

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

Chicago holds off Atlanta's rally

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Elena Delle Donne scored a career-high 45 points, Cappie Pondexter moved into eighth place on the WNBA's all-time scoring list and the Chicago Sky beat the Atlanta Dream 100-96 in overtime on Wednesday.



Chicago limited Atlanta to two points in the first four minutes of the five-minute overtime, but Angel McCoughtry's 3-pointer pulled Atlanta within 98-96 with 8.4 seconds left. Delle Donne sealed it with two free throws with 6 seconds remaining and set a WNBA record by making 19 consecutive free throws, passing McCoughtry's previous mark of 17.

McCoughtry had 34 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta (3-6). Shoni Schimmel finished with one assist in a limited role.

Love opts out of contract with Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kevin Love is about to find out how much the league values him, and how much the Cavaliers want him.

The power forward is opting out of the final year of his contract and will be a free agent on July 1, a person familiar with the decision told the Associated Press. Love, who had a deal worth \$16.7 million next season, informed the Cavs on Wednesday.

Last week, general manager David Griffin said he expected Love and superstar LeBron James to opt out of their deals and become free agents. Griffin also expects them to re-sign with the Cavs, who made it to the NBA Finals this season before losing to Golden State.

FACES



Love

"Do I think race is at play? Yes, I do think that it's at play at some level."

— **Victor Henderson**
Lawyer for Jackie Robinson West while announcing the Little League team has filed a lawsuit claiming the team was improperly stripped of its national title when Little League International refused to provide the information used to make the decision. The team was accused of skirting the rules requiring all players on the team to live within the district it represents.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1969 — Pancho Gonzalez, 41, wins the longest tennis match in Wimbledon history by beating Charles Pasarell in a 112-game match, 22-24, 1-6, 16-14, 6-3, 11-9. The match is played over two days and lasts 5 hours, 12 minutes.

1999 — San Antonio wins its first NBA championship, defeating the New York Knicks 78-77 in Game 5 of the Finals. The Spurs, keyed by finals MVP Tim Duncan's 31 points, becomes the first former ABA team to win the championship.

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

Track & Field

USADA investigating Oregon Project

Anti-doping agency looking into allegations against Galen Rupp's coach

By **EDDIE PELLIS AND PAT GRAHAM**
Associated Press

EUGENE — The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency has launched an investigation into allegations that

famed track coach Alberto Salazar encouraged Olympic silver medalist Galen Rupp and others in his stable of elite runners to skirt anti-doping rules. The Associated Press has learned.

A person with knowledge of

the investigation told the AP on Wednesday that more than a dozen witnesses have been interviewed and USADA is actively pursuing documents and other evidence from Salazar, who coached Rupp

See **ANTI-DOPING/2B**

HELIX

Helix will host pickleball elite



Rapidly growing sport combines badminton, ping pong & tennis

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

Pickleball anyone? The sport's moniker might be a tad misleading. The name doesn't allude to fermented cucumbers, but rather to the name of a dog who kept stealing the ball early in the game's history.

Pickleball includes elements of badminton, tennis, racquetball and ping pong and fuses them into a fast-paced, banter-inducing sport. Washington Congressman Joel Pritchard and his friend, Bill Bell, are credited with inventing the game 50 years ago out of boredom using ping pong paddles, a perforated plastic ball and a badminton net. Pritchard's dog, Pickles, often ran off with the ball or so the story goes.

Another version attributes the name to Pritchard's wife who said the combination of sports reminded her of the pickle boat in crew manned by rowers left over from the other boats.

Peggy Raymond, of Helix, discovered the game in Arizona two years ago while visiting her parents at their retirement community. The game, she admits now, seemed kind of silly at first. Still, when someone convinced her to give it a shot, she did.

"As soon as the ball hit the paddle, it was an addiction," Raymond said. "It escalated from there."

The interior designer searched for other pickleballers and found a contingent at the Walla Walla YMCA, where she honed her game. Eventually, Raymond began competing in out-of-area tournaments and got to know many of the elite players.

This weekend, more than 80 players from around the West will converge on Raymond's hometown for a tournament. Raymond said she lured numerous high-level players to Eastern Oregon with the promise of Helix hospitality.

The tournament kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Helix School gym with women's doubles. On Saturday comes mixed doubles and Sunday, men's doubles. Action ends about 5 p.m. each day.

The tournament is a chance

See **PICKLEBALL/2B**

Peggy Raymond blasts the ball over the net during a game of pickleball recently at the Griswold High School gym. Raymond, who discovered the game while vacationing in Arizona, organized this weekend's pickleball tournament in Helix.

PENDLETON

Tedder breaks in with Bucks

Young coach gets first gig with Pendleton

By **MATT ENTRUP**
East Oregonian

Put Kyle Tedder in a lineup with the Pendleton Buckaroos varsity basketball team and the 6-foot-2 guard with an outside touch looks like a great addition to the roster.

But spend a few minutes

watching him run the team through drills, as he did Wednesday morning at the Pendleton Rec Center, and it becomes clear Tedder isn't here to play.

The 23-year-old first-time head coach commanded his players with a calm but firm hand in one of his few chances to interact with the team before heading



Tedder

back to finish the last six credits of his masters of teaching degree at Southern Oregon University.

Tedder's easy rapport with the players and natural teaching ability are what Pendleton athletic director Troy Jerome said led him to recommend Tedder replace Brian Broaddus, who took the head coaching job in

See **TEDDER/2B**

NBA

Kentucky Seven prepares for draft

By **GARY B. GRAVES**
Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari and his Kentucky pipeline to the NBA will have yet another major impact on the league's annual draft.

It's nothing new, but Thursday night could be record-setting — even for the Wildcats.

Calipari's first Kentucky team in 2010 featured five first-round NBA draft picks, including No. 1 overall selection John Wall. Six Wildcats turned pro after their 2012 NCAA championship, with Anthony Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist going 1-2 in a parade of four

first-rounders. All told, Calipari has groomed 15 first-round choices among 19 players, with the total figuring to jump significantly Thursday night.

A school-record seven Kentucky players from last year's 38-1 Final Four team could hear their names called at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, with Karl-Anthony Towns possibly becoming Calipari's third No. 1 overall selection in six years. Seven-footer Willie Cauley-Stein, 6-10 Trey Lyles and 6-6 shooting guard Devin Booker have also been invited to the green room and could be lottery selections.

Seven-footer Dakari Johnson and 6-6 twin

guards Andrew and Aaron Harrison are also expected to be drafted, positioning the Wildcats to have 26 picks in Calipari's six seasons, enough to stock nearly two NBA rosters alone.

That is nearly double any other school during that six-year span.

With Wall, Davis and DeMarcus Cousins coming off All-Star seasons and Towns facing huge expectations as one of the top selections, it's no wonder Calipari boasts a scenario of an NBA All-Star game half comprised of Kentucky talent.

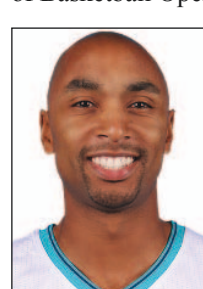
"Our goal is not just to help guys get into the league; we want guys to become all-stars," he said.

NBA

Trail Blazers get two from Hornets in return for Batum

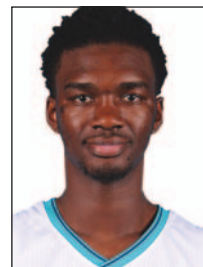
East Oregonian

PORTLAND — The Portland Trail Blazers have acquired forward Noah Vonleh and guard Gerald Henderson from the Charlotte Hornets in exchange for forward Nicolas Batum, it was announced Wednesday by Trail Blazers President of Basketball Operations Neil Olshey.



Henderson

An NBA veteran, Henderson (6-5, 215) holds career averages of 12 points, 3.4 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 27.5 minutes in six seasons with Charlotte. Selected with the 12th overall pick in the first round of the 2009 NBA Draft out of Duke, Henderson, 27, ranked 26th in the NBA in free throw percentage last season (84.8%), while leading the Hornets in scoring 17 times.



Vonleh

Vonleh (6-10, 240) was the No. 9 overall pick in 2014, and the 19-year-old is averaging 3.3 points and 3.4 rebounds in 10.4 minutes in 25 career games.

In his lone season at Indiana, Vonleh averaged 11.3 points and led the Big 10 in rebounding (9.0 rpg) on his way to Big 10 Freshman of the Year and All-Big 10 Third Team honors.

In 481 career games (428 starts) with the Trail Blazers, Batum posted averages of 11.2 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3 assists and 30.8 minutes. Acquired in a 2008 draft day trade with Houston, Batum's 751 career 3-pointers are the third-most in franchise history.

"Nic Batum was a key contributor to all of our recent success," said Olshey. "He will truly be missed as a person and a player. We wish Nic all the best for the future."