

Sports shorts

Western officiating alliance to grow

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The basketball officiating alliance between the Pac-12 and Mountain West conferences is about to get bigger. The alliance, in place the past two seasons, will now include the Big West, West Coast and Western Athletic conferences, starting with the upcoming season.

Bobby Dibler, officiating coordinator for the Pac-12 and Mountain West, will serve the same role with the five-conference alliance. Dibler also served as coordinator of officiating for the WAC for 23 years and the Mountain West since its inception in 1999.

A focus for the expanded officiating alliance will be on training. Dibler and his staff will host a training clinic for all roster officials to review mechanics, game situations, rules knowledge and other elements.

Mayweather to fight one last time

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. will return to the ring for the first time since boxing’s richest fight ever, facing Andre Berto on Sept. 12 in what he has said will be his final fight.

The welterweight title bout doesn’t figure to be nearly as lucrative as Mayweather’s May 2 fight with Manny Pacquiao that earned him a reported \$220 million. But it will still be sold on pay-per-view, even though Mayweather will be an overwhelming favorite to win for the 49th time in as many fights as a pro.

Berto, a 2004 Olympian, was once thought of as a rising star but has lost three of his last six fights. Two of those losses were to Robert Guerrero and Victor Ortiz, fighters that Mayweather beat easily.

“They said I lost my QB skills. I told them I never had them. It was a duck, but it was a completion.”

— Terrelle Pryor
Former Ohio State star QB after throwing a wobbly pass for a touch-down on a trick play during Cleveland Browns training camp. After failing to catch on as a passer, Pryor is making an attempt to salvage his NFL career by switching to WR this season, his first with the Browns.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1921 — Radio station KDKA and announcer Harold Arlin provide the first broadcast of a major league game. The Pirates beat the Phillies 8-5 at Pittsburgh.
1967 — The Denver Broncos beat the Detroit Lions 13-7 in a preseason game, the first AFL victory over an NFL team.
2007 — Lorena Ochoa wins the Women’s British Open the first women’s professional tournament played at venerable St. Andrews for her first major title.

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Men’s Basketball

Mattox adds firepower to Patriots lineup

Former EOU standout continues career abroad

By SETH DAHLE
EOU Athletics

LA GRANDE — In just one season, De’Sean Mattox became a versatile, go-to player on the Eastern Oregon University men’s basketball team, and the former Mountaineer

standout is now continuing his playing career as a professional in Colombia. Mattox recently signed with Patriots de Tunja, a professional basketball team that competes in the Liga DirecTV league in Tunja, Colombia. Mattox said that he feels fortunate and blessed for the opportunity, and that his time spent at EOU helped him mentally prepare for the transition. “I was learning how to be a point



Mattox

guard with the pressure from everyone to perform at a high level,” said Mattox. “It was very hard. It helped me grow as a man and as a basketball player. I challenged myself to never let any situation get the best of me. No matter how hard or discouraging life can be, just keep pushing and stay positive.” A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Mattox joined the Mountaineers for

the 2014-15 season after transferring from Treasure Valley Community College. Mattox averaged 18.3 points per game and led the team with 70 three-pointers on the season. In addition, he scored 20 points or more in seven Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) contests. “De’Sean is really competitive,” said head men’s basketball coach Jared Barrett. “He’s got a natural scoring ability that most players don’t have. He learned a lot about how to be a point guard for us this season.” See MATTOX/2B

MLB

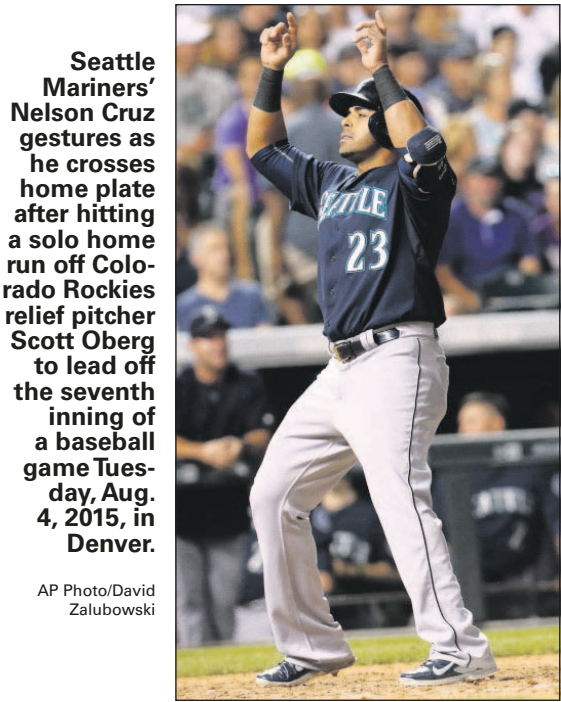
Cruz homers in 5th straight game



Colorado Rockies’ Charlie Blackmon reacts after striking out against Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Maycol Guaipé to end the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, in Denver.

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Slugger extends hitting streak as M’s spoil debut for Rockies’ Gray



Seattle Mariners’ Nelson Cruz gestures as he crosses home plate after hitting a solo home run off Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Scott Oberg to lead off the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, in Denver.

AP Photo/David Zalubowski

By MICHAEL KELLY
Associated Press

DENVER — Nelson Cruz homered for the fifth consecutive game, and the Seattle Mariners spoiled Jon Gray’s major league debut with a 10-4 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday night. It is the second time this season Cruz has gone deep in five straight games. He also singled to extend his hitting streak to 15 games. Gray, the third overall pick in the 2013 draft, had a rough beginning to his big league career. Seattle touched him for two runs during a 33-pitch first inning. He allowed an unearned run in the fourth on two singles and an error that gave

 Seattle 10	 Colorado 4
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led off the bottom of the inning with his first major league home run to make it 5-4. Cruz answered in the seventh with his 31st to give Seattle a 6-4 lead. The Mariners blew it open with a three-run eighth. Rob Rasmussen (1-0) earned his first major league victory in 1 1-3 innings in relief of starter Vidal Nuno. Colorado’s DJ LeMahieu bounced back from striking out five times Monday with two hits. UP NEXT Mariners: RHP Taijuan Walker (8-7, 4.73) is coming off a one-hitter in a 6-1 win over Minnesota on Friday. Rockies: LHP Chris Rusin (3-4, 4.61) is seeking his first win since June 21.

Swimming

Aussies dominate podium at world championships

American Ledecky gets in on record breaking action

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Australia dominated the 100-meter backstroke events at the world swimming championships Tuesday, winning the men’s title and going 1-2 in the women’s final. Two more world records fell on the third night of swimming at Kazan Arena, where a cool breeze swept through the soccer stadium. Mitchell Larkin won the men’s 100 back in 52.40 seconds. He came into the championships with the top time in the world this year, having emerged at last year’s Commonwealth

Games, where he earned silver in the 100 and gold in the 200 back. “The first thing that came into my head was, ‘Wow. This is the moment. This is what you’ve dreamt of for so many years,’” Larkin said. “You can just get caught up in the circus, the lights, the sounds, the atmosphere, and here I sort of just took it in and enjoyed it, rather than thinking, ‘Oh my god, this is a world championship.’” Camille Lacourt of France was second in 52.48 and current Olympic champion Matt Grevers of the United States finished third in 52.66. Grevers won the world title two years ago. Emily Seebohm led a 1-2 finish for the Aussies in the women’s final, with all eight swimmers going under 1 minute. She won in 58.26 to earn her first individual gold at worlds,

having finished second to American Missy Franklin in two years ago in Barcelona. “I touched the wall and I was just so excited,” Seebohm said. “I was like, ‘Oh my god, is that my name with a one? Yes it is! Oh my god, I did it! I finally did it!’” Seebohm sang a country song in her head as she churned through the water. “It’s just about kicking arse and being a girl, so I thought it was very appropriate,” she said. Seebohm’s teammate, Madison Wilson, was second in 58.75 and Mie Oe Nielsen of Denmark was third in 58.86. Seebohm whipped out her camera phone to take a selfie of her and Wilson on deck with their medals. Franklin finished fifth in 59.40. “Definitely disappointed” See SWIMMING/2B



AP Photo/Sergei Grits

United States’ Missy Franklin, left, looks on as Katie Ledecky checks her time after qualifying for the final in a women’s 200m freestyle semifinal at the Swimming World Championships in Kazan, Russia on Tuesday.