

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015

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Sports shorts

EOU ranked 13th in preseason poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Eastern Oregon University football team notched its highest preseason ranking in program history, as the Mountaineers were selected as the No. 13 team in the country in the 2015 NAIA Football Coaches' Preseason Top 25 poll, the national office announced on Monday afternoon.



A total of three teams from the Frontier Conference cracked the top 25, while Montana Western managed to receive nine votes in the poll. Southern Oregon split the No. 1 slot with Marian (Ind.), marking the first time since 1997 that two teams shared the top spot in the poll. Meanwhile, fourth-ranked Carroll (Mont.) shared its ranking with Saint Xavier (Ill.).

EOU's last preseason top 25 recognition came in 2012 with a No. 16 ranking.

Vicky Duval gets U.S. Open wildcard after cancer battle

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Vicky Duval received a wild-card entry for U.S. Open qualifying, a week after she returned to competition following a yearlong recovery from Hodgkin lymphoma.

The 19-year-old based in Bradenton, Florida, won two singles matches at a \$25,000 tournament in Landisville, Pennsylvania, last week, her first action since reaching the second round of Wimbledon as a qualifier in June 2014. Shortly after that, Duval announced she had been diagnosed with cancer.

Duval made a splash at the 2013 U.S. Open, beating 2011 champion Sam Stosur in the first round.

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"I'm glad it's over, so you guys will quit talking about it."

Ken Whisenhunt

Tennessee Titans head coach answering a reporter's question about the first interception thrown by rookie quarterback Marcus Mariota in training camp. Mariota had thrown 230 passes without a turnover until linebacker Zach Brown got his hands on a ball that was tipped twice during a 7-on-7 drill on Tuesday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1951 — Eddie Gaedel, a 65-pound, 3-foot-7 midget, makes his first and only plate appearance as a pinch-hitter for Frank Saucier of the St. Louis Browns. Gaedel, wearing No. 1/8, walks on four pitches by Detroit Tigers pitcher Bob Cain and is taken out for pinch-runner Jim Delsing. The gimmick by Browns owner Bill Veeck was within the rules but later banned.

2014 — NBA referee Dick Bavetta retires after a 39-year career in which he never missed an assignment. Bavetta officiated a record 2,635 consecutive regular-season games after starting his NBA career on Dec. 2, 1975. He also worked 270 playoff games.

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

Sports community rallies around wildfire victims

Area coaches come together to help one of their own

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The wildfires roaring across Eastern Oregon have been well-documented.

The Canyon Creek Complex fire, near John Day, has engulfed more than 40,000 acres and destroyed at least 26 homes in just less than a week. One of those homes belonged to Steve and Shae Speth, whose house and all belongings inside were completely destroyed in the

fire a few days ago.

The Speths are both coaches at Grant Union High School, with Steve coaching boys basketball and Shae coaching volleyball.

As coaches, it's easy to make enemies with other teams, coaches, and players along the way. However, in the light of the situation, other area coaches are tossing aside their rivalries to help out their fellow

"It sorta snowballed into what it is now. It's just one of those things, to do whatever we can to help out."

— Brian Pickard,
Weston-McEwen High School boys basketball coach

Weston-McEwen High School boys basketball coach

coaches.

Basketball coaches Brian Pickard (Weston-McEwen), Mitch Thompson (Irrigon), Jeremy Rosenbalm (Heppner) and Brennan Whittaker (Culver) have teamed up to put together a relief effort to help the Speths get back on their feet. It includes coordinating donation

See WILDFIRE/2B

MLB

Early offense boosts M's



Seattle Mariners' Seth Smith hits a two-run homer during the first inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015. Nelson Cruz scored on the play.

Iwakuma delivers for Seattle after bumpy start

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Hisashi Iwakuma followed his no-hitter by limiting Texas to two runs and five hits over seven innings as the

Seattle Mariners beat the Rangers 3-2 on Tuesday night.

All of Seattle's scoring came in the first inning on three extra-base hits, including Seth Smith's 10th home run of the season.

Iwakuma (5-2) gave up a hit to Texas' second batter, a single by Shin-Soo Choo. He retired 12 straight at one point and struck out

See MARINERS/2B

Softball

Local squad captures regional title

East Oregonian



The USA Explosion DFM-Pratt softball team finished its season as NW Region champs with a 5-0 record at the NW Regional 16A Tournament at Delta Park in Portland earlier this month. The girls overcame a 10-5 deficit in the semifinals by scoring six runs in the bottom of the last inning to advance to the championship game. In the championship USA Explosion DFM-Pratt defeated the Washington Acers 6-0.

Pictured left to right are: (BACK ROW) Kalan McGlothlan, Raylee Lehnert, Lauren Roberts, Lauren Richards, Mallory Copeland and Ashton Wright. (FRONT ROW) Elli Nirschl, Madison Parker, Rylee Gentner, Haley Bradley and Tatum Fell. Not pictured are coaches Steve Richards, Steve Nirschl and Rob Parker.

Contributed photo by Robin Nirschl

Little League Softball

Coach's bad decision costs Washington players

Iowa team wins LLSWS tiebreaker after questioning no-hitter

Associated Press

PORTLAND — An Iowa team advanced to the Little League Softball World Series semifinals Tuesday by beating an opponent forced to play a tiebreaker after it was accused of deliberately losing a game. The Central Iowa team beat

"Our coach was faced with a decision that, in the bubble of intense competition, appeared to him to be in the best interest of our team. In hindsight, it is very likely he would have made a different choice."

— Jeff Taylor,
Snohomish Little League president

South Snohomish Washington 3-2 in a rematch ordered by the tournament. Officials demanded the extra

game after it received reports that some teams "did not play with the effort and spirit appropriate" for Little League play.

The dispute arose after the Washington team was shut out Monday by a team from Salisbury, North Carolina. The loss created a three-way tie for the Pool B title, meaning that Washington and North Carolina would advance to the semifinals and the Polk City, Iowa, team would not.

Central Iowa president Chris Chadd, who was back in Iowa on Monday, said he was hearing from Iowa coach Charlie Husak that some of Washington's top hitters

See BAD DECISION/2B

Volleyball

EOU looks to earn top rankings

Mountaineers enter season with big expectations

East Oregonian

The Eastern Oregon University volleyball team kicks off its season on Friday in the Eastern Oregon Invitational, and Cascade Collegiate Conference coaches are expecting more big things from the Mountaineers this season.

Coming off a quarterfinals appearance in the NAIA National Championships in 2014, the Mountaineers were picked to repeat as CCC champions in the poll released last week and ranked No. 6 in the NAIA preseason poll released Tuesday.

Entering her ninth season, EOU head coach Kaki McLean Morehead said that while she appreciates the rankings, the Mountaineers aren't giving them much weight.

"Obviously that's based off of a lot of last year and how we performed," she said in a video posted on the EOU Athletics web site. "Bottom line in our conference is that you have to show up to play every single night. I think that that is something that we are definitely not taking for granted. That's something that we're focusing on early."

The Mountaineers will have to replace CCC Player of the Year Casey Loper, but bring back Honorable Mention All-American setter Rachele Chamberlain, a "quiet leader" whose consistency has Morehead expecting another stellar season from the junior from Challis, Idaho.

Morehead pointed to an "itchy" sophomore class that all saw playing time in the NAIA championships, and a former Blue Mountain Community College standout as a few of her other key returners.

Senior Piper Cantrell (Ashland, Ore.) is the leading candidate to wear the libero jersey on the back line this season, and is one of three former Timberwolves suiting up for EOU in 2015.

Senior Kendra De Hoog (Ephrata, Wash.) and junior Sierra Linke (Pasco, Wash.) will each be looking for swings on the outside, and

See EOU/2B

CCC Preseason Poll

First place votes in parentheses, followed by total points.

1, Eastern Oregon (6)	113
T2, College of Idaho (3)	108
T2, Southern Oregon (2)	108
4, Northwest	78
5, Oregon Tech	65
6, Corban	60
7, Warner Pacific	54
8, Northwest Christian	53
9, Evergreen	48
10, Walla Walla	26
11, Multnomah	13