

Sports shorts

Kelly-Mariota reunion still the talk in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The nonstop speculation about Marcus Mariota reuniting with Chip Kelly in Philadelphia is almost over.

We'll find out Thursday night if Kelly will trade whatever it takes to get Mariota, or if the price to move up from No. 20 to select the Heisman Trophy winner is too costly for the Eagles.

"I think Marcus is the best quarterback in the draft," Kelly said in March. "We will never mortgage our future to go all the way up to get somebody like that because we have too many other holes that we are going to take care of."

Even that statement didn't silence the rumors. Neither did the acquisition of quarterback Sam Bradford.

From the minute Kelly arrived in Philadelphia, there's been endless talk about Mariota coming here. Mariota is an ideal QB to run Kelly's up-tempo offense and the coach loves him.



K. Love sidelined 4-to-6-months

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kevin Love had surgery on his badly damaged left shoulder that could require six months of recovery, officially ending any remote chance he had of returning during Cleveland's playoff run.

Love, whose arm was yanked from the socket on Sunday by Boston's Kelly

FACES



Olynyk during Game 4, had the operation at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York on Wednesday. The team released a brief statement saying the forward had the procedure and that his projected recovery time is 4-to-6 months.

On Tuesday, Cavs general manager David Griffin said it was "highly unlikely" Love would return during the postseason. That distant possibility was erased by the surgery to a shoulder Griffin said sustained "extensive" damage. Love had ligaments in his shoulder torn on a play that has shaken Cleveland's championship hopes.

Love was battling for a loose ball when his arm got tangled with Olynyk midway through the first quarter of Cleveland's series-sweeping win over the Celtics. Olynyk pulled on Love's arm, causing the dislocation.

"It makes you realize how unimportant really in a lot of ways this is compared to some things that are going on."

— **Buck Showalter, Orioles manager,** On playing in an empty baseball field in Baltimore as the city suffers through civil discord.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1961 — Willie Mays of the San Francisco Giants hits four home runs in a 14-4 victory over the Braves in Milwaukee.

1976 — Muhammad Ali wins a unanimous 15-round decision over Jimmy Young in Landover, Md., to retain his world heavyweight title.

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HERMISTON

Health forces title-winning coach from post

By ERIK SKOPIL AND SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

Mark Hodges led Hermiston to the pinnacle of the Oregon football landscape this fall, delivering the school its first state championship.

That will be the end of the line for the veteran Bulldog coach, he announced Wednesday. Citing health concerns, Hodges stated his intent to step down as Hermiston head football coach.

"As much as I love the game, there are just other things in life that are more important, and this is definitely my time to step away," he said Wednesday. "I can't fight it any longer."

Hermiston went 12-1 this season, culminating with a 34-12 victory over Silverton in the Class 5A state championship game on November 29 at Hillsboro Stadium. The championship season was his seventh at the school. He held a 47-29 record during his tenure Hermiston. The Bulldogs had won shares of Columbia River Conference titles in each of his final two seasons.

"I wouldn't want any other coach in the world," said Chase Knutz, who quarterbacked the state title team. "I can't even put into words what he meant to me in developing as a player. What he did for me and everyone else on the team goes beyond recognition."

Hodges arrived at Hermiston in 2008 from Fernley High School in Nevada where he coached for three seasons. Hermiston was his second head coaching stop. He had previously held assistant coaching positions at South Medford and North Medford.

Hodges has struggled through chronic arthritis in his hips the last several years. It got to the point where Hodges, lacked any cartilage and walked with a noticeable limp.

"Every bus ride he'd be complaining about how his hips were hurting," said Knutz, who was the Class 5A State Offensive Player of the Year this season.

At his most recent trip to the doctor a couple weeks ago, Hodges held out hope that his hips might cooperate. The doctor told him that he could continue coaching, but that he'd have to do so from a wheel-chair.

See HODGES/2B

WON & DONE



EO file photo

Hermiston coach Mark Hodges holds the title game ball aloft after winning the state championship game over Silverton in November. Hodges announced Wednesday that he was retiring due to health concerns.

NBA Playoffs

Blazers battered, beaten, eliminated

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Marc Gasol had 26 points and 14 rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies advanced to the Western Conference semifinals by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 99-93 on Wednesday night.

The Grizzlies reached the West semifinals for the third time in five years. They will play Game 1 on Sunday at Golden State.

Memphis closed out Portland in five games despite not having point guard Mike Conley for a second straight game as he recovers from surgery to repair broken bones near his left eye. Coach Dave Joergers said the Grizzlies take a great deal of pride in winning this series.

"For us to beat a team eight times in one year, that's pretty difficult to do," Joergers said. "I'm really proud of our guys because they aren't slouching. That's a tough team over there."

Courtney Lee added 20 points for Memphis, Zach Randolph had 16 and Jeff Green added 10 off the bench.

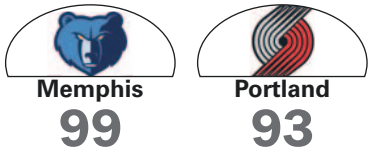


(AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

Portland Trail Blazers head coach Terry Stotts leaves the court with forward LaMarcus Aldridge, left, after losing to the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 5 of an NBA basketball Western Conference playoff series Wednesday, April 29, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn. The Grizzlies won 99-93 to win the series 4-1.

CJ McCollum led Portland with a career-high 33 points. Damian Lillard had 22 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 14 before fouling out

late as they combined to shoot 13 of 37. The Trail Blazers lost in the first round for the seventh time in their last eight postseasons after reaching



the semifinals last year.

"Certainly they outplayed us and deserved to win the series," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "It's always disappointing to end the season on a loss ... I think this season was going to be a very special season. Unfortunately some things didn't turn out the way we wanted to."

The Grizzlies finished off the game hitting 10 of 14 free throws in the final 64 seconds, and Gasol blocked a jumper by Nicolas Batum with 6.9 seconds left to start the celebration.

Memphis led only 68-66 at the end of the third, and Portland had the seventh and last tie at 72 before Vince Carter put the Grizzlies ahead to stay with a fadeaway jumper. Aldridge got the Trail Blazers within 76-75 with a three-point play before Memphis went on a 9-0 run, pushing its lead back to double

See BLAZERS/2B

Prep Baseball

Dawgs look to play catch-up in rivalry doubleheader

War on 84 double dip set for Friday at Armand Larive

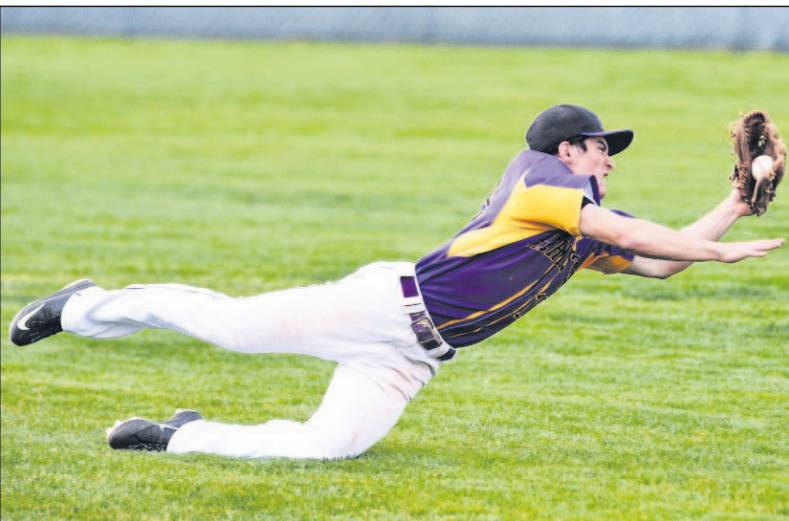
East Oregonian

Not since the inception of the Columbia River Conference has Hermiston missed out on post-season play.

Following their fourth straight league loss on Tuesday, the Bulldogs (8-9, 1-5 CRC) are at a crossroads.

Six games into the 12 game conference slate Hermiston is four games off league leading Hood River Valley (13-6, 5-1 CRC) and two off of Pendleton (7-12, 3-3 CRC) and The Dalles (9-10, 3-3 CRC) in the three-bid league.

Friday's War on 84 doubleheader with the Buckaroos at Armand Larive will prove pivotal.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Kyler Kyler Mikami makes a diving grab in Tuesday's loss to Hood River Valley.

"We need to battle and compete our butts off," first-year coach Lance Hawkins said after Tuesday's 19-9 loss to the Eagles. "It's kind of

a playoff mentality. We need to start winning some league games or else our season is kind of gone."

Pendleton enters in unfamiliar

territory as well. The Buckaroos have finished at the top of the league in two of four CRC seasons, but have struggled to begin this league campaign.

Pendleton began the season with an unstable stable of arms, but in the past four games have seen an emergence of pitching behind weekend starters Quinn Cockburn and Brady Smith and weekday arm Caden Smith. Pendleton has allowed just four earned runs from its starters its last four times out. Caden Smith, a sophomore right-hander, has been outstanding in two Tuesday starts, allowing just one run to score in 12 innings on the mound.

A slumping offense has held the Buckaroos back from capitalizing off of the improving pitching. But, they'll enter the rivalry games fresh off of their best offensive outing of the season, a 13-1 whooping of The

See RIVALRY/2B