

Sports shorts

Warriors end 40-year absence from NBA finals

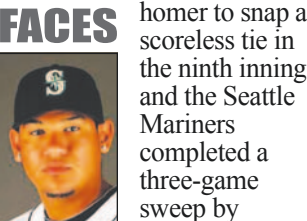
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry had 26 points and eight rebounds, Harrison Barnes added 24 points and the Golden State Warriors advanced to the NBA Finals for the first time in 40 years with a 104-90 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

After decades of wishing and waiting for this moment, the Warriors have finally arrived. They shook off a slow start and sweated out a shaky finish in Game 5 to close out the Rockets and set up a matchup with LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers beginning June 4.



Hernandez gets 8th win, Mariners beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Felix Hernandez pitched a four-hitter to become the major's first eight-game winner, Nelson Cruz hit his AL-best 18th



homer to snap a scoreless tie in the ninth inning and the Seattle Mariners completed a three-game sweep by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Wednesday.

Hernandez (8-1) got four double plays in his second shutout this season. It was his first win at Tropicana Field after going 0-2 in four previous starts.

Brad Boxberger (2-3) relieved Chris Archer after he pitched two-hit ball for eighth innings, and Boxberger walked Seth Smith and Robinson Cano with two outs.

Cruz then made it 3-0 on a long home run that landed in a center-field 10,000 gallon fish tank that is home to a group of cownose rays.

“He’s really got two choices. He can either play for us or he cannot play.”

— Mike Zimmer

Minnesota Vikings head coach on RB Adrian Peterson, who is has not reported team activities and has hinted that he’d like to be traded after serving a season-long suspension last year.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1927 — Detroit first baseman Johnny Neun records an unassisted triple play in the ninth inning to end the 1-0 win over the Cleveland Indians. Neun grabs a Homer Summa line drive, tags Charlie Jamieson at first and outruns Glenn Myatt to tag second.

1997 — Ila Borders becomes the first woman to pitch in a regular-season professional baseball game, in the sixth inning of the St. Paul Saints’ Northern League game against Sioux Falls. She struggles, giving up three earned runs without getting an out.

2002 — Jason Kidd becomes the first player in 35 years to record three triple-doubles in an NBA playoff series, and the New Jersey Nets finish off the Boston Celtics with a 96-88 victory in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals.

PENDLETON

Buckaroos turn tables on Panthers

Pendleton hits four home runs to beat Central, reach state quarterfinals

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

5A Softball: First Round



Pendleton
14



Central
3

the Bucks to adjust and use the Panthers’ aggressiveness, particularly that of pitcher Erin

See PHS SOFTBALL/2B



Pendleton’s Tiah Grass unloads on an RBI double in the Bucks 14-3 win against Central on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PILOT ROCK

Rockets end drought



Pilot Rock’s Justin Willingham is congratulated at home plate by his teammates after hitting a three-run home run on Wednesday in the Rockets’ 7-4 win against Kennedy in Pilot Rock.

Willingham’s bomb ceases playoff struggles

By ERIK SKOPIK
East Oregonian

2A/1A Baseball: First Round



Pilot Rock
7



Kennedy
4

A nervous start put Pilot Rock baseball into an early hole.

Two composed swings brought them back.

Mike Hiatt and Justin Willingham each homered to lead the eighth-seeded Rockets to the school’s first postseason victory since 2000, a 7-4 Class 2A/1A opening round triumph over ninth-seeded Kennedy Wednesday at

Pilot Rock High School.

“I can’t believe that,” Willingham said of ending the 15-year drought. “We’ve had some good teams since then. That’s amazing.”

Willingham put the Rockets

(17-9) ahead for good in the fourth inning. After just missing on Trojan pitcher Noah Giberson’s previous two offerings, Willingham hit the cover off of the first pitch he saw on his third at-bat, sending it over the left field wall, scoring Chris Weinke and Ryle Campbell to take a 5-3 lead.

“I just know where my money spot is,” Willingham said of his fourth homer of the season. “It was right there.”

See ROCKETS/3B

PENDLETON

Bucks pull upset, earn one more

East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Fourteenth-seeded Pendleton entered Wednesday’s opening-round tilt with third-seeded Corvallis as the heavy underdog.

But, behind a slew of base hits, Pendleton outclassed the Spartans, downing Corvallis 10-3 in a Class 5A baseball victory Wednesday.

A three-run first inning set the tone for the Buckaroos’ dominance. K y l e r

Lunny, Alex O’Rourke and Caden Smith each scored runs to give the Buckaroos (13-14) an edge they never relented.

Pendleton finished with 14 hits and scored in all but

See PHS BASEBALL/3B

5A Baseball: First Round



Pendleton
10



Corvallis
3

MILTON-FREEWATER

Pioneers club Cougars

Fortune, Robert go yard in win

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The opening leg of the Mac-Hi title defense proved a minor obstacle. The Pioneers dispatched of Cascade 10-0 in five innings of Class 4A opening round play Wednesday.

M i k a Fortune and Colette Robert each hit three-run bombs in the win to ensure the run-rule came into effect. The third-inning h o m e r was the diminutive Fortune’s first career home run.

Robert allowed just one

See PIONEERS/3B

4A Softball: First Round



Mac-Hi
10



Cascade
0

STANFIELD

Stanfield eases past Pleasant Hill

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

3A Baseball: First Round



Stanfield
17

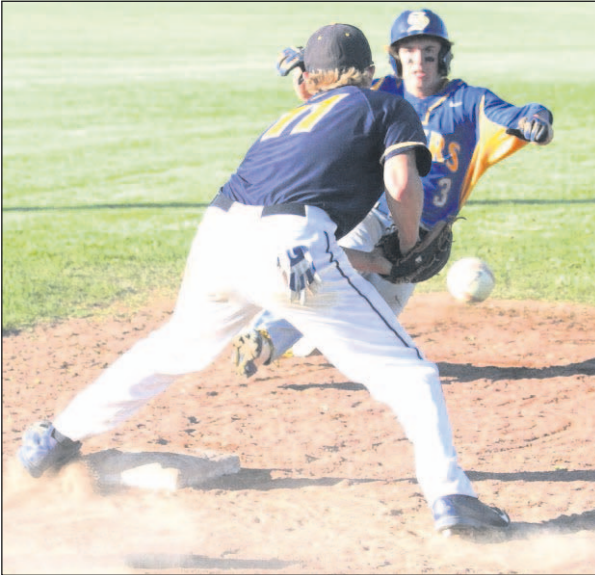


Pleasant Hill
3

After the top of the first inning, and inning that saw Pleasant Hill score a run and threaten to plate more, it felt like the Billies would take control early and force the eighth-ranked host Stanfield Tigers to play from behind from seven innings.

That didn’t happen. Stanfield exploded for ten runs in the bottom of the first, and tacked on seven more in the next six innings to handle the ninth-ranked Pleasant Hill Billies 17-3 in the first round of the 3A Oregon state playoffs Wednesday in Stanfield. The Tigers travel to Medford to take on the top-ranked Cascade Christian Challengers on Friday at 5 p.m.

“We just came out of the gates and Thyler (Monkus) got us going, set the tone,” head coach Bryan Johnson said of the first inning (explosion). “Tony (Flores), and Ryan (Bailey) rips one — everything was just going our way. We just came out crushing the ball.”



Stanfield sophomore Ryan Bailey slides into third base as Pleasant Hill third baseman Sam Jones tries to apply the tag as the ball gets away from him. Bailey would score on the play and the Tigers would win the game 17-3.

Sam Barbee photo

The win give Stanfield some redemption after last season, when the Tigers blew a late lead at home to Harrisburg in the first round at home. “We were talking about it all week,” Dylan Grogan said. “We just wanted to make it past the first round.”

Well, the Tigers did. In a huge way.

Stanfield plated ten runs in that massive first inning and six runs in the fourth. The Tigers batted around in those two innings, giving starting pitcher Tony Flores all the cushion he would need. Thyler Monkus was 4-for-4 with three RBIs, two

doubles and four runs scored to pace the Tigers offensively, and Ryan Bailey was 3-for-5 with a double, triple and a whopping five runs driven in. Flores had two RBIs to help himself, and Klay Jenson added a couple of hits and an RBI. On the mound, Flores was lights out for just over two innings. The first seven outs of the game came by virtue of strikeouts, and he finished with eight over 3 2/3 innings, allowing four hits, two runs — one earned — and walked four. He was relived in the fourth when

See TIGERS/3B