

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

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## Sports shorts

### Oregon State AD will step down

CORVALLIS (AP) — Oregon State athletic director Bob De Carolis has announced that he will step down on June 30.

De Carolis released an open letter Monday announcing his decision, saying he believes that he's leaving Oregon State's athletic department in a good place.

De Carolis did not give a reason for his resignation, but said he looked forward to continued opportunities in intercollegiate athletics.

During his tenure there have been \$180 million in improvements to Oregon State athletic facilities and the expansion of Reser Stadium. He is in the midst of a \$42 million project to transform the school's football facilities.

The athletic department budget has grown from \$29 million in 2002 to \$71.3 million.

De Carolis was the assistant athletic director for four years before he became AD in 2002.

### Cavs coach owns up to late-game gaffes, LeBron bailout

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — David Blatt stepped over some cables and weaved through a throng of reporters eager to hear his explanation of two head-scratching decisions on Sunday in Chicago.

Cleveland's first-year coach — don't call him a rookie — acknowledged two mistakes in the closing moments of Game 4 on Sunday, when he tried calling a timeout he didn't have and then initially designed an inbounds play that had LeBron James passing the ball in with 1.5 seconds left.

Luckily for Blatt, assistant Tyrone Lue grabbed him and pulled him off the floor and three officials missed his attempt to call time, and James overruled the play call before hitting a jumper at the buzzer to give the Cavs an 86-84 win to tie this intense Eastern Conference semifinal series at 2-2.

"Good thing I had great guys behind me to bail me out," said Blatt, who couldn't remember ever losing track of timeouts. "And then a great player to bail us all out with a terrific shot."

But in the aftermath of Cleveland's biggest win this season, Blatt was forced to defend his decisions.

"I've known for a long time now that after I get Olympic gold around my neck, I was going to get some MMA gold for my waist."

— **Ed Ruth**  
Three-time NCAA wrestling champion and 2016 Olympic hopeful, who signed a multi-fight deal with Bellator MMA.

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1909** — The Preakness Stakes is held in Maryland after 16 runnings in New York. As part of the celebration marking the return of the Preakness, the colors of the race's winner were painted onto the ornamental weather-vane at Pimlico Racecourse for the first time.

**1970** — Ernie Banks hits his 500th career home run off Pat Jarvis in the Chicago Cubs' 4-3 victory over Atlanta at Wrigley Field.

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## Punishment leveled against Brady, Patriots

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AND **JIMMY GOLEN**  
AP Sports Writers

NEW YORK — The NFL came down hard on its biggest star and its championship team, telling Tom Brady and the Patriots that no one is allowed to mess with the rules of the game.

The league suspended the Super Bowl MVP Monday for the first four games of the season, fined the New England Patriots \$1 million and took away two draft picks as punishment for deflating footballs used in the AFC title game.

"Each player, no matter how accomplished and otherwise respected, has an obligation to comply with the rules and must be held accountable for his actions when those rules are violated and the public's confidence in the game is called into question," NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent wrote to Brady.

The Patriots lose next year's first-round pick and a fourth-round choice in 2017.

Brady would miss the season's showcase kickoff game on Sept. 10 against Pittsburgh, then Week 2 at Buffalo, a home game against Jacksonville and a game at Dallas. He will return the week of a Patriots-Colts AFC championship rematch in Indianapolis.

He would be replaced by Jimmy Garoppolo, a 2014 second-round selection from Eastern Illinois who won the Walter Payton award as the best player in the FCS. He has thrown 27 NFL passes, including one touchdown.

Brady has three days to appeal the suspension to Commissioner Roger Goodell or his designee. His agent, Don Yee, said "the discipline is ridiculous and has no legitimate basis" and that Brady will appeal.

"And if the hearing officer is completely independent and

See **BRADY/2B**



In a Feb. 1 file photo, Tom Brady holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in Super Bowl XLIX in Glendale, Ariz.

## HERMISTON



The field for the 16th Annual Butte Challenge waits for the starting gun Saturday morning at Butte Park.

Sam Barbee photo

## Runners conquer Butte Challenge

### About \$3,000 raised for Hermiston XC

By **SAM BARBEE**  
EO Media Group

With the temperature rising on a sunny Saturday morning, more than 100 runners and walkers filled NW 7th Street between Funland Park and the Hermiston softball field. Hermiston cross country coach held a megaphone as he gave the Butte Challenge contestants their final briefing before sending them on their way around the Hermiston Butte.

In all, though final counts are yet to be determined, about 120 people participated in the 16th Annual

Butte Challenge, generating about \$3,000 for the Hermiston cross country team. Eventually, Rosa Bautista would post the quickest 10k time, finishing in 41 minutes, 10.6 seconds, almost two minutes faster than second-place Anthony Eisenbarth. Angela Taylor posted an impressive 5K time, crossing the line in 19:05.8. It was 14 seconds quicker than Juan Sanchez, who finished just two seconds ahead of his wife, Melody. In the 5K walk, Jesse Landin's time was comparable with some runners. He power-walked his way to a 37:22.5 mark, two minutes quicker than Toni Hawkins.

Hermiston cross country coach Troy Blackburn said the turnout was a bit low Saturday, but it was still good to have people out. He said the event went smoothly, save for

a police officer noticing Blackburn setting up the course early Saturday morning.

"This year (turnout) was a little low, we didn't get it out like we could have," Blackburn said. "Next year we're going to get it out earlier and get more people to know earlier. People enjoy it. People it enjoy the run."

As runners filtered through the finish line, they gathered in Butte park, eating hot dogs, enjoying shade and watching their children play at Funland.

For Liz and Joe Sharon, who's three children sat on the curb on 7th and cheered their parents as they started and finished, the family aspect is what has brought them back three times.

"It's a good family event," Joe

said. "They've got lost of stuff for the kids."

Organizer Jeanne Jewett estimated that about 75 percent of all contestants brought some form of their families along. Husbands came to watch wives. Wives came to watch husbands. Children watched parents and vice versa. One runner brought her dog. Some pushed strollers. The Living Water Foursquare church brought a contingent of runners and supporters.

Mixed into the field were some competitive runners who were there for the time, but a hefty portion of the field was there to enjoy the weather and enjoy each other.

"That's what I like about it," Jewett said. "We had tiny, little kids and one older gentleman, too."

See **BUTTE/2B**

## PENDLETON

## BMCC comes up one win short

By **MATT ENTRUP**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Like they had all season, the Blue Mountain Community College softball players refused to roll over and held their heads high after a season-ending split with Columbia Basin on Saturday.

The Timberwolves saw their postseason goal slip away in the first half of a NWAC-East doubleheader when the Hawks scored five runs in the top of the seventh inning and held on for a 9-2 win that eliminated BMCC and clinched an NWAC Tournament berth for the Hawks.

But the T-Wolves' four sophomores said goodbye to their teammates and playing careers in style by driving a come-from-behind 13-6 win in the afternoon capper.

After falling behind 6-1 in the top of the second inning, the T-Wolves began chipping away at the lead with the same determination that allowed them to overcome myriad setbacks for their highest league finish since 2009.

"I'm very proud of what they've done this year," said coach Jeanette Abreu, who guided the T-Wolves (15-31, 12-16 East) to fifth place in the East Region and one win shy of the NWAC Tournament. "We've had injury after injury. We've had five surgeries this year, we've had eligibility issues — it's a small squad and we fought really hard."

"That was our whole mantra, was fighting and energy, and as long as we kept that up we knew we would be successful, and that's what you saw in Game 2."

The T-Wolves began their comeback with a run in each of the second and third innings before sophomore sister duo Jory and Rayne Spencer combined to cap a four-run rally and put BMCC ahead for good in the bottom of the fourth.

Jory, the elder, laced a single down the third-base line to bring in Lexi Chung for the tying run, then scored the go-ahead run from third when Rayne drew the Hawks' attention as she attempted to stretch

See **SOFTBALL/2B**

**SOFTBALL**  
BMCC  
2,13

**Col. Basin**  
9,6

## IRRIGON

## Rice tosses gem in Knights split

### Pilot Rock earns division title with opening victory

By **ERIK SKOPIL**  
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Things were looking pretty bleak for Austin Rice and Irrigon after Pilot Rock smacked the Knights around 9-1 in Game 1's Special District 6 division-clinching victory Saturday.

"There was definitely a little doubt creeping up in the dugout between games," Rice, a sophomore pitcher, admitted.

Pilot Rock (14-8, 8-2 SD6) roughed up right-handed pitcher Nate Verley. Verley gave up 11 hits and allowed nine runs — just three were earned due to five Knight errors.

Enter Rice, the Knights Game 2 starter — who just so happens to be the only regular left-handed pitcher in the league. Rice tossed

seven shutout innings of one-hit ball, striking out 10 Pilot Rock batters, as Irrigon (12-9, 4-6 SD6) rebounded for a crucial 2-0 victory and doubleheader split with the Rockets.

"That's the problem with lefties," Rocket coach Dan Ward said. "You just don't see them enough to really be able to figure them out. We had great plate approaches (in Game 1) and then you see a lefty and it throws it all off."

The Rockets whiffed on the lefthander's breaking ball more than they hit it. Pilot Rock lifted just two balls to the outfield all game. They put only two runners in scoring position. Rice had the answer each time, getting out of each jam with strikeouts and shallow infield pop ups.

"When I play against left-handed pitchers it's difficult for me too," Rice said. "I think it's the same way. It's coming in and looking like it's going to hit me and then it

See **IRRIGON/3B**

**BASEBALL**  
Pilot Rock  
9,0

**Irrigon**  
1,2