

Sports shorts

UCLA earns first No. 1 baseball seed

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — UCLA’s dominance in the Pac-12 this spring impressed the Division I Baseball Committee so much that the Bruins on Monday were awarded their first No. 1 national seed for the NCAA tournament.

The Bruins (42-14) edged out Southeastern Conference regular-season champion LSU (48-10) even though they lost two of three at Oregon in their last series.

“UCLA has been there for much of the season. LSU is an outstanding club as well. There’s such a fine line between the two,” said committee chairman Dave Heeke, athletic director at Central Michigan. The other six national seeds, in order, are: Louisville, Florida, Miami, Illinois, TCU and Missouri State.

The tournament opens Friday with 16 four-team, double-elimination regionals. Best-of-three super regionals are next week, with those winners moving to the College World Series in Omaha.

LeBron, Cavs limp toward NBA Finals

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — LeBron James says he won’t allow his sore body to slow his drive toward another NBA Finals.

Beaten down by injuries and another grueling season, James has the Cavaliers one win from the Eastern Conference title. On Monday, a day after his 37 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists lifted Cleveland to a Game 3 overtime victory against Atlanta, James was noticeably tired.

He wore a wrap on his right calf and the four-time league MVP says he’s been undergoing “round-the-clock” treatment.

James returned to Cleveland after four seasons with Miami and says leading the Cavs has been his biggest challenge. The Cavs are without Kevin Love for the playoffs and have played the past two games without All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving.

Coach David Blatt says Irving remains a game-time decision for Game 4.

“I thought I’d retire about 35. That’s when people retire in Formula One.”

— Juan Pablo Montoya
The 39-year-old on his second Indianapolis 500 win on Sunday, 15 years after his first win and a stint in NASCAR

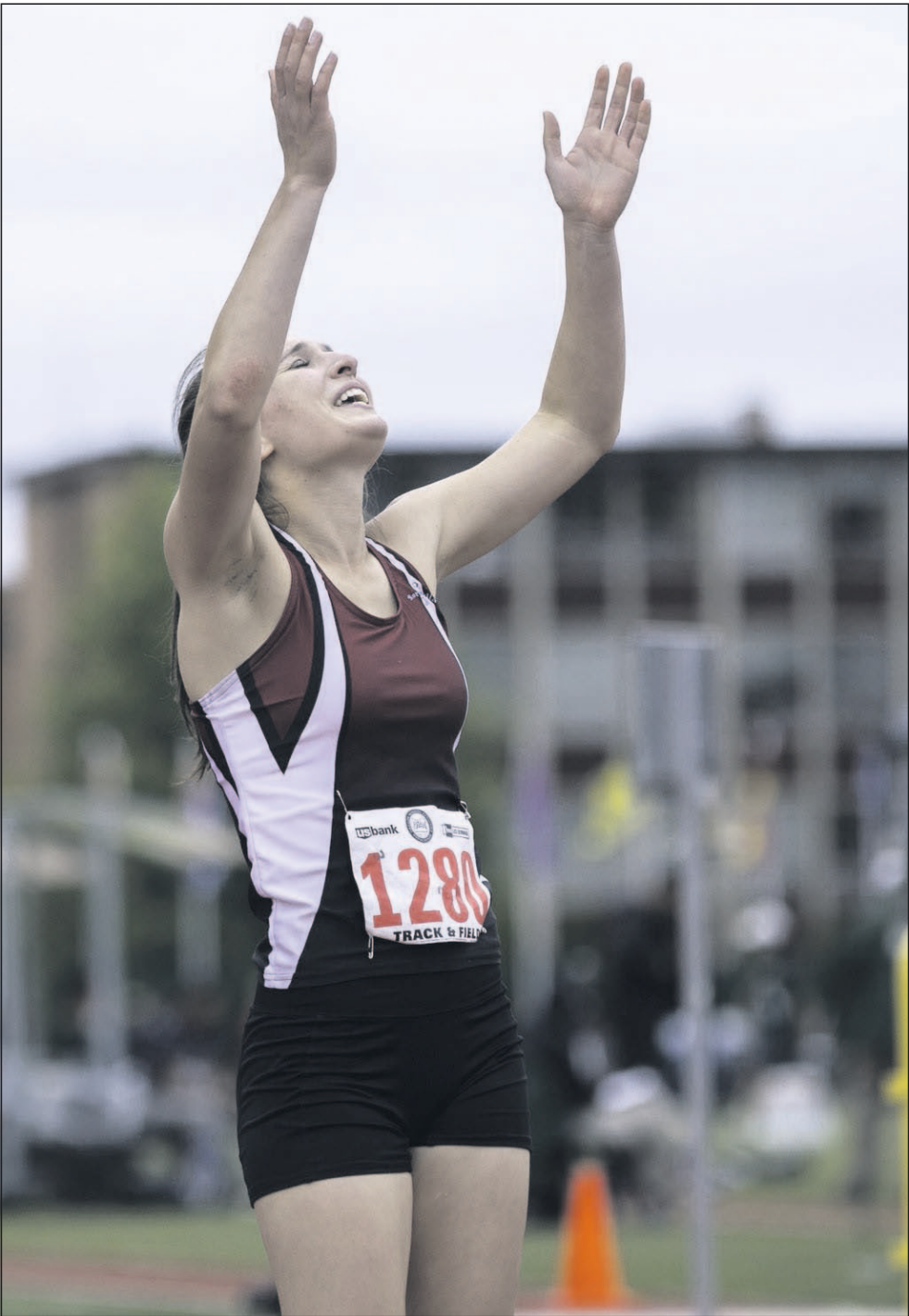
THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1985 — Danny Sullivan misses almost certain disaster and holds off Mario Andretti and the rest of the fastest field in auto racing to win the Indianapolis 500. On the 119th lap, Sullivan’s car spins 360 degrees, narrowly avoiding both the wall and Andretti.

1987 — Boston’s Larry Bird steals an inbound pass from Detroit’s Isiah Thomas and feeds over his shoulder to a cutting Dennis Johnson for the winning basket, sending the Celtics to a 108-107 victory in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

OSAA State Track Championships

Hurdles can’t stop Childers



Kristi Childers, of Mac-Hi, revels after winning the 4A 300-meter high hurdles Saturday at the state track and field championships at Hayward Field in Eugene. The victory was redemption for a bad fall she took earlier in the 100-meter hurdles.



Jonathan Stuvland, of Pendleton, clears 6-foot-2 inches in the 5A boys high jump Saturday at the state track and field championships at Hayward Field to take second.

Medal recap

- Gold •Kristi Childers, Mac-Hi, 300 meters hurdles, 45.70
- Silver •Jonathan Stuvland, PHS, high jump, 6-02.
- Nolan Bylenga, PHS 800 meters, 1:53.49
- Bronze •Austin Cousineau, Mac-Hi, 800 meters, 2:01.87

From the Class 4A/5A/6A State Track and Field Championships on Saturday at Hayward Field, Eugene.

Mac-Hi’s Kristi Childers comes back from tumble to win state gold

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

EUGENE — Kristi Childers swapped the taste of rubber track for sweet victory Saturday afternoon at Hayward Field.

After clipping the seventh hurdle and face-planting in the Class 4A high hurdles, the Mac-Hi senior got redemption 90 minutes later in the intermediate hurdles, earning her first state championship at the Class 6A/5A/4A Track and Field Championships.

“I couldn’t believe it,” said Childers, who won the event with a personal-best 45.70-second performance. “I was so shocked. I was just really surprised. After basically getting last in the 100s and coming back and winning (the 300 hurdles), it’s like the polar opposites of feelings.”

Childers took the lead from the gun in the 300-meter hurdle event. She coasted around the turn with a decisive edge, but nearly ran out of gas coming off the final hurdle, nudging charging Kali AnDyke of Corbett with a final lunge. AnDyke crossed .11 seconds behind her.

“I wasn’t sure if I got it when I crossed the line,” she said. “It always seems like there’s somebody faster and I guess today that was me.”

A favorite in both hurdle events, Childers appeared off to a swift start in the high hurdles earlier in the afternoon. She ran hip-to-hip with eventual winner Mikaela Sigel of Siuslaw for the first six hurdles before losing track of her steps in her approach to hurdle No. 7.

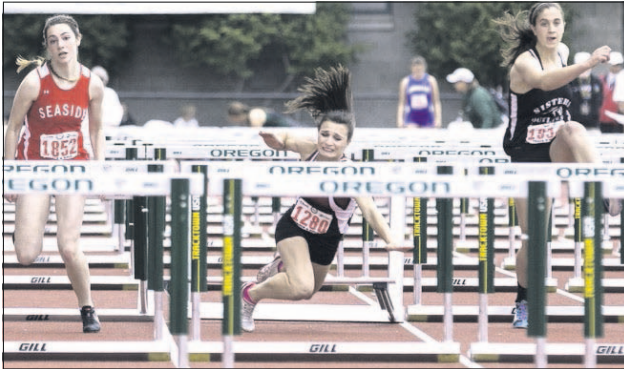
“I was switching from three-stepping to four-stepping, I caught my toe on a hurdle and ate track,” she said.

Childers collided with the track in a clump, eliciting a loud groan from the capacity crowd. After laying on her chest for a second, she picked herself to walk to the finish line. She was disqualified for pushing over a hurdle.

In the Class 5A boys competition, Pendleton’s Nolan Bylenga was the only runner in the 12-athlete 800 meter field who sought to run with Bend’s Caleb Hoffman, who entered the meet with a two-second edge on any comer.

The decision paid off.

See HURDLES/2B



Kristi Childers, of Mac-Hi, goes down in the class 4A 100-meter hurdles Saturday at the state track and field championships at Hayward Field in Eugene. She later came back and won the 300-meter high hurdles.

Special District 6 baseball

Rockets win district title

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Pilot Rock baseball team scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning and Jacob Pierce shut Dufur down in the bottom of the frame as the Rockets won the Special District 6 championship 6-4 on Saturday.

Pierce got the win in relief of starter Mike Hiatt, who went the first five and left with the game tied at 4-4.

Hiatt was actually out-dueling league Player of the Year Trever Tibbets to that point, giving up half as many hits with four. But the switch came at the right time as Pierce gave up just one hit the rest of the way while the Rockets hit Tibbets hard.

After stranding runners on second and third in the sixth, Pierce singled to lead the Rockets off in the seventh.

Braydon Postma then laid down a bunt that Tibbets threw over first base and the Rockets were back with runners on second and third.

Hiatt, who had remained in the game in left field, then drove them both in on a hard-hit ground ball to left.

Hiatt led the Rockets at the plate going 2 for 4 with three RBIs, also driving in Pierce after he reached on a double in the top of the fifth.



The Pilot Rock baseball team poses with its championship trophy and banner after beating Dufur 6-4 for the Special District 6 championship on Saturday in The Dalles.

Pierce allowed the tying run to reach base with one out in the bottom of the seventh, but a couple of ground outs to younger brother Bryson Pierce at shortstop ended the game.

Jacob Pierce also had big game at the plate going 3 for 4 with one RBI and two runs. Levi Thieme (2 for 3) and Chris Weinke also drove in runs to give the Rockets a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Pilot Rock never trailed, but Dufur tied the score twice. Connor Uhalde was 3 for 4 to lead the Rangers at the plate.

Pilot Rock will host Kennedy in the first round of the state playoffs on Wednesday at 1 p.m..

IRRIGON 16, HEPPNER 6 (5 innings) — At The Dalles, things fell apart in the bottom of the fourth inning for the Heppner Mustangs in Saturday’s elimination game.

Through three innings the Mustangs defense was flawless, even turning a 5-4-3 double play in the third to help preserve a 4-3 lead.

The offense was equally impressive and scored its first two runs on home-plate steals in the first, then took a 6-3 lead when Pat Collins hit a two-RBI double with two outs in the top of the fourth.

See BASEBALL/2B

Harden helps Houston stay in playoffs

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — James Harden scored a playoff career-high 45 points and the Houston Rockets led from start to finish to avoid elimination in the Western Conference finals with a 128-115 victory over the Golden State Warriors in Game 4 on Monday night.

The Rockets used a playoff record-tying, 45-point first quarter to build a big lead. They were up by 22 in the second quarter when Stephen Curry landed on his head in a nasty spill and missed about 12 minutes before returning.

His first field goal after returning came on a 3-pointer that got Golden State within six points with less than 8 1/2 minutes remaining. But Harden, who had 17 points in the fourth quarter, scored the next seven points as part of 10 straight by Houston to push the lead to 114-98.

Klay Thompson had 24 points and Curry added 23 for Golden State, which moved a win away from its first trip to the NBA Finals since 1975 after routing Houston 115-80 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead in the series.

See PLAYOFFS/2B