

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Trail Blazers fall to Clippers 115-109

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 22 points and Paul Pierce had 19 as the Los Angeles Clippers defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 115-109 in the preseason finale for both teams on Thursday night.



Pierce scored 14 in the fourth quarter and the Clippers came back from 28 points down in the first quarter and an 18-point halftime deficit.

J.J. Redick's 3-pointer tied it at 102. Wesley Johnson followed with a 3-pointer to give the Clippers the lead for good.

Blazers: Damian Lillard started hot with 14 points, six assists and four rebounds in the first nine minutes. He finished with 39 points ... CJ McCollum scored 22.

Up next: Portland will host New Orleans on Wednesday.

Mattingly out as manager of Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Don Mattingly won't return as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers next year after he and the front office mutually agreed it was time for a fresh start.

FACES



Mattingly

Mattingly said Thursday in a statement distributed by the team that it's "the right time and right move for both parties."

Los Angeles was 446-363 under Mattingly, finishing with a winning record in every season and claiming the last three NL West titles. But the Dodgers have not reached the World Series since in 1988.

The 54-year-old former Yankees star ranks sixth in wins among Dodgers managers.

Mattingly says "we all felt that a fresh start would be good for both the organization and me."

"It's crazy that 10 seconds could take you from just being on the team to people tweeting you and text messaging you saying 'You're a legend; You're a hero.'"

—Jalen Watts-Jackson

Michigan State red-shirt freshman who has achieved 'hero' status around the MSU campus for recovering Michigan's muffed punt and returning it for the game-winning touchdown last Saturday. Watts-Jackson did pay a price for the play, however, as he broke his hip while he was being tackled in the end zone.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1988 — Dan Marino passes for 521 yards, three touchdowns and five interceptions as the Miami Dolphins lose to the New York Jets 44-30.

1999 — Florida State's Bobby Bowden gets his 300th win with a 17-14 win over his son, Clemson coach Tommy Bowden. With the victory Bowden joins Bear Bryant, Pop Warner, Joe Paterno and Amos Alonzo Stagg as the only major college coaches to reach 300 victories.

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

HERMISTON

Bulldogs hoping to click at districts

Hermiston boys, girls looking for state berths at district finals

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Hermiston cross country coach Troy Blackburn is currently reading a book about the 1998 Colorado Buffaloes team that overcame numerous setbacks during the season to win the national championship.

Though he's yet to talk to his team about it, he sees parallels between those Buffs and these Bulldogs.

"All it takes is people clicking at the right time and the season can be completely turned around," he said. "(Colorado was) having setbacks the whole season. They all clicked at the right time and won the championship. All it takes is at the end."

Like those Buffaloes, these Bulldogs, especially the boys, have struggled with minor injuries and illnesses. Senior Angel Castellanos missed the past two races with an illness, and he's not the only one to miss races. But, with the Columbia



Staff photo by Sam Barbee/file

In this file photo, Hermiston's Donnell Rome (813) and Josiah Niederwerfer (812) take off at the front of the pack at the start of the Runner Soul XC Fest on Saturday, Sep. 5, 2015, in Hermiston. The Bulldogs won the team title, a distinction they hope capture at this weekend's district meet in The Dalles.

River Conference district meet Saturday in The Dalles, Castellanos thinks those hurdles are behind them.

"Nobody's been real achy-painy," he said. "I think that's helping with the whole peak thing. We're backing off and all feeling good."

Before the 2015 cross country season began, the Hermiston

Bulldogs' season was thought to be split between the high expectations of the boys and the hopeful steady improvement of the girls.

With the 5A Columbia River Conference district meet tomorrow, the season didn't go exactly that way for the Bulldogs.

The boys, which finished third at last year's 5A state meet, failed to meet the high expectations set

for themselves. They expected to improve on their finish at last year's state meet, and figured since four of the five top runners were returning it would be easy.

It wasn't. "I know in the beginning, ... we returned so many guys that we said, 'We're gonna get it. We're gonna get

See HERMISTON/2B

NFL



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch (24) runs for a 1-yard touchdown against the San Francisco 49ers during the first half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015.

Wilson, Seahawks rule rivalry

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — No turkey necessary this time, just some high-flying defense and more power running by Marshawn Lynch.

The Seattle Seahawks rediscovered their tried-and-true formula to get back in the win column, with Russell Wilson and Co. ruling this

one-sided rivalry with San Francisco.

On another Thursday night, and on San Francisco's home field again.

Wilson threw a 43-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Lockett late in the first half, Lynch added a leaping 1-yard score, and Seattle beat the hapless 49ers 20-3



Seattle
20



San Francisco
3

for its fourth straight victory against its NFC West rival.

"It felt like a really normal Seahawk night tonight," coach Pete Carroll said.

The Seahawks (3-4) whipped San Francisco in Levi's Stadium on a Thursday in prime time 11 months

See SEAHAWKS/3B

PENDLETON

Healthy Clem leading Bucks

Pendleton girls and boys prepare for district meet

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The first time Delaney Clem felt the sharp pain in her abdomen was less than 24 hours before she was to compete in the 3,000-meter state finals at the 2014 OSAA Track and Field Championships in Eugene.

"Then when we were out warming up for her race at state track she doubled over," said Pendleton track and cross country coach Nicole Stewart.

Clem would run through the pain to a 10th-place finish, bettering her time and placing from the year before.

"As soon as she got done with state track she went to the emergency room. They told her she tore an abdominal muscle," Stewart said.

For the next four months,

See PENDLETON/2B

HELIX

Best friends lead Grizzlies to breakout season

Helix opens district tournament against Echo

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Makenzie Mize, Paden Flerchinger, and Tegan Jackson are three best friends who love to play sports.

They like to play basketball, they are very competitive at track and field, and this fall they became pretty darn good at volleyball.

The trio of friends are at the heart of a Helix Grizzlies team that finished 17-4 overall and 10-2 in the Old Oregon League, earning a second-straight trip to the district tournament.

"They've really matured and they are exactly what seniors should be," said Helix coach Tammie Parker, who is in her 15th year at the helm of the Grizzlies squad. "Seniors always mean a lot to a team because they have the experience, and this group also has a

lot of my height (up front)."

The Grizzlies — and the seniors' — road to success has not come without its fair share of bumps in the way, however.

Earlier in their careers, the trio were part of teams that did not have much success. During their freshman year the Grizzlies went 1-18 and during their sophomore year only a slightly better 4-14 record.

"It's not like we were awful, we just didn't know what it would take to win," said Mize, "and when we did (win) were almost scared and overwhelmed of what to do next."

But prior to the 2014 season, something finally began to click with the Grizzlies as a whole that led to a 15-win season and a trip to the Old Oregon League district finals.

"Our coaches always told us we were a good team, we just had to realize it," said Flerchinger. "And when we

See HELIX/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney/file

In this file photo, Bethany Newton (11) and Paden Flerchinger (44), of Helix, attempt to block a hit from Echo's Alyssa Ray (6) on Tuesday, Sep. 29, 2015, in Helix.