

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

EOU men ranked 4th in preseason Cross Country poll

LA GRANDE — After a stellar 2014 campaign that featured a fourth-place finish at the NIAA National Championships, the Eastern Oregon University men's cross country team was ranked No. 4 in the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) Coaches Preseason Poll.

EOU bade farewell to five seniors last season, including a pair of All-Americans in Damion Flores and Lucas Updike. Pendleton High School graduate Tyler Zyph is a junior with the Mountaineers.

By a unanimous vote, Southern Oregon was picked to defend its title.

The EOU women were picked to finish fifth coming off an eighth-place finish in 2014, with NW Christian picked to repeat as champs.

Pistorius' release date pushed back

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's Department of Justice says it is putting Oscar Pistorius' release from prison on hold until his case is reviewed again by a parole board.

FACES Department spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga says Pistorius' release will have to be reviewed again because he was approved to be moved to house arrest too early.

Mthunzi says Pistorius should have served 10 months of his sentence before being considered for release. He was approved for parole in June, eight months into his sentence.

Pistorius was due to be moved to house arrest on Friday after serving 10 months of his five-year sentence for manslaughter for killing girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in 2013.

"It's quitting time and he wants to do pop quizzes about football at like 12:30 or 1 in the morning. I'm exhausted."

— **Kenny Bell**

Tampa Bay Buccaneers rookie wide receiver and training camp roommate of QB Jameis Winston.

Bell spoke to the media about what it is like to live with the rookie QB. Bell added that Winston does not snore, and that Winston's work ethic has pushed him to work harder outside of the team activities.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

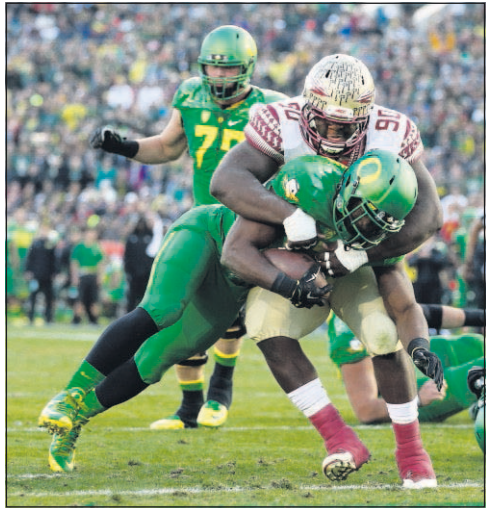
1944 — Robert Hamilton upsets Byron Nelson in the final round 1 up to win the PGA championship.

2000 — Tiger Woods wins the PGA Championship in a playoff over Bob May, becoming the first player since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win three majors in one year. He's the first player to repeat as PGA champion since Denny Shute in 1937.

2012 — In a historic change at one of the world's most exclusive golf clubs, Augusta National invites former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and South Carolina financier Darla Moore to become the first female members since the club was founded in 1932.

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

College Football



AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi, File
Oregon running back Royce Freeman, front, scores past a Florida State defender during the 2015 Rose Bowl.

Oregon's Freeman taking lead

RB works to be Oregon's next star

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — Just a sophomore, Oregon running back Royce Freeman is already assuming a leadership role on the Ducks' offense.

That's only natural considering he's the top returning rusher on a team known for its dynamic running backs — a legacy that includes such stars as Jonathan Stewart and LaMichael James. Freeman will likely carry

the load on the ground while Oregon adjusts this season to a new quarterback — whoever that may be.

"Now that I know more within the offense, I expect more out of myself, both performance-wise and leadership-wise," he said. "It's just something I'm progressively working on."

Freeman is focusing on himself while Oregon's quarterback competition plays out. The leading candidates to replace Marcus Mariota, Oregon's record-breaking Heisman Trophy winner, are Jeff Lockie and newcomer Vernon Adams. Lockie was Mariota's backup

last season and is the most familiar with the Ducks' offense. Adams' transfer to Oregon for his final year of eligibility was delayed until he finished a math class needed to wrap up his degree at Eastern Washington, where he was a repeat Big Sky Conference offensive player of the year.

"I feel like every team has a new identity, the players who are out there define it," Freeman said. "We're going to see what this team's identity is."

A year ago at this time, Freeman was generating buzz in fall camp — but his talents

See DUCKS/2B

MLB

Bullpen crumbles again



AP Photo/Ron Jenkins
Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Joe Beimel looks down after giving up three straight home runs to the Texas Rangers during the seventh inning of Wednesday's game in Arlington, Texas. Mariners pitchers have combined for a 5.62 ERA in over 16 games in the month of August, their worst month of the season.

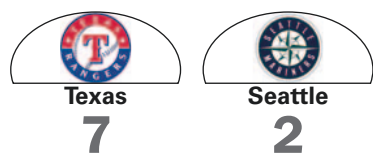
Rangers hit three home runs in 7th to down M's

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Joe Beimel personified the Seattle Mariners' recently besieged bullpen in Wednesday afternoon's 7-2 loss at the Texas Rangers.

A one-run game got away quickly when Beimel allowed four of the five batters he faced to score. The rally began with a hit batter and ended with back-to-back-to-back home runs by Mitch Moreland, Mike Napoli and Elvis Andrus, the first homer coming on an 0-2 pitch.

Beimel said afterward that he has been fatigued for the last week or so.



He thinks there is a knot in his back and felt on Wednesday like he was "throwing through mud."

"I thought I'd be able to kind of fight through it," he said.

His five most recent appearances consist of 1 2-3 innings, 10 earned runs on eight hits plus three walks and a hit batter.

Mike Montgomery (4-6) gave

up three runs in the first inning and then shut out Texas over his final five innings.

Mark Trumbo hit his 15th homer this season, his sixth since joining the Mariners. It was his fifth career homer off Derek Holland (1-1), his most off any pitcher.

Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon said he's concerned with Beimel because he has been elevating his pitches but didn't want to say more until he learns Beimel's health situation.

The Mariners came to Texas following a three-game series in

See MARINERS/2B

OUR VIEWS

Let's talk pigskin

Talking has never been a problem for me. A Little League baseball coach once called me Matt Interrupt for an entire season because he couldn't get me to stop flapping my lips long enough to get a word in edgewise.

I was the reason the



MATT ENTRUP
Football

whole school bus had to ride in silence, because I wouldn't pipe down during a railroad crossing.

I'm the one you're shushing at

the movie theater.

So when I was informed that Wednesday we would be recording our first EO Pigskin Pickers podcast of the season, my reaction was naturally terse and unprintable.

There's something about the presence of a microphone that just doesn't sit well with me — and yes I realize the irony in that statement coming from a guy who makes his living showing a recorder in front of people's faces and then peppering them with questions they've had no chance to prepare for.

I've done live radio, once. And there's a good reason for that.

Thankfully Hermiston Herald sports reporter Sam Barbee was on hand to add another voice to the podcast, and we figured we'd take pity on the newest edition to the East Oregonian sports team and let Eric Singer at least get to know the teams before we ask him to break them down. He served as moderator.

Despite my reticence, the end result wasn't too bad. Mike & Mike it is not, but I definitely think we could have done worse.

The finished product won't be online until Friday, but here's a preview of what you'll hear if you search it out on EastOregonian.com/podcast, iTunes or Stitcher.

The most obvious storyline on the gridiron this season is how Hermiston follows up its championship season.

The Bulldogs lost 12 all-state players to graduation during the offseason. Some of them made the list on offense and defense, and nine of them were on the first team. Hardest hit was the offensive line, where all five starters and three all-state performers must be replaced (the defensive line isn't in much better shape). Then there's the question of who's going to win the starting

See PIGSKIN/2B

Little League Baseball

Not another Mo'ne at this year's LLWS

Tournament begins today

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Mo'ne Davis was the talk of the sports world and beyond after becoming the first female to win a game in the Little League World Series. Her success has inspired other girls to pursue baseball, though no girls will be playing for the championship at Williamsport when the 16-team tournament starts Thursday.

"Females playing in the world series is a matter of luck," said Stephen D. Keener, chief executive of Little League. Many teams compete for each of the spots and participation from girls is still relatively low.

Davis and her Taney Dragons won the Mid-Atlantic Regional last year and the teenager captivated fans with her performance on the mound. She tossed a two-hitter with eight strikeouts to help Philadelphia beat Nashville 4-0 in the series opener for both teams, becoming the only girl to get a shutout in series history.

That thrust Davis into the national spotlight and she became an overnight celebrity.

Davis appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated and was named The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. She wrote a book, starred in a Spike Lee-directed car commercial, became the subject of a Disney

See LLWS/2B



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File
In this Aug. 15, 2014, file photo, Pennsylvania's Mo'ne Davis delivers in the first inning against Tennessee during a baseball game at the Little League World Series tournament in South Williamsport, Pa.