

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Two riders killed in California motorcycle race

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two Spanish racers were killed in a chain-reaction crash on the first lap of a World Superbike race, leaving the racing community overwhelmed with sadness and raising questions about what happened on the track.

The deaths occurred Sunday at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Monterey County sheriff's spokesman Cmdr. John Thornburg said.

The sheriff's office is not investigating the crash at the MotoAmerica Superbike/Superstock 1000 race, which appeared to be an accident, he said.

Carruthers said there were 28 riders in the race and thousands of spectators in the stands when five competitors collided on the first lap. Riders were tossed into the dirt to the side of the track.

MotoAmerica identified the riders killed as 35-year-old Bernat Martinez, 35, of Alberic, Valencia, Spain; and Daniel Rivas Fernandez, 27, of Moana Galicia, Spain. Both were taken to hospitals, where they died.

NCAA tweaks March Madness rules for flexibility

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The committee that puts together the field of 68 for the NCAA men's basketball tournament will have more flexibility to set the First Four and give

No. 2 seeds more favorable matchups.

The NCAA announced Monday that the Division I selection committee will now be allowed to slide every team up or down the seed list, including the last four at-large teams selected. Until now, the last four teams voted into the tournament field were locked into the First Four, the eight-team playoff that serves as the tournament's first round.

Going forward, the last four at-large teams on the overall seed list — after the seeds have been tweaked by a process known as scrubbing — will play in the First Four.

"This has nothing to do with football. I just called my late mother and she said 'Don't worry, it's just a lack of education.'"

— **Sepp Blatter**
FIFA president, after a British comedian threw money into his face before a press conference to protest the corruption and bribery scandal that has dogged the organization.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1876 — Princeton takes the team championship in the first IC4A (Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes Association) track and field meet.

1968 — Arnold Palmer becomes the first PGA golfer to earn \$1 million over his career despite losing by one stroke to Julius Boros in the PGA championship.

1985 — The greatest money winner in horse racing history, John Henry, is retired. The 10-year-old won 39 races in 83 starts and earned \$6,597,947 in total purses.

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

HERMISTON

Throwing it downtown

Local teams repeat as 3-point champs as part of city-wide basketball festival

By **SAM BARBEE**
East Oregonian

Thane Pierson almost didn't get to dunk.

Around noon Saturday, he and his team were down the street at Nookies Restaurant lunching on a burger, thinking the Takin' It to the Streets Dunk Contest started at 3 p.m. He heard his name called from just east of Highway 395, and hustled back to the intersection of East Main Street and Third Street to compete.

Pierson missed his original slot, but got to shove one down anyway. His score of 43 put him into the finals where he induced a roar from the crowd and sent one judge scampering with enthusiasm.

The high jumper from Washington State University, on his very first finals attempt, weaved the ball through his legs and threw it down cleanly. The five 10s from judges

Abi Drotzmann, Jansen Edmiston, Jenni Hoffert, Garron Gammell and Mitch Thompson were only formalities as the crowd of a couple hundred people whooped and yelled and smiled at the athletic display showed by Pierson.

"Once they said it was two guys left, I said 'I'm bringing the between the legs,'" he said. "If there was another round I was saving it."

Thompson, who coached Irrigon's boys basketball team to a state championship this past winter, said it was exciting to see a Division I athlete compete and show off a little.

"Whenever you get a Division I athlete with a bunch of guys who think they're Division I athletes, it really shows," he said. "The guy's a great athlete, and you always want to honor those guys when they come out here to Hermiston and partake in our event."

See **BBALL/2B**



Staff photo by Sam Barbee

Thane Pierson of Natches, Washington, and a high jumper at Washington State University, goes between his legs in the finals of the dunk contest at the 10th Annual Takin' It to the Street three-on-three basketball tournament Saturday in Hermiston.

British Open

Grand Slam dream ends with Johnson's win

Associated Press



AP Photo/Peter Morrison

United States' Zach Johnson poses with the trophy after winning a playoff after the final round at the British Open Golf Championship at the Old Course, St. Andrews, Scotland, Monday.

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Jordan Spieth's spirited bid for a Grand Slam was stopped Monday by Zach Johnson, who is no longer just a normal guy from Iowa.

Not with a claret jug to go with that green jacket.

Johnson captured his second major — this one at the home of golf — winning the British Open in a playoff over Louis Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman that capped off five wild days at St. Andrews and a suspense-filled final round.

Most eyes were on 21-year-old Spieth. No one ever came closer to the third leg of the Grand Slam.

Spieth fought back from taking four putts for a double bogey on No. 8 with back-to-back birdies. He rolled in a 50-foot birdie putt for a share of the lead with two holes to play. After missing an 8-foot par putt on the 17th hole, he needed a birdie on the closing hole to join the playoff.

"Up and down for a playoff," was the last thing Spieth said to caddie Michael Greller from about 90 yards away. It was too far right

See **GOLF/2B**

MLB

Win just out of reach for slumping Mariners

Associated Press

DETROIT — Ian Kinsler homered twice, including a go-ahead two-run shot in the eighth inning, and the Detroit Tigers beat the Seattle Mariners 5-4 Monday night.

Kinsler, who came in with three homers this season, hit one off Seattle starter J.A. Happ in the first, and then drove a fastball from Mark Lowe over the Tigers' bullpen with two out in the eighth. It was his first multi-homer game since Sept. 7, 2011.

Lowe (0-1) hadn't allowed an earned run in his last 12 outings, dating back to June 14, but Jose Iglesias doubled with one out, took third on a grounder and scored on Kinsler's homer.

Albuquerque (1-0)

See **MARINERS/2B**



AP Photo/Duane Burleson

Tigers center fielder Rajai Davis attempts to make a leaping catch during the second inning of a baseball game Monday, in Detroit. The hit was an RBI double.

MISSION

Locals fare well in Wildhorse Amateur

East Oregonian

Redmond golfer Jared Lamber swung into the Wildhorse Amateur tournament last weekend and left with the championship.

Lamber won overall gross winner Sunday at the Mission golf course, shooting a 137 and finishing one stroke ahead of local Nathan Dick. Dick himself finished just one stroke ahead of Jeff Ward to take second place.

Because it was an amateur event, there was also a net score competition.

A net score is not just the number of strokes taken, but is calculated as how well a golfer did in relation to their handicap.

In that competition, Chad Peterson of Portland, took the title by bagging a 126 for the tournament.

He was followed by local David Nelson and his 134. Other locals placed well in the net score competition, too. Garrell Moore and Magan Evans shot 139s, Troy Rodriguez 141, Paul French 142, Dillon George 142 and Haley Greb 144.

Back in the gross division, local Reilly Hegarty shot a 145, Louie Quaempts 147, Nathan Som 150, Gary George 154, Travis Beers 156, Shane Reinhart 157 and Nick Neddo 170.



Courtesy photo Wildhorse

Mike Hegarty, golf pro at Wildhorse, (left) presents the trophy to Jared Lamber of Redmond, who won low gross at the Wildhorse Amateur Sunday in Mission.