

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Sports shorts

Maddon, Banister named Manager of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Maddon and Jeff Banister were a huge hit in their new jobs this season. Now, that immediate team success has reaped individual rewards.



The Chicago Cubs' Maddon won his third Manager of the Year award Tuesday and the Texas Rangers' Banister his first after each guided an unexpected run to the playoffs.

Maddon is the seventh manager to win the award at least three times and the seventh to earn it in both leagues. He also won in the AL with Tampa Bay in 2008 and 2011.

Banister joined Houston's Hal Lanier (1986), San Francisco's Dusty Baker (1993), Florida's Joe Girardi (2006) and Washington's Matt Williams (2014) as the only men to win in their first season as a major league manager.

Manziel to stay at starter for Browns

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — There was no formal presentation or fanfare. No torch passing ceremony.

Browns coach Mike Pettine simply pulled Johnny

Manziel aside and told him he would be Cleveland's starting quarterback for the remainder of this season.

No longer just a celebrated bad-boy backup, Manziel joined an elite class. The trick will be staying there.

Manziel's budding pro career, dotted mostly by missteps on and off the field to this point — the NFL said Tuesday he will not be disciplined for a domestic case — seems to be finally headed in the right direction for him. Now, the Browns will find out if he can be their franchise QB.

"We're going to be trouble in a fast-paced game like this. Whoever gets the rebound ... they just get out, push it on the break and we're very unselfish with the ball."

— Tyler Ulis

Kentucky guard after leading the No. 2 Wildcats past No. 5 Duke 74-63 on Tuesday. Ulis had 18 points and six assists.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1978 — Vanderbilt's Frank Mordica rushes for 321 yards and five touchdowns in a 41-27 victory over Air Force. Mordica scores on runs of 48, 30, 6, 70 and 77 yards.

1995 — Alex Van Dyke sets an NCAA record for most receiving yards in a season, catching 13 passes for 314 yards as Nevada beats San Jose State 45-28. Van Dyke raises his total to 1,874 yards, surpassing the record of 1,779 set in 1965 by Howard Twilley of Tulsa.

2012 — Brad Keselowski gives Roger Penske his first Sprint Cup championship 40 years after the owner's first stock car race. Keselowski beats five-time champion Jimmie Johnson of mighty Hendrick Motorsports to fill the glaring hole on Penske's otherwise sterling racing resume.

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

PENDLETON

Toughened T-Wolves head to NWACs

BMCC volleyball going after fourth straight title

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Blue Mountain volleyball team started its season trying to step out of a large shadow cast by three consecutive NWAC championships.

"I think it definitely shook the nerves," said sophomore setter Maci Beierle. "Oh my gosh, we have to live up this expectation, and last year they were 50-4. And that's all you could think about whether the banners were there or not."

Looking to step out into their own, the T-Wolves promptly did something none of the previous championship teams had and lost their first three matches of the season.

They would go on to drop six more matches, and head coach Dave Baty continued

to express skepticism over his young roster's grasp of his system even during their season-long 21 match winning streak.

"We just needed to let it go," Beierle said. Going into Thursday's NWAC Championships, the East Region champion T-Wolves (37-9) seem to have done just that.

"I think our match-ups toward the end of the season have been pretty diverse, so I think going into NWACs they are well prepared," said coach Jessica Humphreys. "They're ready, they're in a good place as a group mentally and fundamentally to go up and do what they set out to do. And I think they know it's in their hands. They're excited, nervous, and all the right normal emotions."

The T-Wolves are going into the tournament off one of the most unique season finales a team could experience.

Humphreys, who is eight and a half months pregnant with her first child, is not to travel by

See T-WOLVES/2B



In this Sept. 10, 2015, file photo BMCC's Jordan Mix tips the ball over North Idaho's Brooke Bell in the Timberwolves' 3-2 win against the Cardinals in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Pendleton pair goes Division I

Richards, Morrison sign with NCAA softball programs

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Two Pendleton seniors joined the growing list of Buckaroo softball players to sign with college programs when Ellie Richards and Alexis Morrison gave their official commitments to Notre Dame and Portland State, respectively, during the NCAA early signing period.

Pendleton coach Tim Cary, who has seen many of his players move on to the collegiate game in recent years, said both programs will be getting well-rounded players and individuals.

"They're getting the full package," he said of both girls not only about their playing ability but their strong work ethic and high marks in the classroom.

Richards, the Bucks' shortstop and a second-team all-state selection as a junior, will follow her older brother to the Fighting Irish. Lane Richards is a senior shortstop on the baseball team.

"When he first got recruited by them, that's what really interested me in Notre Dame. I kind of wish he would have been there another year," she said. "All I hear about is great things about the school and so I'm really excited."

She said attending Notre Dame's softball camp after her freshman year of high school is where she got her foot in the door.

"That's when they were first interested in me and then they watched me play throughout the fall of my sophomore year," she said. After missing her sophomore season at Pendleton with a torn ACL, Richards returned to the Notre Dame camp that summer to prove she was still the same player and give her verbal commitment.

Richards batted .487 with 52 hits, 13 doubles, 35 RBI, 12 stolen bases and 43 runs scored for Pendleton last season.

"Ellie has unbelievable work ethic," Cary said. "She's the type of person that sticks around an hour



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In this June 2, 2015, file photo Pendleton's Alexis Morrison gets a fist bump from coach Tim Cary while running the bases after hitting a home run in the Bucks' 10-0 win against Silverton in the 5A softball playoffs in Pendleton.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

In this April 25, 2015 file photo Pendleton's Ellie Richards eyes a pitch in a game against The Dalles-Wahlatonka at Steve Cary Field.

after practice to get the extra swing, and she hits off the tee, more than anybody probably, on her own.

"She just likes to work, work, work, work. She does the same

thing with her ground balls. Ellie and some of our other players are a great testament to what hard work can accomplish and where it can get you."

She'll be the first native Oregonian to suit up for Notre Dame softball, which made its 17th straight appearance in the NCAA Championships and finished with a 42-15 record in 2015.

But Richards said the biggest draw was the academic record of the university.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to study yet. I'm just open, but that's really what interested me, is the academic part," she said.

"It's hard to get into a good academic institution unless you have a good school district with very talented and capable teachers," said Ellie's father Steve Richards. "We've just been fortunate that our kids have had several good teachers and there are very good teachers in the school district."

Morrison also has the type of academic record that could open the doors to nearly any college of her liking — she was considering Harvard and Yale — but chose to stay closer to home and follow

See D-1/2B

Prep Football

Ione lands two first-team selections

SD4 releases football all-league list

East Oregonian

It didn't take long for Italian exchange Alessandro Panozzo long to catch on to the eight-man version of American football.

Playing the game for the first time at Ione this season, the senior was one of two first-team All-League selections for the Cardinals the Special District 4 announced this week.

Panozzo was first team kicker/punter and also made honorable mention as tight end and defensive end.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

This Oct. 8, 2015, file photo shows Arlington's Thomas Evans stiff arms Dufur's Travis Lucas during a run in the Honker's 14-6 loss to the Rangers in Arlington.

See SD4/2B

Prep Volleyball

Culver sweeps top CBC postseason honors

Columbia Basin Conference names volleyball all-stars

East Oregonian

Culver swept to a 10-0 record in Columbia Basin Conference play this season, and also swept the top spot on the end of year all-league lists.

Culver's Lynze Schonkeker was voted Player of the Year, Emma Hoke was Libero of the Year, and Randi Viggiano was Coach of the Year.

The Bulldogs had three other first-team selections, while a pair of Weston-McEwen TigerScots and a Heppner Mustang rounded out the squad.

TigerScots Ali Schroeder and Sara von Borstel

See CBC/2B