

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Ducks set for super regionals

EUGENE — After sweeping through the Eugene Regional last weekend, the Oregon softball team will play host to North Carolina State in a Super Regional starting Friday night at Howe Field.

Oregon and NC State will meet at 6 p.m. on Friday and again at noon on Saturday. A final game, if needed, will be at 3 p.m. on Saturday. All three games will be aired live on ESPNU.

The Ducks (49-6) advanced to Super Regionals after defeating North Dakota State twice and BYU once in the Eugene Regional. Pitcher Cheridan Hawkins was named regional MVP after earning two wins to go with a 1.50 ERA and 25 strikeouts in 14.0 innings pitching.

Hawks' Carroll avoids major injury

ATLANTA (AP) — An MRI on DeMarre Carroll's left knee showed no structural damage, and he hopes to play for Atlanta in Friday night's Game 2 against Cleveland in the Eastern

Conference finals, Carroll's agent said Thursday.

Mark Bartelstein told The Associated Press that Carroll has only a knee

sprain and "maybe a little" bone bruise. The Hawks confirmed the MRI showed only a knee sprain and said Carroll would be listed as questionable.

Asked about Carroll's status, Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said "we're very hopeful."

"I think sometimes you tend to think it could be the worst and right now everything we're getting back is positive," said Budenholzer.

"It's very common. It goes on on the other side, I guarantee you. It's the rule. I think pitchers are using it but I guess you've got to be discreet about it."

— **Craig Counsell**
Milwaukee Brewers manager after relief pitcher Will Smith was ejected from Wednesday's game against Atlanta for having rosin and sunscreen on his forearm. Smith said he was using the substances to help him grip the ball while warming up in the bullpen and forgot to wipe them off before entering the game.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1975 — Artis Gilmore scores 28 points and grabs 31 rebounds to lead the Kentucky Colonels to a 110-105 victory over the Indiana Pacers for the ABA championship.
1988 — The Celtics beat the Hawks 118-116 in Game 7 of the 1988 Eastern Conference semifinals. Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins finishes with 47 points while Boston's Larry Bird has 34, including 20 in the fourth quarter. The teams shoot a combined 58.8 percent, the second-highest mark in playoff history.

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

State Track & Field

Cardenas sets meet record



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Fabian Cardenas, of Umatilla, set a 3A meet record in the 3,000-meter run Thursday at the OSAA track and field state championships at Hayward Field.

Umatilla junior breaks 20-year-old distance mark



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Fabian Cardenas, of Umatilla, exults after setting a 3A meet record in the 3,000-meter run Thursday at the OSAA track and field state championships at Hayward Field.

By **ERIK SKOPIL**
East Oregonian

EUGENE — A repeat state 3,000 meter championship seemed an inevitability for Fabian Cardenas, doing it in a fast time was a different story.

One peek around the starting line of Thursday's state championship race at Hayward Field told the Umatilla distance ace that if he were to reach his goal of breaking the 20-year old Class 3A state meet record it would be done on his own.

The opening quarter mile did nothing to change that opinion.

"I was hoping another guy would take it out, but no one did," said Cardenas, who nearly eclipsed James Longoria of Nyssa's state meet record in last year's win. "I was kind of looking back to see what they were doing. They were taking it easy and waiting for me to take it over."

Cardenas obliged.

The junior powered around the track for the fastest seven-and-a-half laps in meet history stopping the clock in 8 minutes, 41.23 seconds, five seconds faster than Longoria's time. The mark was also five seconds swifter than any previous 3,000 meter race Cardenas had run.

"It was cool, especially because I did it

by myself," he said of the blazing time.

The opening move dropped the majority of the field. Luca Ostertag-Hill of Catlin Gabel hung on his heels until the final mile before Cardenas turned on the afterburners for one last record-breaking push. Ostertag-Hill took second, 29 seconds behind Cardenas.

The last 100 meters were a race between Cardenas and the clock.

"That final 100 meters I was looking at the clock the whole time and I was like 'Oh snap, I can get it'. I just gave it everything I had those last 100 meters," he said.

The win is the third state championship for Cardenas. He won last year's 3,000 meters in surprising fashion and followed it up with a one-sided cross country championship in the fall.

"It's a big honor to our school," Cardenas said. "We don't get a lot of state champions from our school. It's just nice to change the tradition."

Cardenas will try to add to his burgeoning trophy case in tonight's 1,500 meters.

Justyce Smith knows a thing or two about state title hardware. The Riverside senior captured her fifth championship medallion Thursday.

Smith, who owns a diversified resume that includes wins in three different events,

See **TRACK/2B**

"That final 100 meters I was looking at the clock the whole time and I was like 'Oh snap, I can get it'. I just gave it everything I had those last 100 meters."

— **Fabian Cardenas**, Umatilla 3,000-meter runner after setting a new 3A state meet record with his time of 8:41.23.

College Golf

Warriors miss cut at NAIA Championships

Heppner's Lien, Hermiston's Simmons wrap up season

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Cole Lorenzo and Chris Lien both shot under par Thursday, but it was not enough to extend the season for the Lewis-Clark State men's golf team.

LCSC missed the cut at the NAIA National Championships after it posted a 17-over 305 during its third, and ultimately final, round at LPGA International Hills Course. The Warriors finished the tournament with a score of 911, leaving them 47 strokes over par and in 19th place in the 29-team field.

Only the top 17 teams advanced to Friday's final round. The last team to make the cut, Cardinal Stritch University,

finished the third round with an 899. Defending champion Coastal Georgia sits atop the leaderboard after ending Thursday at 10-under 854.

"It's disappointing," LCSC coach Paul Thompson said. "It was a good experience for them, but I thought we would be in the top 10, maybe even the top five, but it wasn't to be."

The top 40 individuals also qualified for the championship round, but LCSC's highest placing individual was Lorenzo, who tied for 58th. After recording a 77 in each of the first two rounds, the junior from Richland, Washington, tallied a 1-under 71 on Thursday to finish at 9-over 225.

Lien fired a 2-under 70 during the third round, the best score furnished by a Warrior at any point during the tournament. But a 79 the day before and a 77 in

the opening round left the junior from Heppner, tied for 64th place at 10-over 226.

Through two rounds, no Warrior played better than Kurt Simmons. The junior from Hermiston started the tournament with a 74 and followed that up with a 71, leaving him tied for 18th after lightning forced the suspension of Wednesday's second round. But an 84 on Thursday dropped him into a tie for 84th place, three shots behind Lien.

"He was pretty pleased until today," Thompson said.

This was the Warriors' fifth trip to nationals since 2005. It was their first appearance since 2013, when they also finished 19th.

Lien was a first-team All-Frontier Conference selection for the LCSC this season.

See **GOLF/2B**

State Tennis

Cittadini falls in first round

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — Pendleton's Matilde Cittadini was unable to get past Wilsonville's Keely Petticord in the first round of state tennis action on Thursday at West Hills Racquet and Fitness Club.

The sophomore advanced with a straight-set victory of 6-2, 6-2, sending Cittadini into the consolation bracket.

Cittadini, a junior exchange student from Italy, will face Crescent Valley sophomore Caroline Doyle when action resumes today.

Doyle ran up against third-seeded Ashland senior Ashley Knecht in the first round and fell 6-1, 6-2.

The 4A-1A tournament will begin today for boys and girls at the Oregon State University Tennis Complex in Corvallis.