

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Sports shorts

Mariota sprains knee ligament

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee quarterback Marcus Mariota has a sprained MCL in his right knee that will keep the rookie out of Sunday's home finale with Houston.



Interim coach Mike Mularkey said Monday that Mariota will be re-evaluated after that game and wants to play the season finale at Indianapolis on Jan. 3.

Mularkey said Mariota has not been ruled out of the season finale. The coach said Mariota's injury is less serious than the sprained left knee that kept the quarterback out of two games earlier this season and the rookie wants to play.

Giants' Beckham suspended by NFL

NEW YORK (AP) — Losing control during Sunday's loss to the Panthers will cost Giants star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. one game.

The NFL on Monday suspended Beckham for next

weekend's visit to Minnesota for his conduct against Carolina, when he drew three personal foul penalties. The league cited "multiple violations of safety-related playing rules."

Beckham has the right to appeal the suspension within three business days. Without him, the Giants (6-8) would be missing their best offensive weapon as they try to stay alive in the NFC East race.

Beckham and Panthers cornerback Josh Norman tangled from the beginning of the Panthers' 38-35 victory. At one point, Beckham delivered a diving helmet-to-helmet hit on Norman while blocking.

"It's an awesome feeling. When I chose to come to Seattle, it was for that, to try and have a chance to get into the playoffs and we've done that."

— Fred Jackson

Seattle Seahawks RB on making the playoffs for the first time in his career at age 34. The Seahawks clinched a wild card berth with a 30-13 win over the Cleveland Browns on Sunday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1969 — Pete Maravich sets an NCAA record by hitting 30 of 31 foul shots, and scores 46 points to lead LSU to a 98-89 victory over Georgia.

2003 — Brett Favre passes for 399 yards and four touchdowns a day after his father dies, moving into second place in NFL history for career TD passes while leading the Green Bay Packers to a 41-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders. Favre passes Fran Tarkenton on the NFL's career list with his 343rd career TD throw.

2013 — Peyton Manning finishes 32 for 51 for 400 yards and four touchdown passes to set the single season touchdown mark in Denver's 37-13 win over Houston. Manning, with 51 touchdown passes, passes Tom Brady (50 in 2007) for the most in a single season in NFL history.

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

Prep Roundup

Knights put away Prospectors

Fredy Vera, Xavier Rambo combine for 46 points in win

East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Fredy Vera netted 24 points and Xavier Rambo added 22 points to lead the Irrigon Knights to their seventh win on the season with a 67-46 victory over Grant Union on Monday.

It's the second-straight game Vera has put up more than 20 points in a game, and Irrigon coach Mitch Thompson said that everything is working for Vera right now.

"He's pretty efficient overall and he just knows when to attack," said Thompson. "He has a knack for the ball and he's playing really well."

Thompson said Grant Union gave the Knights (7-1) a tough go in the first half, but he was happy to see the team work out the kinks in the second half.

"Our boys played through mistakes and just took better care of the ball in the second (half)," he said. "We valued each possession better, settled down and played better defense, too."

Junior Hayden White was Irrigon's only other scorer to reach double figures as the 6-2 guard netted 13 points.

Irrigon next plays today when they travel to Mac-Hi for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

THE DALLES 75, MAC-HI 42 — At The Dalles, the Mac-Hi Prospectors suffered their fifth loss in six games on Monday with a loss at

the hands of The Dalles Riverhawks.

The Dalles jumped on Mac-Hi early, putting the Prospectors in an 11-0 deficit before two minutes had expired on the game clock and went on to lead 27-8 at the end of the first quarter.

"We had a gameplan to control the tempo, but (The Dalles) just wanted to run and run," said Mac-Hi coach Jordan Poyner. "We didn't play defense very well and we just couldn't put the ball in the hole again tonight."

Poyner said that it's been difficult for his team to work on its issues because of a lack of practice time. The Prospectors have played nine games in the last 14 days, and have had only three practices in that same time period.

"Guys aren't at 100 percent, so it's been a little difficult," he said.

"We play again tomorrow and then they'll get a week off for Christmas break, which will be nice."

Mac-Hi (4-6) next hosts Irrigon today at 7:30 p.m.

MHS (4-6) 8 10 12 12 - 42
TDHS (2-5) 27 16 19 13 - 75
MAC-HI — H. Yensen 16, L. Garcia 7, B. DeBore 5, A. Zaragoza 5, A. Garcia 4, R. Walton 2, A. Martinez 2, M. Garcia 1, M. Perez, A. Garcia, A. Delgado.
THE DALLES — J. Miller 19, C. Walker 18, C. Noonan 15, D. Murr 15, E. Flores 4, B. Belanger 4, D. Seufaleimua, D. Arellano.
3-pointers — MHS 4, TDHS 8. Free throws — MHS 10-20, TDHS 9-12. Fouls — MHS 12, TDHS 22.

HEPPNER 52, ECHO 39 — At Echo, Weston Putman scored 29 points and drilled five 3-pointers to help lift the Heppner Mustangs over the Echo Cougars on Monday.

The Mustangs, who were playing without key players Patrick Collins and Logan Grieb in the game, trailed Echo 18-16 at half-

See PREPS/3B

College Basketball

Oregon rallies for win over Alabama

Oregon forward Jordan Bell (1) slam dunks the ball during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Alabama, Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, in Birmingham, Ala.

AP Photo/Butch Dill



Ducks erase 12-point halftime deficit

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Dillon Brooks scored 23 points and Tyler Dorsey made four free throws over the final 15 seconds to lift Oregon to a come-from-behind 72-68 win over Alabama Monday night at Legacy Arena.

The Ducks (10-2), once ranked as high as 15th, won their third straight game after battling injury problems. This time they trailed by 12 points at halftime before coming back from the locker room hot.

Brooks made 9 of 15 shots and also dished out five assists for Oregon, which shot 53 percent in the second half. Jordan Bell added 15 points, Chris Boucher 11 and Dorsey 10. Boucher and Dorsey were both scoreless at the half.

Justin Coleman led Alabama (7-3) with a career-high 24 points and had six assists. Riley Norris scored 12 for the Tide, which came in riding a five-game winning streak.

OREGON STATE 82, QUINNIPIAC 61 — (AP) At Corvallis, Tres Tinkle scored a career-high 23 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and had three steals, and Oregon State defeated Quinnipiac 82-61 on Monday night.

Gary Payton II scored 19 points with seven rebounds and three steals, while Drew Eubanks

See COLLEGE/3B

NBA

Schroder, Hawks beat short-handed Trail Blazers

Lillard misses first game of career

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dennis Schroder took advantage of Portland's depleted backcourt to score 18 points and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 106-97 on Monday night for their fourth straight win.

Schroder, Atlanta's backup point guard, lost a tooth in a collision early in the fourth period but still led six Atlanta scorers in double figures.

The Trail Blazers were without both starting guards, leading scorers Damon Lillard and C.J. McCollum. Lillard has plantar fasciitis in his left foot and missed a game for the first time in his career, ending his streak of playing in 275 consecutive games.

McCollum has two sprained ankles. Lillard said he has been playing with a sore foot for a few weeks.

Allen Crabbe had 19 points



AP Photo/David Goldman

Portland Trail Blazers' Mason Plumlee, left, puts up a shot against Atlanta Hawks' Paul Millsap, rear, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, in Atlanta.

for Portland in a fill-in start. Tim Frazier, making his first start of the season, had 12 points and seven assists.

The Trail Blazers have lost four straight.

Portland's Maurice Harkless had 14 points, including three straight baskets in the second quarter — a 3-pointer, a left-handed layup and a jam. Mason Plumlee, who had 11 points, added two free throws to cut

Atlanta's lead to 40-39.

Kent Bazemore's drive for a basket ended Portland's run. The Hawks pushed the lead to 55-43 at halftime and continued to pull away in the third period.

The last tie of the game was 11-11. The Hawks scored the next five points to take a lead they wouldn't lose.

A basket by Thabo Sefolosha early in the final quarter stretched

the lead to 21 points at 79-58. The Trail Blazers cut the deficit below 10 points late in the game but couldn't make a serious charge.

Sefolosha, Mike Scott and Jeff Teague had 13 points for Atlanta. Paul Millsap had 12.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Frazier, who started three games with Philadelphia last season as a rookie, made his first start for Portland. He logged 47 minutes, 35 seconds. ... The Blazers fell to 1-9 against the Eastern Conference this season. ... Gerald Henderson had 12 points.

Hawks: Bazemore had 12 points. ... C Eddy Tavares was inactive after being recalled from the Austin Spurs of the NBA Development League.

STREAK ENDS

Lillard said he had to think about protecting his health for the remainder of the season instead of preserving the streak.

"It's more about not trying to be extra tough, worried about the streak or anything like that," Lillard said. "It's something I can take care of now and try to just handle it now as opposed to it lingering on for the rest of the season."

Lillard said he expects to miss only "one game, maybe two."

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: At New Orleans on Wednesday night.