

Sports shorts

Ohio college honors Lauren Hill with tipoff tourney

CINCINNATI, Ohio—The schools that helped Lauren Hill realize her dream of scoring a basket in a college game will honor her with a season-opening event in November.



Xavier will host the “Lauren Hill Tipoff Classic” on the court where she scored her first basket a year ago. The Mount St. Joseph University freshman died from brain cancer in April. Her public memorial also was held at Xavier’s Cintas Center.

Hill used her last months to raise money for cancer research and to remind people that life is precious.

She played her first game against Hiram College on Nov. 2. Hiram will visit again as part of a Nov. 14 doubleheader, with proceeds going to cancer research.

Former NFL player says he attempted suicide

MIAMI (AP) — Former NFL tackle Jonathan Martin has posted on Facebook saying difficulties in the profession led him to attempt suicide multiple times, and

he wanted to share his struggle with social isolation to help others.

Martin, who retired this year, says his problems date to childhood

in California, and to being told his entire life he was not “black enough.”

Martin made national headlines when he abruptly left the Miami Dolphins during the 2013 season amid reports he was bullied by teammates on the offensive line, including Richie Incognito.

In his post on Wednesday, Martin complained about the Dolphins’ locker room situation. Trying to fit in, Martin says, he abused alcohol, used marijuana and created a persona.

“What protections do we have? Is this going to be a blank check?”

— **David Ryu**  
Los Angeles city councilman speaking on the impending vote to give the mayor authority to make deals linked to a possible bid by Los Angeles for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The vote has been pushed to Friday after Ryu and other members voiced their concerns over potential taxpayer debts. The deadline for LA to make a bid to the International Olympic Committee is Sept. 15

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1909** — William Larned wins his fifth U.S. men’s singles tennis title with a five-set victory over William Clothier in Newport, R.I.

**1975** — Onny Parun of New Zealand defeats Stan Smith 6-4, 6-2, in the first night match ever played at the U.S. Open. A crowd of 4,949 saw the match at the West Side Tennis Club.

**2006** — Marco Andretti, 19, becomes the youngest winner of a major open-wheel event, beating Dario Franchitti by 0.66 seconds to take the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma.

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MLB

M’s thump Oakland



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners starter Felix Hernandez throws his first pitch of the game, which resulted in a home run for Oakland Athletics’ Billy Burns, in the first inning of a baseball game on Wednesday in Seattle.

Hernandez regains form as Mariners win series versus A’s

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Realistically, the Seattle Mariners would need to be far closer to a playoff berth for Nelson Cruz to be in consideration for American League MVP.

But his numbers are becoming increasingly MVP worthy.

Cruz hit his AL-leading 39th homer on Wednesday, driving in three runs and backing eight strong innings from Felix Hernandez in the Mariners’ 8-2 win over the Oakland Athletics.

Cruz had RBI singles in the

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first and sixth innings then added a solo homer off Oakland reliever Fernando Abad in the eighth. Cruz is now hitting .321 with 82 RBIs and is one shy of his league-leading home run total from last season.

“I can’t talk about it. Like I said, I just play my game and whatever happens, happens,” Cruz said. “If I got lucky enough to be considered, I’m blessed, but

if not, I’m here to play games and win games and that’s the only thing I care about.”

Hernandez made just two mistakes over eight innings, rebounding after getting knocked around in his last start against the Chicago White Sox.

Hernandez (15-8) allowed a homer to Billy Burns on the first pitch of the game and a solo homer to Brett Lawrie on the first pitch of the seventh. Oakland’s only other hit off Hernandez was a soft single from Billy Butler in the fifth.

Hernandez struck out seven, walked one and became the

See MARINERS/2B

NFL

Second-year linebacker impressing Seahawks coaches

Pierre-Louis pushing vets for a roster spot

By CURTIS CRABTREE  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — It doesn’t take long for the speed of Kevin Pierre-Louis to catch your eye.

The second-year Seahawks linebacker has loads of it. It’s a trait that Seattle covets in its linebackers and Pierre-Louis fits the bill.

Pierre-Louis showed flashes in limited action as a rookie before a shoulder injury prematurely ended his season. Now the 2014 fourth-round pick is making it difficult for Seattle’s coaching staff to keep him off the field.

“He’s exactly the type of guy you’re looking for in terms of speed and movement

and all of that,” head coach Pete Carroll said. “We’ve been recruiting and drafting for a long time to find a guy that runs 4.4 that can play linebacker. He’s done a great job. He’s really an exciting player for us.”

Pierre-Louis’s speed showed up frequently in special teams duty a season ago. He would routinely match Ricardo Lockette, a former Division II 200-meter champion, in sprints to the end zone on kickoff coverage.

“That’s just his gift,” linebacker K.J. Wright said. “He ran fast at the combine and that’s why we brought him in here. Just come out here, run, and hit and he does that really good.”

But his speed isn’t the only reason he’s pushing for more playing time. When called upon due to injuries last season, Pierre-Louis left a strong impression.

He played well in his first extended duty against Carolina, including a tackle of Cam Newton for a loss in relief of Malcolm Smith. He posted a career-high five tackles against the New York Giants in Week 10 before a labrum tear ended his season.

“I just need to make sure that when my number is called that I’m ready,” Pierre-Louis said. “I can’t really try to count reps or wondering when I’m going to get in. I just need to make sure that when my number is called, I’m there, I’m showing up, and I’m doing whatever I can do for the defense.”

Pierre-Louis is somewhat undersized. He’s listed at 6-foot, 236 pounds on the team’s roster. However, he fits the mold of what the Seahawks want at their weakside linebacker spot, See ‘HAWKS/2B



AP Photo/TUSP, Jay Biggerstaff

Seattle Seahawks linebacker Kevin Pierre-Louis (58) drops into coverage during a game against the Kansas City Chiefs on Aug. 21, 2015 at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

College Football

Linebackers leading Ducks D

By Albany Democrat-Herald

EUGENE — It doesn’t sound like Don Pellum wants to let Rodney Hardrick leave Oregon, even when the fifth-year senior runs out of eligibility this winter.

“Rodney Hardrick is unreal,” the Ducks’ defensive coordinator said after a recent practice. “If I had a coaching job open, whenever this season is over, I’d hire him about that quick. He can do it all.”

As fall camp winds down, the steady inside linebacker is focused on finishing his on-field career with the Ducks on a high note and then finding out if the NFL is interested in his services as a player.

“It’s cool, it’s good to hear,” Hardrick said of Pellum’s respect for his knowledge of the game. “I grew up always wanting to play in the NFL and if I couldn’t play I want to coach at the college level. That’s been a goal of mine

forever.”

If Hardrick is unable to earn a living in football, the general social science graduate will pursue a career in law enforcement.

Right now, he’s got a pretty good partner at the other inside linebacker spot. Joe Walker certainly has Hardrick’s back.

“I don’t know if there’s many people who know the defense better than Rodney,” Walker said. “He’s very intelligent and he works hard. ... I don’t have to worry about Rodney too much. We’re trying to teach and help the next generation.”

Hardrick and Walker meet for coffee every morning. It would be fascinating to listen in on the conversation considering the former is doing media interviews this season as a favor to his parents, and the latter is the strong, silent type.

“Love Joe Walker,” Mark

See DUCKS/2B

College Football

OSU punter quick to learn game

By JESSE SOWA

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS — Describing his transition to the American version of football from the one he played in his native Australia, Nick Porebski used the word “tough.”

He didn’t know how to put the pads on, and wearing a helmet was awkward and restricting because the face mask bars broke up his field of vision.

But Porebski’s talent, notably his powerful right leg, helped him catch on quickly.

In just a short three years, he’s smoothly made the jump into the new sport and is expected to be the first-string punter when Oregon State opens its season Sept. 4 at home against Weber State.

Porebski had never really heard of punting until he got a letter in the mail from ProKick Australia, an academy based in Melbourne and Sydney that prepares players for the U.S. college game. He thought he might as well

NFL

Worker dies at Vikings Stadium site

By Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A construction worker plunged about 50 feet to his death at the Minnesota Vikings’ new stadium site Wednesday morning while a second worker with him was seriously injured.

Officials were still trying to determine how the accident happened, said John Wood, senior vice president with Mortenson Construction, the general contractor overseeing the \$1 billion-plus project. The man who died, an employee of Berwald Roofing Co., fell from the edge of the roof into a snow gutter on the north side of U.S. Bank Stadium about 45 minutes into his shift and was pronounced dead on arrival at a nearby hospital, Wood said.

“This is a very tragic day in the life of the stadium construction project,” Wood said at a news conference.

The names of the men were not immediately released. A woman answering the phone at Berwald Roofing said nobody was available to comment.

Operations were suspended for the day, leaving huge cranes standing idle over the site of the former Metrodome on the eastern edge of downtown Minneapolis. About 1,200 men and women work on the project and they all held “a very somber gathering” after the accident, he said.

In a statement, the Vikings called the accident “extremely sad” and offered thoughts and prayers for the family of the dead worker, the injured man who remained hospitalized and all the other construction workers affected by the accident.

“Our priority is to ensure that we know exactly what happened and ensure that it never happens again. A man lost his life on this project today and that simply never should happen,” he said.

See OSU/2B