

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Turner Field to be vacated after 2016

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed says the Atlanta Braves will vacate Turner Field in downtown Atlanta by the end of 2016.

Reed said in a statement on Thursday that the team notified him it would leave the field by Dec. 31, 2016 in a letter with Tuesday's date.

The Braves announced in November 2013 that they would relocate to a new stadium in suburban Cobb County. The stadium, SunTrust Park, is scheduled to open in 2017.

Reed says the notice allows the city, county and the Fulton County Recreation Authority to move forward. City officials have made several announcements about potential buyers, including Georgia State University and a team of developers' proposal for a mixed-use complex.

Lindsey Vonn fractures ankle

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand (AP) — Lindsey Vonn says she has fractured an ankle bone in a training crash in New Zealand.

The American skier, writing on Twitter, says

"Unfortunately I crashed today and have a small fracture in my ankle. Headed home now but will keep u posted."

It is the latest setback for Vonn, who returned from serious leg injuries to set the all-time women's World Cup win record last season. She also won her seventh World Cup downhill title.

Vonn, who was in a second week in New Zealand for her first on-snow training ahead of the new season, did not say which ankle was damaged.

The 30-year-old Vonn has said she will continue racing through the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.

"I'm not penciling it in, as of now, for next summer. But this is the start of the process for all of us."

— LeBron James

Cleveland Cavaliers forward on his status for the U.S. Olympic basketball team for the 2016 Summer Olympics. If he plays, James would be aiming for a record third gold medal in men's basketball, after being on the 2012 and 2008 gold medal teams for Team USA.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1903 — Jim Jeffries knocks out Jim Corbett in the 10th round to retain his world heavyweight title in San Francisco.

1959 — The formation of the American Football League is announced in Chicago. Play will begin in 1960 with franchises in six cities with the probability of adding two more teams.

2003 — The New York blackout forces the evacuation of workers and players from Shea Stadium hours before the game between the Mets and the San Francisco Giants. The blackout stretches from the Northeast to Ohio and Michigan.

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

FARM-CITY PRO RODEO



Nik Hamm of Battle Ground, Wash., marks a 5-second time in steer wrestling at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo on Thursday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Fast times, big scores

Locals win team roping in competitive field on Day 2 of rodeo

By SAM BARBEE
Staff Writer

By the time he was 10 years old, Scottie Knapp knew he wanted to be a professional bull rider. He was already riding full-sized bulls then, and it quickly developed into a passion.

Now a sixth-year pro, Knapp is the 12th-ranked PRCA bull rider and fixing to earn a place at this year's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. He took another step toward that Thursday night with an 82 on Cowboy Up on the first ride of the night, winning the round. Knapp tied Ty Wallace for the overall lead.

"If I'd've hand-picked one, that would've been one," Knapp said of Cowboy Up. "Not that he was the rankiest or the bull to win it on, but he was a good, solid bull and a good, solid score. That's the name of the game: consistency."

Knapp said Cowboy Up beat him out of the chute, putting him on the defensive. Once the bull switched directions, away from his



Cimmarron Boardman of Stephenville, Texas, ropes his calf in 8.5-seconds in tie down roping at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo on Thursday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

hand, Knapp regained the advantage. He had been struggling with that direction lately, and he said a weight lifted off his shoulders when he heard the bell.

"That's a big relief off my shoulders," he said, smiling. "It's a lot of pressure lifted because time and time, you ride bulls going that way and one day it's not clicking for you. And then to come out there and

make it happen and let it work, it feels like you conquered something, more than a bull."

Knapp was one of just two bull riders to go a full eight seconds, and his 82 was set down on the first ride of the night. Knapp said that's where he's comfortable.

"I like to be first because then I'm not waiting, my anxiety's not building up," he said. "The pres-

Local contestants

- Clayton, Chase Hansen, Pendleton, team roping: 9.5 (1st)
- Shane Crossley, Hermiston, Guy Gregg, team roping: no time
- Callahan Crossley, Hermiston, barrel racing: 17.46 (T-3)
- Kara Philippi, Hermiston, barrel racing: 22.96 (10th)
- Aaron Marts, Hermiston, tie down roping, 25.0 (10th)

sure's not riding on me. There's no time to think about it. You get in there, you take care of business, you do it. That's the way I like it. I don't like to be waiting around, knowing I'm last. I like to get in there and do the darn thing."

Winn Ratliff rode Big Easy to an 84-point ride in the bareback go-round, taking the overall lead. Tim O'Connell, on Tootsie Roll, and Seth Hardwick, on Flashcard Champ, posted 83s to move into a tie for second, and Orin Larsen, on Loganberry, and Jake Vold, on Royal Beaver, moved into a three-way tie with Wednesday's winner Teddy

See RODEO/2B

MLB

Iwakuma ends AL's no-no drought

Stops string of 12-straight NL no-hitters

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE—After years of waiting, the drought finally ended thanks to the Seattle Mariners' Hisashi Iwakuma.

No, not Iwakuma becoming just the second Japanese pitcher to throw a no-hitter in Major League Baseball — as important an accomplishment as that was — joining Hideo Nomo in exclusive company when he shut down the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

That ended the run of 12 straight no-hitters — 11 individual and one combined — thrown by National League pitchers. Almost three years to the day that teammate Felix Hernandez threw a perfect game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Iwakuma finally ended the drought for the American League.

It's a rare stat and in many ways likely just an



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma is mobbed by teammates after Iwakuma threw a no-hitter against the Orioles on Wednesday. AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

odd coincidence. But it also highlights the difficulty of pitching in the American League, where there simply are no free outs thanks to the designated hitter.

"I think the outs are tougher. Look, the lineups are deeper. The DH's in

the American League, the DH's are animals," Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon said. "Those are tough outs. There really are no easy outs in the American League."

See IWAKUMA/2B

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Adams is finally a Duck

Transfer QB passes final class at EWU

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE—Quarterback Vernon Adams passed the math he needed to graduate from Eastern Washington and join the Oregon Ducks.

Adams took the final test Thursday. After hours of speculation over his status, he posted to Twitter: "Thank God." He accompanied the post with a photo of himself in his cap and gown holding his son.

The star quarterback needed to complete his undergraduate coursework — specifically, a final math class — to transfer from Eastern Washington. NCAA rules allow players who have graduated to transfer to another school without having to sit out a season.

An FCS All-American, Adams is vying to replace Marcus Mariota as Oregon's starter. Mariota, who won the Heisman Trophy last season and marched Oregon

to the national championship game, was the second overall NFL draft pick by the Tennessee Titans.

Adams could join the Ducks for practice as early as Friday. He will compete for the starting nod with Jeff Lockie, Mariota's backup last season.

Lockie, who played last season mostly after Oregon had already built a sizable lead over its opponent, attempted 27 passes, completing 21 for 207 yards and a touchdown.

Adams was a two-time Big Sky Conference offensive player of the year and a two-time All-American. He threw for 10,438 yards and 110 touchdowns in three seasons at Eastern Washington.

Two of Adams' most memorable games came against the Pac-12: He passed for 411 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for 107 yards and two TDs in a 2013 win at Oregon State, and he threw for 475 yards and seven touchdowns in a 59-52 loss at Washington last season.

After declaring his intention to transfer to Oregon, Adams said he would be a Duck. See ADAMS/2B