

Sports shorts

Ex-Alabama player’s accuser recants claim

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Police say the woman who accused former Alabama football player Jonathan Taylor of domestic violence has recanted her allegations.



Tuscaloosa police said in a news release Wednesday that the woman, who has not been identified, was arrested on a charge of False Reporting to Law Enforcement.

Police say they will review the charges at a later date.

Taylor was arrested on Saturday and coach Nick Saban dismissed the defensive lineman the following day.

Serena Williams wins 700th match

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — Serena Williams abused her racket, scolded herself and even made angry faces at the sun.

In the end, as usual, she took out her frustration on the ball.

FACES



Williams The seven-time Key Biscayne champion overcame her annoyance and shaky play Wednesday for her 700th career victory, beating Sabine Lisicki 7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the Miami Open.

Williams won despite an unreliable serve, a poor second set and 51 unforced errors. She looked flatfooted and listless at times, and seemed especially vexed when playing on the side looking into the sun. “It’s always tough on that side,” she said. “You just don’t see. You just have to adjust.” She did, earning her 16th consecutive victory on Key Biscayne, where she’s the two-time defending champion.

“The bottom line is, nobody can score. ... College men’s basketball is so far behind the times it’s unbelievable.”

— **Geno Auriemma** University of Connecticut women’s basketball coach on the lack of offense in the men’s collegiate game. Teams at the NCAA women’s basketball tournament are outscoring their male counterparts by nearly two points a game through the first four rounds.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1990 — UNLV pounds Duke 103-73 to win its first NCAA championship and extend the Blue Devils’ streak to eight Final Four appearances without a title. UNLV becomes the first team to score more than 100 points in a championship game and the 30-point margin is the largest ever.
2011 — The Detroit Red Wings clinch their 20th straight playoff berth with a 4-3 victory over Nashville, extending the longest active playoff streak among North America’s four major professional sports.
2013 — Shoni Schimmel scores 24 points and giant-slaying Louisville claims another big upset, beating second-seeded Tennessee 86-78 and earning the school’s second trip to the Women’s Final Four.
Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

PENDLETON

States clash in All-Star game

Headings scores 25 points in loss

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

Heppner basketball standout Kelly Wilson felt like a bit of a traitor for forty minutes Wednesday. Playing in the girls basketball Clash at the Border Showcase, Wilson put aside her Oregon roots to help pace the shorthanded Washington All-Stars to a 70-66 comeback win at Blue Mountain Community College.

“They only ended up with four people, and I had a (colored) uniform,” explained Wilson, who finished with 10 points.

Led by Columbia River Conference stars Tavin Headings and Marlene Bodmer, the Oregon team built a substantial lead that lasted until the game’s final two minutes. That’s when Wilson and Touchet (WA) guard Cierra Jo McKeown sank seven of eight foul shots to bring the Washington team all the way back.

“Obviously if we’re playing, we’re here to win, so it kind of sucks, but it was the first time playing together,” said Bodmer, a Pendleton senior, who had 12 points. “Still, we shouldn’t have lost. We were way up the whole time.”

The lead swelled to 16 points in the first half and was at double-figures for the first eight minutes of the second.

Hermiston’s Tavin Headings led all scorers with 25 points. Headings knocked down six three-point shots including a

See CLASH/2B

BASKETBALL



Washington

70



Oregon

66



Marlene Bodmer, of Pendleton, muscles her way into shooting position Wednesday at Blue Mountain Community College during the Clash at the Border All-Star Showcase.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

College Baseball

Chukars edge past T-Wolves

East Oregonian

ONTARIO — The Treasure Valley Community College baseball team scored a pair of walk-off wins over Blue Mountain on Wednesday in NWAC East Region play.

First the Chukars won 4-3 on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Blake Bell, and then he came through again in a marathon night cap that lasted 18 innings before TVCC won 3-2.

Bell came through in the



TVCC
4-3



BMCC
3-2

bottom of the 18th with a single that drove in the winning run and gave him his fifth hit of the game.

Blue Mountain’s Jordan Ackerman was 4 for 7 in the loss. Tyson Wicklander threw the last 7 1-3 innings and struck out nine while walking six but

was saddled with the loss.

Branden Cutsforth and Tanner Alexander earned wins on the mound for region-leading TVCC (17-8, 5-1 East). Alexander pitched the last three innings of the night cap and struck out seven of the 11 batters he faced. Blue Mountain struck out 31 times total in the two games.

The Timberwolves (9-13, 1-5) will host Columbia Basin on Saturday for a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m.

NBA



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge, left, works the ball in against Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

AP Photo/Don Ryan

Clippers rally to beat Trail Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Chris Paul had a season-high 41 points and 17 assists and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied in the second half for a 126-122 victory over the Trail Blazers, denying Portland a chance at clinching the Northwest Division title Wednesday night.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for the Blazers, who needed a win to secure their first division title since the 2008-09 season when they shared it with Denver.

J.J. Redick added 25 points, including five 3-pointers, and eight rebounds for the



Los Angeles

126



Portland

122

Clippers, who trailed by as many as 19 points in the first half and then held off a furious Portland rally at the end.

LaMarcus Aldridge led the Blazers with 29 points, while Damian Lillard had 18 points and 10 assists.

Redick’s 3-pointer pulled the Clippers within 98-97 with 7:36 left, before he added another 3 to give the Clippers their first lead of the night.

Blake Griffin and Paul hit consecutive 3-pointers and the

Clippers took at 106-100 lead with 5:25 left. Reddick added a jumper before Lillard’s 3-pointer for the Blazers.

Paul’s 3-pointer to make it 114-102 appeared to seal it, but the Blazers chipped away, pulling within 122-119 on a pair of free throws from Aldridge with 19 seconds left.

After Paul made free throws on the other end, CJ McCollum hit a 3-pointer with 5.4 seconds left that closed Portland within 124-122.

Nicolas Batum fouled Paul, who made both shots, and Portland couldn’t get a clear shot off in the final seconds.

The Clippers (50-26) and See BLAZERS/2B

Prep Roundup

Vikings struggle on diamond

EO Media Group

The Umatilla softball team had a rough day taking on Mac-Hi’s junior varsity on Wednesday.

The Vikings allowed six runs in a mistake-filled first inning en route to a 15-2 five-inning loss.

Chelsea Winters had a single and scored a run for the Lady Viks, Mari Paz scored a run, and Joye Garcilazo, Brittney Wheeler, Paz, Milly Rodriguez each had hits.

“I like the fact that we hit the ball against a pretty good pitcher,” first-year Umatilla coach Monty Williams said. “That team is a good. That team is a championship program over there. That is a program that we should model (ours) after.”

Umatilla regressed on defense after limiting mistakes in its first few games.

“We had the wheels come off that (first) inning,” Williams said. “We did the thing we said we weren’t going to do: we threw the ball around today. We made mistakes. We made silly mistakes.”

Umatilla will host Vale to open league play on Friday in a doubleheader that starts at 1 p.m.

Tennis

MILTON-FREEWATER — Wins were hard to come by for the Mac-Hi girls tennis team as it opened its season with a 13-3 loss to The Dalles on Tuesday.

The teams contested 11 singles matches, with Mac-Hi’s only win coming from Ericka Landa in the No. 4 slot. She beat Julissa Marquez 7-5.

Mac-Hi’s other wins came in doubles as No. 2 team Ana Rodriguez and Emily Cuellar defeated their counterparts from The Dalles 8-6, and No. 5 pairing Camille Riley and Stella Lee won 6-1.

“It was a great start to our season for the girls to go against a (larger) school,” said Mac-Hi coach Michelle Snyder.

Mac-Hi’s boys team was rained out of its road match at The Dalles. The Pioneer boys are at Pendleton today and the girls host Pendleton, both at 4 p.m.

THE DALLES 13, MAC-HI 3

Singles
Robin Pashek (TD) def. Elise Griffith 9-7
Marisa Cianci (TD) def. Jacky Reyes 8-1
Kiana PIELLI (TD) def. Maria Castillo 8-4
Ericka Landa (M) def. Julissa Marquez 7-5
Tiana Langston (TD) def. Jessica Ibarra 6-4
Diana Fernandez (TD) def. Karen Steele 6-3
Rosario Rascoba (TD) def. Izzy Lepinette 7-5
Jaimie Esqujo (TD) def. Ivett Hernandez 6-4
Daniella Montello (TD) def. Kimberly Santa Cruz 6-0
Jessica Vega (TD) def. Juliana Hager 6-2
Desiray Amarez (TD) def. Sam Baker 6-3
Doubles
Anna Miller/Johanna Wilson (TD) def. Anniek Kievitsbosch/Sam Tweidt 9-8(2)
Ana Rodriguez/Emily Cuellar (M) def. Abby Minniek/Emma Smith 8-6
Rebekah Kohltfelfaber/Leslie Luna Lopez (TD) def. Joci Alvarez/Jennifer Robles 8-0
Cassie Vasquez/Elly Trujillo (TD) def. Joulin Pureco/Ivette Lopez 6-2
Camille Riley/Stella Lee (M) def. Desiray Amarez/Maria Maritto 6-1