

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015

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Sports shorts

Astros beat M's

SEATTLE (AP) — Jose Altuve helped Collin McHugh win his 10th straight decision with a go-ahead three-run double in the eighth inning, and the Houston Astros rallied for a 6-3 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.



Down 3-1 entering the eighth, the Astros scored five times against the Mariners bullpen, capped by Altuve's bases-clearing liner into the left-field corner for their fourth straight victory. Altuve had been hitless in his previous eight at-bats.

The rally made a surprise winner out of McHugh (3-0) and continued the longest winning streak by a Houston pitcher since Wade Miller won 12 straight decisions during the 2002 season.

Budenholzer voted NBA coach of the year

ATLANTA (AP) — Mike Budenholzer was right where he didn't want to be: the center of attention.

There was no avoiding it. Not after leading the Atlanta Hawks to the top of the Eastern Conference.

Budenholzer was honored as the NBA coach of the year on Tuesday.

A longtime assistant under Gregg Popovich at San Antonio, Budenholzer won the Red Auerbach

Trophy for guiding the Hawks to a 60-22 mark during the regular season, the best in franchise history.

The Hawks had a 19-game winning streak, became the first NBA team to go 17-0 during a calendar month, and cruised to their first division title since 1994, which also was the last time they held a No. 1 seed.

Golden State's Steve Kerr, whose team finished an NBA-best 67-15 in his first season with the Warriors, was second in the balloting, the only other candidate to receive serious consideration.

"I think there needs to be an attitudinal shift from the players. They should be making sure that they're delivering clean sport. They should be making sure that they're not protecting the bad guys, the one or two who may try to cheat or actually cheat."

— **David Howman**
World Anti-Doping Agency director criticizing the NFL's policy on performance enhancing drugs.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1987 — The NBA grants expansion franchises to Charlotte, Miami, Minnesota and Orlando. Charlotte and Miami join the league in the 1988-89 season, while Minnesota and Orlando join in 1989-90.

1993 — Chris Bosio pitches a no-hitter, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Boston Red Sox 7-0.

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

HERMISTON

Bulldogs stumble again



Hermiston's Makayla Kopacz prepares to make the tag on The Dalles' Maddy Bradford in the Bulldogs' 6-2 loss to the Riverhawks on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Photo by E.J. Harris

The Dalles takes third straight from Hermiston

By ERIK SKOPIK
East Oregonian

The Bulldogs sought to remedy a weekend sweep against The Dalles Tuesday at Rocky Heights Elementary.

Instead, they found more disappointment.

Behind a four-run third inning, the Riverhawks dumped Hermiston 6-2. The defeat places Hermiston (6-10) in a three-game hole in league play and counts as the school's 12th consecutive

league loss dating back to last season.

"We came out flat in the first couple of innings," Bulldog coach Kylee Lete said.

"I just think our effort and energy-level wasn't there in the first few innings," senior Abi Drotzmann added.

It was an auspicious problem to have considering the Bulldogs' recent history.

Coming off of a pair of one-run defeats over the

SOFTBALL



The Dalles
6



Hermiston
2

See HHS SOFTBALL/2B

Hermiston's Madisen Ledbetter throws from the pitching circle in the Bulldogs' 6-2 loss to The Dalles on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Bucks club Eagles

Pendleton routs Hood River in CRC play

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Buckaroos dealt Hood River Valley a dose of deja vu on Tuesday in a Columbia River Conference softball win.

Pendleton knocked the ball around the park and got out early with an 18-5

six-inning rout that followed Saturday's

doubleheader sweep in Pendleton.

The Buckaroos (9-7, 3-0 CRC) tallied 21 hits, giving them 47 off the Eagles (7-10,

See PHS SOFTBALL/2B

SOFTBALL



Pendleton
18



Hood River
5

PENDLETON

HRV stymies PHS

Pendleton struggles at plate, falls in eight

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Buckaroos didn't bring enough offense to overcome their erratic pitching and Hood River Valley sent them home with a 2-1 defeat in eight innings on Tuesday.

Caden Smith gave Pendleton six strong innings on the mound,

See PHS BASEBALL/2B

BASEBALL



Hood River
2



Pendleton
1

HERMISTON

Riverhawks rally past Dawgs

Hermiston struggles to get out of innings

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

For four innings on Tuesday, the Hermiston baseball team was in control, but in the fifth, the rails came off for the Bulldogs against The Dalles.

The Riverhawks plated five in the top half of the fifth, capped by a two-run single by Gordy Harris to put The Dalles up 8-4. When all was said and done, The Dalles walked away from Armand Larive Middle School with a 10-8 win and took two of three in the season-opening home-and-home CRC series.

Hermiston senior right fielder Cole Smith was 2-for-4 with two

BASEBALL



The Dalles
10



Hermiston
8

doubles and an RBI, and senior outfielder RJ Robles was 2-for-5 with an RBI single in the game.

"It's pretty frustrating because we know we can beat them," Smith said. "We already beat them once. We had home-field advantage. We should've come out with a little more pop in our bats, but we battled. It just didn't fall our way."

Hermiston (8-6, 1-2) pounded out 12 hits and had many opportunities to score but couldn't come through when it mattered.

In the second, the Bulldogs had the bases loaded and one out but

only got one run. In the fourth, the Dawgs again had the bases loaded, but a called third strike ended the threat with none pushed across. In the fifth, they had runners on the corners with no outs, but The Dalles sniffed out Hermiston's suicide squeeze, and the Bulldogs couldn't do any more.

Head coach Lance Hawkins was frustrated with the amount of missed opportunities.

"Our big issue still is not getting the job done at the plate, not being disciplined and focus to say, 'I'm gonna be the man. I'm gonna do what I need to help the team,' and we're not doing that," he said. "Really, we haven't done that all season. I'm just waiting. That's why I put it back on them."

Despite the Bulldogs' lack of situational hitting, the Bulldogs couldn't do any more.

See HHS BASEBALL/2B

NBA

Injuries again playing prominent role in playoffs

Grizzlies going against history in Game 2

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
Associated Press

The NBA playoffs have picked up right where the regular season left off — with key players fighting to stay healthy when they are needed most.

Injuries threaten to play a pivotal role in several first-round series, including all three Game 2s on Wednesday night — Spurs at Clippers, Nets at Hawks and Trail Blazers at Grizzlies.

The defending champions are missing big man Tiago Splitter, and his replacement Aron Baynes was exploited by the Clippers in their Game 1 victory. Tony Parker is also ailing, and the Spurs were hoping to take advantage of an extra day between Games 1 and 2 to get them



Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33), of Spain, collides with Portland Trail Blazers center Meyers Leonard, left, in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball Western Conference playoff series Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn.

AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

both on the mend. The Hawks lost defensive specialist Thabo Sefolosha just before

the playoffs after a confrontation with police in New York City and Al Horford dislocated the pinky fin-

ger on his right hand in Game 1, but plans to play through it.

And the banged-up Blazers hope to get Arron Afflalo back from a strained right shoulder that kept him out for the previous six games while LaMarcus Aldridge continues to play through a torn ligament in his left thumb for the last three months.

"The intent and purpose for me being on this team this season with all the injuries we've had was to help us win and win big," Afflalo said. "So I wasn't brought here just to play a small role, and obviously I felt I could've helped the team ... I'm doing what I can to get healthy."

The Grizzlies are on the other side — at least somewhat.

Memphis got Tony Allen (hamstring) back in the lineup and Mike Conley is playing with a sprained right foot. Both played well in their dominating Game 1 win.

"Hopefully they keep getting better and the time in between is

See NBA/2B