

Sports shorts

Gonzaga clinches 14th WCC title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Kyle Wiltjer had 18 points and 10 rebounds, helping No. 7 Gonzaga shoot its way past Brigham Young 91-75 Tuesday night for the Zags’ third straight West Coast Conference tournament title.



Gonzaga (32-3), the regular-season champion, clinched its 14th WCC tournament by putting on an entertaining rematch of last year’s title game.

The nation’s best shooting team during the regular season, the Bulldogs shot 53 percent inside Orleans Arena and made 8 of 12 from 3-point range.

Kevin Pangos had 16 points and five assists for Gonzaga. Domantas Sabonis and Gary Bell Jr. added 15 points each.

Kyle Collinsworth led BYU (25-9) with 28 points.

Willis’s sore feet force retirement

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — His eyes swollen from crying and reciting scripture as he spoke of retirement, five-time All-Pro

FACES



Willis

linebacker Patrick Willis bid farewell to football and called it one of his happiest days yet because he is leaving on his own terms.

His tender size-13 feet — “12½ when they’re bent” — can no longer handle the grind of NFL practices let alone the demands of game day.

Willis, 30, announced Tuesday he will retire after his 2014 season was cut short by a toe injury that required surgery and because of sore feet that make everything more of a challenge for the seven-time Pro Bowler.

“In my head, I’m already a Hall of Famer,” Willis said. “I am leaving this with closure, saying that I am happy today, more happy today than I was the day I was drafted. That says something to me.”

— **Jake Locker**
Former University of Washington and Tennessee Titans quarterback on announcing his retirement at age 26 on Tuesday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1979 — St. John’s and Penn post two of the biggest upsets ever in the NCAA tournament in the second round of the East regional in Raleigh, N.C. St. John’s, the 40th and last team selected, beats No. 2 seed Duke 80-78, and Penn comes from behind to beat No. 1 seed North Carolina 72-71.

2009 — Wesley Matthews scores 20 points and Marquette snaps a four-game losing streak by holding St. John’s to a Big East tournament-record 10 points in the first half on the way to a 74-45 victory.

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

Girls Prep Basketball

‘War’ relocates for next battle

Hermiston meets Pendleton in state quarterfinals

BY ERIK SKOPI
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — The War on 84 will relocate its rivalry to Corvallis this afternoon for a state quarterfinal meeting between the Buckaroos and Bulldogs.

Top-seeded Hermiston (22-3) won all three regular season meetings on its way to its third perfect Columbia River Conference season in four years. But the win streak goes back further than that. For the No. 9 Buckaroos to advance to Thursday’s semifinal round, they’ll need to end a 24-game losing streak to their arch-rival that dates back to 2006.

Needless to say, both sides are plenty

familiar with each other.

“It’s kind of nice not to have the surprises,” Pendleton coach Michelle Gomez said. “Going in we know their clientele, we know their strengths and weaknesses to a certain extent.”

Pendleton exploited those weaknesses to some degree in three games this season. All three meetings were decided by 10 points or less. The first game was a 57-54 squeaker that went the Bulldogs’ way in Pendleton. The second and third games were nine-point wins for Hermiston.

“We have to go at it like it’s any other game, like it’s a state game or like a Pendleton game,” said Hermiston junior guard Jansen Edmiston. “We need to do what we’re gonna do, even if it was anyone else.”

The Bucks and Dawgs are set to tip off at 1:30 p.m. at Gill Coliseum.

The teams are not the only ones rehashing league rivalries. All four quarterfinal games will see intra-league

See WAR:2B

• **RADIO:** KTIX 1240 AM (Pendleton); KOHU 1360 AM (Hermiston)



Hermiston’s Maddy Juul drives past Pendleton’s Kiana Sperl in the Bulldogs’ 57-54 win against the Bucks on Feb. 3, 2015, in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Cougars extend Bucks’ quest



Pendleton’s Caden Smith (23) drives to the hoop past Mountain View’s Ments Haugen (11) in the first quarter of their 5A boys basketball state quarterfinal game Tuesday at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis. Watching the action is Pendleton’s James Bradt.

Photo by Jake Tabor for the East Oregonian

Mountain View defeats Pendleton in opening round of state tourney

By ERIK SKOPI
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Pendleton’s quest for its first state tournament victory in 45 years will need to be put on hold for at least another day.

The Buckaroos seventh final site game since 1970 yielded the same result as the last six, with the Bucks dropping a state quarterfinal contest to top-seeded Mountain View 58-50 Tuesday afternoon at Gill Coliseum.

The Buckaroos (18-8) game-plan

versus the mighty Cougars (21-5) was rooted in patient half court basketball. After staying true to form in the first period, Pendleton lost sight of its strategy, forced perimeter shots and allowed Mountain View’s up-tempo

See QUEST:2B



PENDLETON

T-Wolves end NWAC tournament with bang

BMCC women place fifth behind Moore’s record-setting performance

East Oregonian

KENNEWICK, Wash. — Blue Mountain got the last laugh in a wild game of runs, inching past the defending champion Columbia Basin Hawks 92-90 to claim fifth place at the NWAC championships on Tuesday.

It’s the second season in a row the T-Wolves have brought back a placing after taking third last year, and they did it with just seven players taking the court for coach Adam Driver’s first season.

The only reason that was possible was the play of NWAC East Region MVP Mar’Shay Moore, and the sophomore guard once again lifted the T-Wolves onto her slight but sturdy shoulders for their tournament run.



By adding 34 points in Tuesday’s win, Moore set the NWAC women’s tournament record with 123 points in four games, surpassing Clackamas’s Laci Effenberger’s 112 in last year’s bracket.

However, for much of the first half it looked like the Hawks’ depth would allow them to control things from start to finish. Columbia Basin led for most of the first 15 minutes and by as many as eight points.

Blue Mountain grabbed its first

See T-WOLVES:2B



Blue Mountain’s Mar’Shay Moore shoots during BMCC’s 70-53 win over Clark on Monday at the NWAC Championships at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Wash. Moore set the tournament record for total points with 123 in BMCC’s four games.

Photo courtesy of NWAC Athletics