

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEEKEND, APRIL 18-19, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### Manziel hopes to earn back respect after stint in rehab

CLEVELAND (AP) — Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel has apologized to the team and its fans and asked for privacy during his recovery from an undisclosed substance problem.

Manziel released a statement through the Browns on Friday. He thanked doctors and staff at Caron, a Pennsylvania facility which specializes in the treatment of drugs and alcohol. Manziel was discharged last week following a 2 1/2-month stay.

Manziel says he takes "full responsibility for my actions" and he intends to "work very hard to regain everyone's trust and respect."

Manziel, who earned his "Johnny Football" nickname while winning the Heisman Trophy as a freshman at Texas A&M, intends to attend Cleveland's offseason practices next week.

### Hall of Famer Abdul-Jabbar has bypass surgery

LOS ANGELES — Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is recovering after undergoing quadruple coronary bypass surgery.

A hospital statement on Friday says Abdul-Jabbar had the surgery on Thursday at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Richard Shemin, who performed the surgery, says the 68-year-old former NBA and UCLA star is expected to make a full recovery.

Abdul-Jabbar is the NBA's all-time leading scorer with 38,387 points during a 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers and Milwaukee Bucks. The 7-foot-2 center was known for his trademark sky hook.

In the statement, Abdul-Jabbar says he's looking forward to getting back to his usual activities soon and he asks that people cherish and live life to the fullest.

**"This is not acceptable. This is a worldwide event that the city of Las Vegas is involved in. It's one of the craziest things I've ever seen."**

— **Bob Arum**  
Boxing promoter on the lack of ticket sales for the highly-anticipated Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather fight at the MGM Grand on May 2. Tickets have yet to go on sale, which is unheard of according to promoters such as Arum. Arum has heard of people cancelling their reservations to Las Vegas because they're afraid they can't get tickets.

**THIS DATE IN SPORTS**  
**1966** — Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics becomes the first African-American head coach of an NBA team.  
**1999** — Wayne Gretzky ends his NHL career at Madison Square Garden with an assist, setting up a second-period goal as his New York Rangers fall to Pittsburgh 2-1 in overtime.

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

## NBA

### Blazers limping into playoffs

Portland weighed down by glut of injuries

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Trail Blazers limp into their first-round playoff series against the Memphis Grizzlies on a four-game losing streak, as injuries finally appeared to catch up with the Northwest Division champions.

Now the question is whether those woes will extend into the postseason.

The Blazers will likely start the playoffs on Sunday in Memphis with guard Damian Lillard, center Robin Lopez and forward LaMarcus Aldridge but those appear to be the only real certainties to start.

Nicolas Batum, who joins Aldridge and Lopez up front, is nursing a right knee contu-

sion that kept him out of the regular-season finale, a 114-98 loss to the Mavericks in Dallas on Wednesday night.

CJ McCollum, who had been thrust into the starting lineup following Wesley Matthews' season-ending Achilles injury and Arron Affalo's shoulder injury, also missed the Dallas game with a sprained left ankle.

Aldridge came back for the finale after missing two games with a sore left foot and Portland ended the regular season 51-31. The Blazers wound up with the higher seed be-

**SPORT**

**#4 Portland Blazers (51-31)**

**#5 Memphis Grizzlies (55-27)**

• Sunday, 2 p.m.  
• at FedEx Forum



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge, left, is defended by Dallas Mavericks center Tyson Chandler (6) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday in Dallas.

## UMATILLA

### Viks sizzle in the heat



Umatilla's Fabian Cardenas leads the pack in the boys' 1500 meter run on Friday at the River's Edge track meet in Umatilla.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

### Zitterkob wins four events at home track meet

By SAM BARBEE  
EO Media Group

Two meets, two vastly different sets of conditions.

Last Saturday in Stanfield, a brutal wind send javelin throws all over the field and runners had to gameplan. Friday, near-80-degree temperatures forced athletes, coaches and fans alike scampering for water and any shade they could find.

For Umatilla's Amie Zitter-

kob, however, the conditions were picture perfect.

The Eastern Oregon-bound sprinter won four events Friday at the River's Edge invite in Umatilla, an event that is not traditionally kind to the host Vikings. Sprinting coach Mike Mosher said, for whatever reasons, his runners haven't run their best on their home track, and he's not sure why.

"It could be a surface thing and we have to resurface," he

said of the home struggles. "But in general, I don't know. Maybe (it's) pressure (from) fans (and) friends. You're working the meet, you're not relaxed like you would be at an away meet — you're doing other things. Just in general for some reason, that's kind of where it's been."

Combine those potential pressures and distractions with

See TRACK/2B

## OUR VIEW

### Moore an unusual case

Heaps of Blue Mountain Community College records have fallen with a basketball in the hands of Mar'Shay Moore. On Thursday she made more history, this time with a ballpoint pen.

By signing a Letter of Intent with the University of Oregon, Moore became the first Timberwolf player to ink with a Pac-12 school and just the third ever to sign with a Division-1 university.

What she's done on Mosby Court has already made her the T-Wolves' greatest hoops ambassador. With a smile permanently affixed across her face, she's carved out the best two years in school history. But, what happens next, while she's Deep in the Woods of Matthew Knight

Arena, will provide a stronger endorsement for BMCC.

This is a quantum leap. There's a reason that Moore and former Yakima Valley players Earlysia Marchbanks (Oregon State) and Rosetta Adzsu (Washington State) are the only ones to make it this decade. It takes a special talent, with special circumstances to complete it.

Moore has both. A wiry 5-foot-8 combo guard whose ability to get buckets was unparalleled in the conference this year, no one doubts that she has the game.

And, a change in regime in Eugene provided the circumstances.

For over a decade Kelly Graves ruled the West Coast Conference at Gonzaga. Last year he split town looking for a new challenge in Eugene. After one season it's clear he's found it. The Ducks won just 13 games in his premiere, and finished ninth in the Pac-12.

Coaches, Graves included, typically shy away from going the JUCO route. Four-year players provide stability. But Moore offered something Graves and his staff are in dire need of — experience.

"Normally they probably wouldn't take JC transfers," said former BMCC coach Christy Martin, who brought Moore to Pendleton from Fort Vancouver High School in Washington two years ago and whose connection with Graves helped her land in Eugene. "But, because they need

See SKOPIL/3B



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Sports

## WNBA

### Schimmel not selected in Draft

Louisville guard keeping busy off the court

East Oregonian

MISSION — Louisville guard Jude Schimmel went undrafted in the 2015 WNBA Draft on Friday.

Some mock drafts had projected her going in the third, and final, round.

As a senior at Louisville, Schimmel averaged 7.3 points, 3.8 assists and 3.4 rebounds per game while memorably leading Louisville to a 60-52 win over South Florida in the NCAA Tournament that sent the Cardinals to their third-straight Sweet 16.

Schimmel scored six of her 13 points in the final 69 seconds

of that win.

"I knew that I had to be a leader," Schimmel told reporters after that game. "At that point we needed somebody to step up and I said 'why not me.'"

Louisville forward Shawnta Dyer said the 5-foot-6 guard had earned her teammates' trust long before then.

"She's the smallest one on the court, but she makes big plays all the time," she said in an interview with The Courier-Journal after the South Florida game. "Jude is always clutch. We have a lot of confidence in her, and she knows it."

Louisville's season ended in the next round with an 82-66 loss to Dayton, and Schimmel finished her Cardinals career with a senior class that is the winningest in program history at 112-31. She is seventh all-time in steals with 221 and 10th in assists with 392. She also finished

with 711 career points.

She told IndianCountry.com that she'd been preparing herself for the possibility of going undrafted, which was why she started working on master's degree in sports management after earning her bachelors degree in three years.

"I got into sports administration because I thought I wanted to manage my sister," she said of older sibling Shoni, who became the first Native American to be drafted in the first round when she went No. 8 to the Atlanta Dream in 2014. "I wanted a better understanding of the political and the financial part of the WNBA, regardless if I am a professional athlete or a manager. I thought I might take my sister's career as my own. Trust is a big thing out there, and it would set us both up for success."

See SCHIMMEL/3B



Louisville guard Jude Schimmel (22) shoots over South Florida guard Shaletha Stringfield (23) during a game this season. Schimmel went undrafted in Friday's WNBA Draft.