

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

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Sports shorts

Colts bet on vets

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Colts are betting big on experience. On Tuesday, they fortified one of the NFL's younger rosters with four longtime NFL veterans — wide receiver Andre Johnson, outside linebacker Trent Cole, running back Frank Gore and defensive end Kendall Langford — in a free-agent spending spree.



Cole, Gore, Johnson and Langford are joining a team that has made three straight playoff appearances, won back-to-back division crowns and advanced one step deeper in the playoffs in each of Andrew Luck's three seasons.

Gore and Johnson, college teammates at Miami, said they hoped to sign with the same team in hopes of winning a Super Bowl together.

Ferrell to play ball

PHOENIX (AP) — Will Ferrell plans to play ball in spring training — and play ball and play ball and play ball.

The comedian plans to play every position while making appearances at five Arizona spring training games on Thursday. He will play for all 10 teams involved, HBO and Major League Baseball announced Wednesday.

The star of "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby" and "Elf," among other movies, will travel to the Phoenix suburbs of Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, Glendale and Peoria via helicopter. The event will be filmed for an upcoming HBO special in conjunction with the Funny or Die website co-founded by Ferrell.

"We didn't bring Sam here to be a (trade) chip. I'm the only Chip here."

— **Chip Kelly**
Philadelphia Eagles head coach, who has full control of player personnel, dismissing the notion that the team could trade recently acquired quarterback Sam Bradford in a package designed to move up far enough in the NFL draft to select Oregon QB Marcus Mariota.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1966 — Chicago's Bobby Hull scores his 51st goal to become the first NHL player to score more than 50 goals in a season.

2002 — Siena (17-18) with an 81-77 victory over Alcorn State in the play-in game, becomes first team in 47 years to win an NCAA men's basketball tournament game with a losing record.

2005 — Bode Miller becomes the first American in 22 years to win skiing's overall World Cup title. He finishes ahead of his only remaining challenger, Benjamin Raich of Austria, in the season's final giant slalom to capture the crown. The last non-Europeans to win the overall championship were Americans Phil Mahre and Tamara McKinney in 1983.

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

HERMISTON/PENDLETON

Bulldogs elevate into semis

Hermiston advances with win over rival Pendleton

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — If Wednesday's state quarterfinal victory over rival Pendleton is an indication of how the Hermiston Bulldogs intend to play this week in Corvallis, the rest of the field better beware.

The top-seeded Bulldogs elevated their game in the fourth meeting with their league foe, turning in a 48-30 drubbing to advance to Thursday evening's Class 5A semifinal round versus hometown Corvallis.

All three regular-season War on 84 rivalry games were decided by nine points or less but Wednesday, on the state's biggest stage, the Bulldogs (23-3) delivered their best performance versus the No. 9 Buckaroos (17-10). Hermiston held Pendleton to 8-for-39 shooting, forced 19 giveaways and used a balanced scoring attack to put the Buckaroos away early in the second half.

Neither side shot better than 21 percent from the field in the opening half, as they adjusted to playing in the spacious Gill Coliseum. But the Bulldogs found a more deft shooting touch in the second and the Buckaroos' struggles persisted. The lead reached double figures on a Tavin Headings top-of-key jumper two minutes into the second half and never fell below the 10-point threshold for the remainder.

"I was super nervous," said senior Abi Drotzmann, who scored 10 points. "I've been here before but I was really nervous. I think after the first half when we settled down, we came out and played way harder than we ever have. I think we elevated our game a lot."

"We've never played 100 percent against

See **GIRLS HOOPS/2B**



Hermiston
48



Pendleton
30



Hermiston's Maddy Juul shootst the ball guarded by Pendleton's Kiana Sperl and Kristin Williams (20) in the Bulldogs' 48-30 win against the Bucks on Wednesday in Corvallis.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Buckaroos eliminated after marathon nail-biter

Pendleton's Wes Persinger battles Churchill's Levi Dean in the Bucks' 67-64 quadruple overtime loss to the Lancers on Wednesday in Corvallis.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Pendleton struggles at line down stretch, falls to Churchill in four overtimes

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — The Buckaroos earned four extra periods of basketball to down Churchill in Wednesday morning's consolation game.

The fact that they failed to do so in each made the 67-64 four-overtime defeat all the more excruciating for Pendleton and its hunt for the school's first state playoff win in four and a half decades at the Class 5A state basketball tournament at Gill Coliseum.

"Those are fun games for the fans, fun games for the winning team," Pendleton coach Brian Broaddus said. "Not so much for us."

The back-and-forth battle saw-sawed through 16 lead changes, 15 ties and countless end-of-period heroics that preserved play for what would prove a marathon 48

minutes of action.

Churchill's DJ Wright Becker provided the deciding play for the Lancers (17-12), cleaning up a Hank Forrest miss to give the Lancers a 65-64 lead with 55 seconds remaining in the fourth extra period. Pendleton (18-8) would come away empty-handed on its final three possessions and Churchill split two trips to the free throw line to provide the final three-point margin.

The loss eliminates the Buckaroos from the state tournament, ends its season and again sends them eastward-bound without a state tournament victory.

"It's a good experience for the kids. It's been a good season. But, eventually when you get to this level, you've got to make those plays," Broaddus said.

Churchill took a five-point

See **BOYS HOOPS/2B**



Churchill
67



Pendleton
64

College Basketball

Eagles oust Mountaineers from bracket

Oklahoma Wesleyan tops Eastern Oregon at national tourney

East Oregonian

NAIA DII TOURNAMENT



Oklahoma Wesleyan
60



Eastern Ore.
57

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Airashay Rogers sank a buzzer-beating three-pointer for the Eastern Oregon women's basketball team, but there wasn't much celebrated by the Mountaineers on Wednesday in the first round of the NAIA Division II Women's Basketball National Championships.

Rogers' triple came too late and Oklahoma Wesleyan held on for a 60-57 win that was their first victory in three straight tournament appearances at the Tyson Events Center.

The Eagles (27-6) were led

by Nichole Tate with 21 points on 8-of-14 shooting. The senior guard also collected nine rebounds on the night, while also dishing out six dimes and four steals.

Tate was one of three Oklahoma Wesleyan players, Patience Gitau (11) and Susan Agesen (10) to go for double-digit scoring on the night.

Rogers lead Eastern (26-7) with 15 points and seven boards to go along with Madeline Laan's 12 points and seven rebounds. Maloree Moss added

nine points, five rebounds, two assists and three steals.

The Mountaineers led 29-28 to start the second half, but the Eagles opened on an 11-3 run that gave them their largest lead of the game at 39-32 with 14:39 to play.

Eastern took its largest lead at 29-20 with 4:03 to play in the first half, but missed its last six shots of the half as the Eagles finished on an 8-0 run.

Eastern Oregon failed to capitalize from beyond the arc all night, ending the day going 5-for-29 (17.2 percent), and was 19 for 62 (31.1 percent) from two-point range. With the loss, the Mountaineers' season comes to a close. They also fell to 3-6 in opening round games of the national championship with the defeat.

MILTON-FREEWATER Mac-Hi creates hall of fame

East Oregonian

McLoughlin High School will celebrate the creation of its Hall of Fame by inducting an inaugural seven-member class at a ceremony in April.

The recipients' achievements cover a broad spectrum from the arts/entertainment, business, athletics, lifetime achievement, business and medicine/science categories.

Three class members will be honored for their role in Pioneers athletics, among other achievements — 1952 graduate Jerry Crimins, longtime wrestling coach Jerry Ewing, and 1964 graduate John Zerba.

Crimins continues to hold the See **MAC-HI/2B**

