

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Cardinals fire scouting director

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals said Thursday they have fired scouting director Chris Correa, the first known fallout from the hacking scandal that has resulted in a federal investigation into whether the team illegally got inside the player personnel database of the Houston Astros.

The Cardinals declined to say why Correa was fired but confirmed he'd been let go a day earlier after a team-imposed leave of absence. The team is investigating the alleged hacking, as is the FBI.

“At this time, it’s still an ongoing investigation and there’s really nothing more I can add at this point,” general manager John Mozeliak said before a game against San Diego.



Aldridge reportedly meets with Heat

MIAMI (AP) — A person with knowledge of the negotiations says LaMarcus Aldridge and the Miami Heat have spoken about his future plans, and that a formal conversation was

scheduled for Thursday night.

The person says Heat President Pat Riley is to meet with Aldridge in Los Angeles. The person spoke

to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side have publicly announced the meeting.

Riley traveled to Los Angeles on Thursday. The 6-foot-11 power forward has spent his first nine NBA seasons with the Portland Trail Blazers, and averaged a career-best 23.4 points per game this past season.

The Heat also announced a \$20 million, one-year deal with free agent guard Dwayne Wade.

“I’ll be on the court next year.”

— Tim Duncan

San Antonio Spurs forward to a San Antonio newspaper on Thursday. There was speculation Duncan, 39, would retire after averaging 13.9 points, 3.0 assists and 2.0 blocks a game last season. Duncan accompanied team officials to Los Angeles on Wednesday to meet with free agent LaMarcus Aldridge.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1905 — Marvin Hart wins the vacant world heavyweight title with a 12th-round knockout of Jack Root in the final bout of an elimination tournament in Reno, Nev. James Jeffries, who refereed the bout, had retired in March, leaving the title vacant.

1966 — Atlanta pitcher Tony Cloninger becomes the first National League player to hit two grand slams in one game. He adds a single for nine RBIs in a 17-3 triumph over San Francisco.

2004 — Maria Sharapova, 17, wins her first Grand Slam title and instant celebrity by beating Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4.

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

Portland Trail Blazers’ Damian Lillard (0) gestures during an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, in Dallas.

AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez



NBA

Trail Blazers extend Lillard

Guard gets maximum value

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
Associated Press

When Damian Lillard agreed to a new maximum contract extension with the Trail Blazers on Thursday, it may have been the beginning

of a changing of the guard in Portland.

Lillard agreed to terms on a five-year contract worth more than \$120 million, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

“Thank you so much to (at) PaulGAllen and the (at)trail-blazers organization,” Lillard

tweeted after the news broke. “I’ll be in (hashtag)RipCity 6 more years! Oakland to Ogden to Oregon..TO STAY.”

The full value of the contract could wind up ranging between \$125 million and \$129 million and won’t be determined until the salary cap is established. That makes it the richest contract in league history for a guard.

See BLAZERS/2B

IRRIGON



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton 11-12 All Stars celebrate after beating Hermiston for the District 3 championship on Thursday in Irrigon. The lead see-sawed back and forth until Pendleton finally won in extra innings.

Pendleton keeps the faith

Softball all stars turn belief into results, down Hermiston for District 3 title

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Even when things weren’t going their way, the Pendleton all-stars never stopped believing in each other.

That more than anything else, the team said, allowed them to pull out Thursday’s 10-9 seven-inning win over Hermiston in the League District 3 softball tournament championship.

It was the fifth straight win for the 11-12-year-olds after losing their tournament opener on Saturday, and they trailed 7-5 going into the bottom of the sixth inning.

“It’s fitting. Again, we had to battle and fight hard,” said manager

Ron Murphy. “We just kept going and kept going, and it just kind of shows our whole attitude for every single girl.

“From Day 1 we’ve preached team, from the first day we started practice. And that’s been our calling card, we’ve been a good team.”

Pendleton pieced together its second four-run rally of the game in the sixth, and Jordan Jones started things with a hard line drive single before Hermiston pitcher Brecella Nash got a strikeout for the first out of the inning. A passed ball allowed Jones to move to second, and a throwing error on Jordyn Murphy’s grounder allowed Jones to score.

Katie Kline then put down a

See LITTLE LEAGUE/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton 11-12 Allstars catcher Natalie Neveau makes the tag against a Hermiston runner Thursday in Irrigon.

MLB

Kazmir helps Athletics shut out Mariners

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Scott Kazmir pitched eight sparkling innings, Marcus Semien homered for the first time in nearly two months, and the Oakland Athletics beat the Seattle Mariners 4-0 on Thursday night.

Josh Phegley had a two-run single and Mark Canha added an RBI triple for the A’s, who ended a five-game losing streak against the Mariners.

Kazmir (5-5) retired 21 of his first 22 batters, allowing only a one-out double to Franklin Gutierrez on a 1-2 pitch in the fifth. Gutierrez also singled leading off the eighth but was erased on a double play.

A possible trade deadline target this month, Kazmir struck out seven and hit a batter while improving to 5-0 in seven starts against the AL West this season. Edward Mujica finished the two-hitter.

Seattle was coming off consecutive shutouts against San Diego and took an 18-inning scoreless streak into the series opener against Oakland.

The A’s stopped that roll after Mariners starter Roenis Elias (4-6) retired the first two batters. Ben Zobrist drew a two-out walk, and Billy Butler and Josh Phegley followed with back-to-back doubles to give Oakland an early lead.



Seattle’s Kyle Seager walks to the dugout after striking out against Oakland pitcher Scott Kazmir Thursday in Oakland, Calif.

AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

Semien’s seventh homer, a two-out solo shot in the fifth, made it 3-0. It ended a career-high 45-game homerless stretch for the shortstop.

It was more than enough support for Kazmir, who turned in one of his most dominant performances this season. He needed only 31 pitches to record the first nine outs, struck out each of Seattle’s first four hitters at least once and fanned

slugger Nelson Cruz twice.

Elias gave up three hits in six innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Mariners: SS Chris Taylor was called up from Triple-A Tacoma and placed in the starting lineup. Taylor batted ninth and went 0 for 2. ... INF Willie Bloomquist was designated for assignment. Bloomquist played in 35 games and was hitting just .159 with four RBIs.

Athletics: RHP Sonny Gray rejoined the ballclub after being hospitalized for two days while being treated for salmonella. The team has still not determined when Gray will make his next start. ... Oakland acquired reliever Cody Martin from the Atlanta Braves in exchange for international slot money. Martin was assigned to Triple-A Nashville. To make room on the 40-man roster, 1B Nate Freiman was designated for assignment.

UP NEXT

Mariners: LHP J.A. Happ (3-5) gets the ball on Friday night in the second game of the four-game series. He is winless in his previous four starts but hasn’t gotten much run support.

Athletics: RHP Jesse Chavez (4-7) gets the start for Oakland. He has a 1.98 ERA when pitching on four days’ rest this season.