

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015

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1B

Sports shorts

ESPN to cut hundreds of jobs

NEW YORK (AP) — Disney's ESPN is cutting about 300 jobs, or 4 percent of its staff, amid signs that the traditional cable bundle is less far-reaching than it once was.

ESPN spokeswoman Amy Phillips confirmed the number of job losses Wednesday.

The Bristol, Connecticut-based sports channel is one of the linchpins of the traditional cable bundle of hundreds of channels, which is under pressure from viewers migrating online. A few are choosing to bypass paying for a cable subscription entirely, opting instead for a growing number of choices of online TV alternatives.

Morgan says no trade confirmed

SEATTLE (AP) — Alex Morgan says she still with the Portland Thorns. For now.

Morgan played 90 minutes for the World Cup champion U.S. in their 1-1

draw with Brazil on Wednesday night amid reports that she was on the verge of being sent to the expansion Orlando Pride of the National Women's Soccer League.

Morgan has played with Portland for the past three seasons. The new Orlando team was announced Tuesday and will begin play next season. Morgan's husband, Servando Carrasco, plays for Major League Soccer's Orlando City.

"I'm with Portland as of right now, so nothing's confirmed," Morgan said after the match. "Obviously, my husband does play there, so I'm in Orlando a lot, but there's nothing right now that I can confirm."

"He just continues to be doing everything right. You can ask him any question and he'll get it right as he directed people out there (Wednesday). He just does things right."

— Dave Baldwin

Oregon State offensive coordinator on backup QB Nick Mitchell, who has been elevated to second string and could share playing time with a banged-up Seth Collings on Saturday against Colorado.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1947 — In front of a capacity crowd of 35,000 at Columbia's Baker Field in New York, the Lions end Army's 32-game unbeaten streak in a 21-20 upset. An interception in Army's final drive seals the win, the first over an Army team that had not surrendered a point all season until the loss to Columbia.

1998 — Jerry Rice sets an NFL record for receptions in consecutive games with his 12-yard catch from Steve Young on San Francisco's first offensive play. Rice has caught passes in 184 straight games, breaking the mark set by Art Monk from 1980-95.

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

PENDLETON

T-Wolves back on track



BMCC's Kristin Williams (12) and Miah Perez go up to block a shot from Treasure Valley's Lindsey Jackson (7) in the Timberwolves win against the Chukars on Wednesday in Pendleton.

BMCC rebounds from loss, sweeps Treasure Valley

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Following an uninspired three-set loss to North Idaho College on Tuesday, Blue Mountain volleyball coach Dave Baty openly wondered if his East Region-leading team would have what it takes to make another deep run at the NWAC Championships.

Less than 24 hours later he was singing a different tune following the Timberwolves' sweep of league foe Treasure Valley by scores of 25-19, 25-20, 25-14.



"What I'm really happy for is we're 11-0 in the East, we're probably going to be OK," said the three-time NWAC Coach of the Year.

The No. 4 Timberwolves (34-9) were at their best in the third set, when the team's deep bench cleared and six hitters contributed to a match-high .361

attacking percentage with just two errors.

"We mixed some things up, you didn't see the same lineup once. The kids had a good time," Baty said.

T-Wolves middle blocker Keri Schwarz tied for the match-high with nine kills and led all attackers with a .467 hitting percentage with just two errors on 15 attempts.

The sophomore from Twin Falls, Idaho said the T-Wolves seem to play at their best when everybody is getting involved.

See T-WOLVES/3B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs looking for CRC lead

Hermiston dinged up heading into crucial meeting with Hood River

By SAM BARBEE
EO Media Group

As the Hermiston Bulldogs were struggling through their difficult non-conference schedule, there was hope at the end of the bleak tunnel.

That hope was Columbia River Conference play.

The Bulldogs (2-5, 1-0 CRC) enter Friday's homecoming game against Hood River Valley (4-3, 1-0) on a

two-game winning streak after a 13-7 double-overtime win over Sandy followed by a 56-10 beat down of The Dalles last week. Like last year, Hermiston knew its schedule would lighten up in conference play, and it happened just in time.

"We were looking forward to it, but we still had to play one game at a time," first-year head coach David Faaeteete said. "We still gotta survive that first part of the schedule. We've got guys hurt, guys dinged up a little bit. We still don't have our starting quarterback, starting running back, starting wide out. Do I keep going?"

Dayshawn Neal, Hermiston's injured sophomore quarterback, was seen with a cast on his injured ankle, likely signaling his status for the rest of the season.

In his stead, senior Nathan Hunsaker is starting to split time with senior DJ Gossett, who moved from offensive/defensive line this season. Last year, the two split reps for the junior varsity.

See BULLDOGS/3B

Friday, 7 p.m.
at Kennison Field
KOHU 1360 AM

Football
Hood River Eagles (4-3, 1-0)
Hermiston Bulldogs (2-5, 1-0)

See BULLDOGS/3B

PENDLETON

Buckaroos' postseason hopes on line

Defense needs to step up for Pendleton to defeat The Dalles

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

It has been a frustrating season for Erik Davis and his Pendleton Buckaroos.

There were some big expectations around a team that went 5-5 with a playoff appearance last season, and had a good chance to compete in the Columbia River Conference again.

Instead, the Buckaroos have limped through the schedule and with two weeks left in the season stare at a 2-5, 0-1 record and now find themselves in a must-win situation on Friday against The Dalles.

The Bucks need a win over The Dalles to keep their postseason hopes alive.

"We're going to approach this like a do-or-die, and really it is," said Davis following Wednesday's practice.

"Because if we win this we still have a shot, and if we don't then we're only playing for pride against Hermiston, and I'd rather be playing for something more come Oct. 30."

So what went wrong for the Buckaroos that sent them so far off course?

Well, it was a mix of a tough schedule and inconsistent play all around — predominantly on defense.

The unit has allowed an average of 33 points per game this season, including a season-high 62 points allowed in the opening week loss to Summit. The unit has also given up a fourth-quarter lead

See BUCKAROOS/3B

Friday, 7 p.m.
at R-Up Stadium
KTIX 1240 AM

Football
The Dalles Riverhawks (1-5, 0-1)
Pendleton Buckaroos (2-5, 0-1)

MLB

Murphy homers again, Mets sweep Cubs to reach World Series

Toronto beats Kansas City in ALCS

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Daniel Murphy chased his son, Noah, up the third base line at Wrigley Field. Manager Terry Collins sprayed champagne on a small group of fans behind the visitor's dugout. David Wright soaked in the moment he chased for so long.

A new generation of Amazins is heading to the World Series.

Murphy homered for a record sixth consecutive postseason game, and the New York Mets brushed aside the Chicago Cubs 8-3 on Wednesday night for a National League Championship Series sweep.

"I can't explain it. It's such a blessing to contribute to what we've been able to do," Murphy said.

Lucas Duda hit a three-run homer in the first inning and a two-run double in the second at Wrigley Field, silencing a crowd of 42,227 desperately hoping for



New York Mets' Daniel Murphy celebrates after hitting a two-run home run during the eighth inning of Game 4 of the National League Championship Series against the Chicago Cubs Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, in Chicago.

the beginning of an epic comeback in Game 4.

Not this time. Not with New York's array of power arms, and Murphy swinging a hot stick that made him the NLCS MVP.

The Mets never trailed against the Cubs and advanced to the World Series for the first time since they lost to the crosstown

Yankees in five games in 2000. They will play at either Toronto or Kansas City in Game 1 on Tuesday night — the Royals lead 3-2 in the ALCS.

But the first big question for New York is the health of center fielder Yoenis Cespedes, who left in the second inning with

See MLB/3B