

Sports shorts

Thunder tab
Florid’s Donovan
as new coach

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder have hired Florida’s Billy Donovan as their new coach.

The Thunder made the announcement Thursday.



The 49-year-old Donovan led Florida to two national championships, four Final Fours, seven Elite Eights and 14 NCAA Tournament berths in 19 years. He signed a one-year contract extension with the Gators in December that would have paid him an average salary of \$4 million through 2020.

But, eight years after leaving Florida to coach the Orlando Magic and then changing his mind the following day, Donovan is back in the NBA.

Donovan inherits a team with 2013-14 MVP Kevin Durant and 2014-15 scoring champion Russell Westbrook.

He replaces Scott Brooks, who was fired last week.

Bulls clobber
Bucks to advance

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Mike Dunleavy scored 20 points and the Chicago Bulls came close to an NBA playoff record, finally putting away the Milwaukee Bucks with a 120-66 victory in Game 6 to clinch their first-round series Thursday night.



The Bulls, who move on to face the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round, finished four points away from the NBA playoff record for largest margin of victory. Minnesota beat St. Louis 133-75 on March 19, 1956.

The game was over early, but it still featured plenty of the intensity and bad blood that marked the first five games of the series and Dunleavy was in the middle of much of the action. He drew the foul that led to the ejection of Milwaukee’s Giannis Antetokounmpo for a flagrant 2 foul just before halftime.

Pau Gasol scored 19 points and Jimmy Butler added 16 for the Bulls.

“I’ve got (Jameis) Winston and (Marcus) Mariota in my barn. I’d love to see them 1-2 turning for home and then see what they’re made of.”

— Bob Baffert
Trainer of Kentucky Derby favorites American Pharoah and Dortmund, on their chances in Saturday’s 141st Derby.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1920 — Joe Oeschger of the Boston Braves and Leon Cadore of the Brooklyn Dodgers both pitch 26 innings in a 1-1 tie, the longest game in major league history.

1948 — Citation, ridden by Eddie Arcaro, wins the Kentucky Derby by 3½ lengths over Coaltown. It’s Citation’s toughest race in winning the Triple Crown.

1991 — Rickey Henderson of the Oakland Athletics sets a major league record by stealing his 939th base, eclipsing Lou Brock’s career mark.

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

NFL Draft

Mariota headed to Music City



Thomas Boyd/The Oregonian via AP, Pool

Former Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota reacts to being drafted by the Tennessee Titans with the second pick in the first round on NFL Draft Day Thursday in Honolulu.

Oregon QB taken No. 2 by Titans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans hope they got it right this time with Oregon’s Marcus Mariota, their third try at landing a franchise quarterback in the past decade.

The Titans selected the Heisman Trophy winner No. 2 overall pick Thursday night after starting three quarterbacks last season, benching Jake Locker in October and replacing him with rookie Zach Mettenberger. But he lost his six starts, and the Titans couldn’t afford to pass up Mariota with Charlie Whitehurst the only veteran quarterback on the roster.

General manager Ruston Webster said other teams offered “multiple” picks to move up to the No. 2 spot. The Titans refused to budge with four picks in the top 100, believing they drafted the quarterback that can turn around a team that went 2-14 in 2014.

“It was going to be difficult to convince us to back out,” Webster

said. “We had conversations with different teams, but nothing to the point of us not picking Marcus.”

Mariota could start the season opener Sept. 13 at Tampa Bay against the top pick, Jameis Winston. Neither was at the NFL draft in Chicago on Thursday — Mariota, from Hawaii was in Honolulu with nearly 300 family and friends; Winston was in his hometown of Bessemer, Alabama.

Coach Ken Whisenhunt has said a quarterback picked second overall would be expected to start the season. And the coach known for working with pocket passers like Ben Roethlisberger and Kurt Warner even says they started mixing in some spread plays into their offense weeks ago in anticipation of drafting Mariota.

“There are going to be some things he’s had success with in college we’ll incorporate in what

See MARIOTA/2B

Winston top pick in NFL draft

CHICAGO (AP) — Even with significant off-field baggage, Jameis Winston was the first pick in the NFL draft Thursday night.

With no such issues, Marcus Mariota went second.

You don’t pass up a potential franchise quarterback in today’s pass-happy NFL.

So Florida State’s Winston is headed to Tampa Bay and Oregon’s Mariota goes to Tennessee at No. 2. They’ll take their Heisman Trophies (Winston in 2013, Mariota last year) and try to turn two downtrodden franchises into contenders, maybe even champions.

“The challenge is just being an NFL player, period. I’m not worried about any off-the-field situations or even on-the-field situations,” Winston said.

“I’m just worried about living this new lifestyle and just developing into a great man for the Tampa Bay community for my

teammates, because it’s all for them and it’s all for the success of this franchise.”

Tampa has the receivers to help Winston in Vincent Jackson and Mike Evans, both of whom went over 1,000 yards last year despite shoddy quarterbacking. Tennessee can’t make the same claim.

Each of those teams went 2-14 in 2014, but coaches Smith and Whisenhunt, in their first seasons in charge, survived the awful record. Now, they presumably have the main building tool.

Winston and Mariota, who each had a year of eligibility remaining, will meet in the season opener in Tampa Bay.

Neither quarterback was in Chicago, choosing to watch — and celebrate — at home with their families. It was the sixth time since 1967 that quarter-

See DRAFT/2B

Prep Softball

Bucks look to maintain hot start

Hermiston back
on winning track

EO Media Group

Hermiston broke out of a 14-game Columbia River Conference losing skid in rousing fashion with a 10-0 beat down of Hood River Valley Eagles on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Things will get no easier for the Bulldogs as they host the second-ranked and league undefeated Pendleton (12-7, 6-0 CRC) in the softball version of the War on 84 on today at Rocky Heights Elementary.

“For them, it’s a game,” Hermiston (7-15, 1-5 CRC) head coach Kylee Lete said of the rivalry. “(The players) want to win every game. Of course it’s Pendleton, they want to beat them too.”

“We’re treating it like it’s every other game. High schoolers have their passions and their rivals and that’s the fun of high school sports. But at the end of the day, we know it’s a game and we gotta go out and compete.”

These two teams could not have taken more different paths to Friday’s doubleheader. Coming off of the school’s



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Ellie Richards, of Pendleton, eyes a pitch Saturday in the first of two games with The Dalles-Wahtonka at Steve Cary Field. Richards and the Buckaroo bats will look to continue their blazing start against Hermiston on Friday.

second state championship in three years, the Buckaroos struggled out of the gate. Without a clear replacement for last year’s ace Hailey Kline, Pendleton concluded play with a losing record.

CRC play has proven an easier challenge. The Buckaroos are off to their best start in school history with six straight wins. None of the games have been decided by less than eight runs. Four have been concluded early by run rule. They’ve averaged

13.2 runs per game in doing so.

The Bucks have done most of their damage with the long ball. They remain on pace to break last year’s school home run record. Alexis Morrison and Tiah Grass have led the way. Morrison hit four big flies last week alone.

Kiersten Murphy and Lauren Roberts have rounded into form in the circle to keep opposing teams to just 14 runs in six games.

See RIVALRY/2B

MLB

Altuve sinks
Seattle in
extra innings

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve’s RBI single in the 10th inning lifted the Houston Astros to their seventh straight victory, 3-2 over the Seattle Mariners on Thursday night.

Marwin Gonzalez doubled down the right-field line with one out

against reliever Dominic Leone (0-2). After a walk to pinch-hitter Colby Rasmus, Altuve got his third hit of the game — lining a single to left field to drive in Gonzalez with his first career walk-off hit.

Luke Gregerson (2-0) pitched a scoreless 10th to pick up the win.

The Mariners took a 2-0 lead in the first inning on Nelson Cruz’s double-play grounder with the bases loaded, and Kyle Seager’s RBI single.

Evan Gattis had a run-scoring grounder in the bottom of the inning, and then had another in the sixth to tie the score. James Paxton also went seven strong innings for Seattle. He gave up two runs and five hits while striking out seven and walking two.



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