

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, MARCH 28-29, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

Rockets shut out Ams in playoffs

KELOWNA, B.C.— The Tri-City Americans kept it close early in the game against the Kelowna Rockets, but the game opened up in the second period as the Rockets earned a 6-0 win in Game 1 of the first round of their WHL playoff series on Friday.



Tri-City started out the second period with some solid chances, but couldn't get anything past the red line and ended the period down 4-0.

Tri-City was scoreless with five power play chances and spent 10 minutes in the penalty box.

Game 2 is today in Kelowna.

Kevin Durant to miss rest of season

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — NBA MVP Kevin Durant will miss the rest of the season and have bone graft surgery next week to treat a fractured bone in his right foot.

The Oklahoma City Thunder had said last week

FACES



Durant

he likely would be shut down for the season. The team was trying to figure out why his pain remained long after he was supposed to be able to play.

General manager Sam Presti said Friday the team expects Durant to return to basketball activities within the four to six months. The Thunder are in position to make the playoffs without Durant, but they clearly will miss one of the game's most dynamic players. Durant last played Feb. 19 before the discomfort became too much to bear. He has played in just 27 games, averaging 25.4 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists.

"I actually wish they made it a law that whoever drafts you, you gotta stay there your whole career."

— Shaquille O'Neal
Retired NBA players after saying he sometimes regrets his decision to leave the Orlando Magic for more money with the Los Angeles Lakers after his first four seasons. O'Neal was inducted to the Magic Hall of Fame on Friday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1939 — The barnstorming Renaissance Five beat the NBL champion Oshkosh All-Stars, 34-25, to win the first annual World Professional Basketball Tournament in Chicago. Sports reporters of the day make no mention of the fact that all the Rens are black and the All-Stars are all white.

1992 — Christian Laettner hits a 15-foot turnaround jumper at the buzzer to give defending champion Duke a 104-103 overtime victory over Kentucky and a fifth consecutive trip to the Final Four.

1995 — Michael Jordan, playing in his fifth game in 22 months, scores 55 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 113-111 victory over the New York Knicks.

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



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton catcher Alex O'Rourke talks to pitcher Caden Smith during a recent game in Pendleton. O'Rourke broke multiple bones in his face after being hit by a pitch during a game Thursday in Boise, Idaho.

PENDLETON

O'Rourke's season likely over

Buckaroo star breaks multiple bones in face at tournament

East Oregonian

BOISE, Idaho — Pendleton senior baseball player Alex O'Rourke suffered potentially season-ending injuries at a tournament in Idaho on Thursday.

The Oregon State signee and All-State selection took a wild pitch to the face in the fifth inning of Pendleton's 12-1 loss to Vallivue (ID) at the Bucks Bags Classic in Boise, Idaho. The shot left O'Rourke with multiple broken bones, including nose, cheek, eye socket and orbital bone.

Boise-area doctors indicated that a recovery will take a minimum of six weeks and

likely more.

"It's a pretty devastating blow," Pendleton coach Greg Whitten said. "He was such a leader for the team. But, he's lucky, because it could've been much worse."

Whitten said O'Rourke will seek further opinion from specialists.

"There's always a ray of hope (for a return this season), but I don't think it's looking good for him," Whitten said.

O'Rourke has started at catcher for the Buckaroos since his freshman year, drawing numerous all-league and all-state honors. In November, he signed to play baseball with the Beavers, joining a celebrated 15-player class. He'd been committed to OSU since his sophomore year.

O'Rourke was 4-for-17 with two runs

See O'ROURKE/2B

NCAA Tournament

Zags join the Elite



Gonzaga players celebrate after the second half of a college basketball regional semifinal game in the NCAA Tournament against UCLA, Friday in Houston. Gonzaga won 74-62.

AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Gonzaga headed to Elite Eight for first time under coach Mark Few

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Growing up in Poland, Przemek Karnowski had to stay up until 2 or 3 a.m. to watch the NCAA Tournament.

Gonzaga's big man got to star in the show in prime time on Friday night, scoring 18 points with nine rebounds to lead the second-seeded Bulldogs to a 74-62 win over No. 11 seed UCLA in the Houston Regional semifinals.

The victory puts Gonzaga (35-2) in the Elite Eight for the second time, its first regional final since 1999. The Bulldogs will play the

winner of the Utah-Duke game on Sunday.

UCLA (22-14) opened the second half with a 6-0 run to get within 35-34.

Gonzaga got going after that, scoring the next 12 points, thanks to the powerful inside game of the 7-foot-1, 288-pound Karnowski to make it 47-34.

"For me it was always a dream to be here and to play deep into the NCAA Tournament," Karnowski said. "And right now I'm here and I'm trying to enjoy every second of it."



#2 Gonzaga
74



#11 UCLA
62

Karnowski helped the Bulldogs grab six more offensive rebounds than UCLA, which Bruins coach Steve Alford believes was the key to the

game. "We didn't rebound the basketball," Alford said. "They got too many second shots."

Gonzaga's Kyle Wiltjer raved about Karnowski's work.

"He was a beast down there, just gobbling up offensive boards," Wiltjer said. "It's so easy for us, especially when we're on the perimeter, to just throw it down to him and

he gets a bucket."

The Bruins, who lost in the Sweet 16 for the second straight year, were done in by a tough shooting night that included long stretches without scoring. They were led by Norman Powell's 16 points.

They quieted doubters who questioned whether they should be in the tournament by winning their first two games, but couldn't stay with the Bulldogs on a night when their shots weren't falling. Powell made just 8 of 19 shots and Bryce Alford was 3 of 11.

It's Gonzaga's second win over UCLA this season after also beat-

See GONZAGA/3B

HERMISTON

Dawgs deal with glaring issue

East Oregonian

Rain, and even wind, is an acceptable reason for delaying baseball games in Eastern Oregon.

Sun glare, said Hermiston baseball coach Lance Hawkins, is not.

For the second time this week the Bulldogs had to stop in the middle of a game and wait for the sun to stop reflecting off the concession stand roof and blinding fielders at Armand Larive Middle School.

"This is our fourth year (playing games) at Armand and it's never happened before," said Hawkins, who was an assistant with the program before taking over as head coach this



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Sunlight reflects off of the roof of the building housing the concession stand at the baseball field Friday at Armand Larive Middle School in Hermiston. The glare has caused two game delays so far this season.

See GLARE/2B

Pitching leads way in sweep

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Hermiston
9-8



Century
2-2

See BULLDOGS/2B