But after Ryan Reynolds opened the scoring with an inside basket, Landeros made back-to-back three-pointers to establish the early lead.

Foul trouble and a hard collision with Regis' Wyatt Keudell limited Landeros to 12 minutes, but he made the most of his time on the court with a game-high 15 points on 5-of-7 shooting (3-of-4 from three).

Irrigon coach Mitch Thompson said Landeros probably could have come back in had the Knights

not been ahead by 28 points when he left for good midway through the third quarter.

"He's had some lingering tightness in his lower back ... we wanted to give him some rest for (Saturday)," Thompson said.

But even as Rice and Reynolds joined Landeros on the bench in early foul trouble, the Knights ex-

See IRRIGON/2B

#### BOYS HOOPS



Irrigon  
74



Regis  
43

## PENDLETON

# Buckaroos in rare air

## PHS heads to quarters, fourth time in 45 years

By ERIK SKOPIL  
East Oregonian

The Bucking Chutes student section spilled into celebration formation on the Warberg Court playing surface following the Buckaroos twelfth and final home win of the season, a 63-57 Class 5A playoff opening round victory over Corvallis. While it'll be the season's last home court storm, the Buckaroos quest for W's will continue.

The Buckaroos are Corvallis-bound.

For just the fourth time in 45 years they'll be among the final eight teams playing for a state title.

"We're all just super jacked up," said senior Wes Persinger, moments after he and teammates were mobbed by a sea of Buckaroos supporters.

"We're going to try and take full advantage of it, too," sophomore guard Caden Smith added. "Now that we're at state, we've got to do something about it, not just go there."

That's where the last three teams have fallen short. No Buckaroo team has won a game at a final site since the 1970 PHS team reached the state semifinal round.

The Buckaroos have three shutout minutes to thank the opportunity to change their fortune. Corvallis guard JD Lasswell sank his fourth 3-pointer of the night to give the Spartans a 57-55 lead with 3:11 left in regula-

tion. The Spartan offense from that point was held off the scoreboard. Four trips down with nada to show for it.

Pendleton on the other hand went to work. Kai Quinn drove to the basket and drew a foul and sank two at the charity stripe to deadlock it. Smith toiled with the ball at the top of the key the next time down before spinning into the lane for the go-ahead floater with 1:39 left.

"I was trying to get to the rim and draw a foul because we were already in the bonus, so either way it'd be good," Smith said.

The next two Spartan trips came up empty and were each followed by two Smith made free throws — all four nothing but net. Smith's individual 6-0 run clinched the win. He finished with a team-best 17 points.

"For 29 minutes we were awful," Pendleton coach Brian Broadus said. "Then we had good effort, good stops, good composure, good rebounds for the last 2:30."

The visiting Spartans were as much to blame for the Buckaroos struggles. Corvallis entered winners of 9 of 10 games in the Mid-Willamette Conference — one of the state's top leagues. Four other league members played games in the Round of 16.

Normally a head taller than anyone on the floor, Persinger saw eye-to-eye with four Spartans.

"By far probably the most physi-

See BUCKS/2B

#### BOYS HOOPS



Pendleton  
63



Corvallis  
57



Pendleton's James Bradt draws contact from Corvallis' Keagan Simmons in the Bucks' 63-57 win against the Spartans on Friday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## MISSION

# Eagles soar to final

## Nixyaawii reaches first state final

East Oregonian

BAKER — Top-seeded Horizon Christian appeared well-positioned for a return trip to the Class 1A boys basketball state final game.

Nixyaawii shut that idea down in a hurry.

The fifth-seeded Golden Eagles scored the first seven points in the semifinal contest at Baker High, led by as much as 20 in the second half

and cruised to a 65-47 thumping upset Friday.

The statement win gains Nixyaawii entrance into Saturday's state final against second-seeded and defending champion Country Christian where the Golden Eagles will play for the school's first boys basketball title.

The win may be considered an upset in the seeding, but the Golden Eagles entered Friday supremely confident.

"We played them in the summer and we were in the Big Sky (League) with them, so we've seen them for years," said coach Shane Rivera.

See NIXYAAWII/2B



Nixyaawii fans cheer after the Golden Eagles upset top-ranked Horizon Christian to put the team into the state finals.

Photo courtesy Wil Phinney CUJ