

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Sports shorts

Seahawks activate safety Thomas

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks have activated All-Pro free safety Earl Thomas from the physically unable to perform list, raising hopes he'll be ready for the regular-season opener.

Seattle announced Thomas had passed his physical and been added to the active roster following practice on Wednesday.

Thomas started training camp on the PUP list after undergoing offseason surgery to repair the labrum in his left shoulder. Thomas was initially hurt in the NFC championship game but played in the Super Bowl with the injury. He underwent surgery shortly after the Super Bowl and was expected to be ready near the start of the season.

Government demanding Lance Armstrong's medical records

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The federal government wants to see Lance Armstrong's medical records from his treatments for cancer, specifically

whether his doctors knew back in 1996 that he was using performance-enhancing drugs.

Court records show that government lawyers subpoenaed the Indiana University School of Medicine on July 30 to provide records of Armstrong's treatments and donations he later made to the school.

The demand came in the government's lawsuit to recover millions of dollars in sponsorship money the U.S. Postal Service paid to Armstrong's teams from 1998-2004. Penalties could approach \$100 million.

"Ballfields are places for mentoring and healthy development. They're no place for cancer-causing substances."

— Martin J. Walsh

Boston, Mass. mayor after proposing a ban on smokeless tobacco at all professional and amateur ballparks throughout the city, including Fenway Park. Former Red Sox pitcher and MLB Hall of Famer Curt Schilling, who battled mouth cancer after years of smokeless tobacco use, stood with Walsh in support of the proposal.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1926 — Gertrude Ederle of New York City becomes the first woman to swim the English Channel. The 19-year-old finishes in 14 hours and 31 minutes.

1958 — Glen Davis of Columbus, Ohio, sets a world record in the 400 hurdles with a time of 49.2 seconds in a meet at Budapest, Hungary.

1966 — Muhammad Ali knocks out Brian London in the third round to retain his world heavyweight title.

1994 — Jeff Gordon wins the Brickyard 400, the first stock car race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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

MLB

McKenry homer sinks M's



AP Photo/David Zalubowski
Colorado Rockies' Michael McKenry, center, has his jersey pulled over his head by a teammate as Charlie Blackmon, front left, and Nick Hundley join in the celebration after McKenry's two-run home run against the Seattle Mariners during the 11th inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, in Denver. Colorado won 7-5 in 11 innings.

Seattle wastes another great start by Walker

By MICHAEL KELLY
Associated Press

DENVER — Taijuan Walker's second straight great outing was wasted with a late-game collapse by the Seattle Mariners bullpen.

Walker followed his one-hit gem against Minnesota by pitching effectively into the eighth Wednesday, but the Colorado Rockies rallied to win 7-5 in 11 innings on Michael McKenry's two-run homer.

McKenry hit Mayckol Gauippe's 2-2 curveball into the left-field seats for his fourth home run of the season and the first walk-off hit in his career.

"I left a slider up and he hit it good," Gauippe said.

Seattle's Nelson Cruz doubled and singled to extend his hitting streak to 16 games but failed to



homer for the first time in six games.

Walker built on Saturday's win over the Twins with 7 1-3 innings of mostly dominant ball despite not feeling sharp. He allowed five hits and gave up Carlos Gonzalez's three-run homer in the sixth.

"My stuff wasn't really working," Walker said. "The curveball wasn't working like I wanted. My changeup and curve weren't there."

Still, he was in line for the win after Franklin Gutierrez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh to give Seattle a 5-3 lead.

The Rockies rallied to tie it in the ninth off closer Fernando Rodney.

"The walk hurt (Rodney)," Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon said. "These type of ballparks and you walk guys or you misplay a ball, it usually comes back to haunt you."

The Rockies' winning rally started with Ben Paulsen's one-out single off Gauippe (0-3). McKenry worked the count even before he delivered his big hit.

"You make mistakes in this ballpark it's likely to go out," McClendon said. "And it did."

Yohan Flande (2-1) pitched the top of the 11th to get the win.

Seattle scored three runs in the fourth, with Walker hitting an RBI double. It was his first major league hit.

See MARINERS/2B

Swimming

American teen Ledecy wins gold

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

KAZAN, Russia — Katie Ledecy is unbeatable in the distance races. Turns out she's awfully good going shorter, too.

The 18-year-old American rallied to win the 200-meter freestyle at the world swimming championships Wednesday night, beating a stellar field that included defending champion Missy Franklin of the United States and two-time winner Federica Pellegrini of Italy.

Ledecy had a good view of the competition from lane 7. Breathing to her right, she saw all but one of her rivals and halfway through she knew another gold medal was hers.

See SWIMMING/2B



AP Photo/Michael Sohn
United States' Katie Ledecy swims in the women's 200m freestyle final at the Swimming World Championships in Kazan, Russia, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015.

NFL

Seattle to lean heavily on tackles Mebane, Rubin

Defensive line in transition after release of McDaniel

By CURTIS CRABTREE
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The cost of locking up Russell Wilson and Bobby Wagner with contract extensions last week was the Seattle Seahawks having to release veteran defensive tackle Tony McDaniel for salary cap reasons.

The Seahawks will now have to rely on free-agent signing Ahtyba Rubin and the return of Brandon Mebane to solidify their defensive front.

McDaniel had appeared in every game for the Seahawks over the last two seasons in their run to back-to-back Super Bowl appearances.

"It is a significant loss," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "Tony has been a really good core player for us, and we really liked him and what he's brought to our club. This decision sucks, but you know we had to do something."

The team was able to save \$3 million by releasing McDaniel last Sunday, which became necessary



Rubin



Mebane

following Wagner's deal getting done late Saturday night.

Rubin, 29, joins Seattle after spending the first seven seasons of his career with the Cleveland Browns. The Seahawks love Rubin's versatility and he played both tackle and end in multiple defensive fronts in Cleveland.

"I had always seen him on tape and known about his work ethic," Seattle defensive line coach Travis

See SEAHAWKS/2B

HERMISTON

Super Oval looks to destroy trend

Local track thinks outside the box to attract fans

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Local car race tracks have found themselves in a tough position. The fervent and loyal fan base that once flocked to Saturday night races has diminished due to time, among other factors.

But that doesn't mean that the Hermiston Super Oval (HSO) is going anywhere.

"I think this year has been really good," said HSO owner Bryson Tarr. "It's the third year I've been running it, and we've had a lot of really good improvements. This year the attendance has been the best we've had over these last three years. It's headed in the right direction."

Part of the improvement has been the willingness from Tarr and Dan Nelson, HSO's director of operations, to not rely solely on traditional forms of racing. Instead, they've looked to alternatives to get fans, especially its key 26-34 male demographic, to come enjoy the race track on a summer Saturday evening.

Included in those alternative events is a month HSO is calling the "Month of Destruction" beginning with HSO's first school bus race on Aug. 15. As far as Tarr and Nelson know, it's the first race of its kind in the Northwest. The Month of Destruction will also include a figure-eight trailer race on Aug. 22, and a demolition derby on Aug. 29.

"If we don't put on a show, then the fans won't want to watch," Nelson said. "So, the whole object of this whole year is: How do you get people in the seats and what do they want to see? You watch the highlights. The highlights are the wrecks, the crazy stuff, and who won. So how do we produce more wrecks, more carnage, more cool stuff, but not put people in danger and not destroy a bunch of really expensive stuff?"

The answer? Novelty races with vehicles not ordinarily seen on the racetrack — like cars towing boats.

"So you had guys cutting across and ramming the trailers," Nelson recalled. "We weren't really hurting the vehicles, we were just destroying trailers all over the place."

Although Tarr says attendance is at a three-year high, it still has a ways to go. Tarr and Nelson are hoping that the continuance of events such as HSO's Month of Destruction will continue to raise attendance numbers at one of the last local bastions of auto racing in the region.

"How do you get people away from the technology and back in the grandstands?" Nelson asked. "That's where the evolution of the sport has come in. It's wild and crazy every Saturday at HSO. And that's what we have to do."

"Pretty much me and Dan have talked about a whole bunch of different events that a lot of tracks just don't do, and pushing the envelope of how crazy of an event you can have," Tarr said. "We're just really excited about the buses. It should be really exciting for the fans."