

Sports shorts

Curry-less Warriors blown out by Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — The Golden State Warriors flopped without Stephen Curry, getting blown out for just their second loss of the season behind 23 points for Dallas’ J.J. Barea in a 114-91 victory for the Mavericks on Wednesday night.

Curry missed his first game of the season with a lower left leg bruise that might keep the NBA’s leading scorer and reigning MVP out again Thursday at Houston. But the Warriors (29-2) still have the best 31-game start in NBA history, a game better than four teams.

Klay Thompson, the other half of the Splash Brothers, couldn’t make up for Curry’s absence, going 4 of 15 for 10 points.



Pacquiao set to return on April 9 versus Bradley

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Manny Pacquiao will return to the ring April 9 for the first time since losing to Floyd Mayweather Jr., and it will be against a familiar foe.

Promoter Bob Arum said Wednesday that Pacquiao will fight Timothy Bradley at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for a third time in his first bout since losing



a decision to Mayweather in the richest fight ever. Pacquiao reinjured a shoulder in that fight and was ineffective against Mayweather in dropping the unanimous decision.

Top Rank spokesman Lee Samuels said the pay-per-view fight has not officially been signed, but that both fighters had agreed to terms. Pacquiao was given a \$2 million advance on his guaranteed \$20 million purse, Samuels said.

The fight will not be marketed as Pacquiao’s last fight, though he had talked previously about just one more fight before running for Senate in his native Philippines.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1974 — Catfish Hunter, baseball’s first free agent, signs with the New York Yankees.

1988 — A blinding fog rolls in during the second quarter of the Chicago Bears’ 20-12 NFC semifinal victory over the Philadelphia Eagles at Soldier Field in Chicago. The fog obscures the game from most of the 65,534 fans present and a national television audience that could watch only ground-level shots.

2004 — Louisville snaps Boise State’s 22-game winning streak in the highest-scoring Liberty Bowl ever with a 44-40 win. The Cardinals (11-1) match a school record for wins in a season.

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YEAR IN SPORTS

Titles roll in for locals in 2015

Softball, football championships headline list of year’s best moments

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Counting down the year in local sports is never an easy task and 2015 was no exception. Record books were rewritten, titles won and

program firsts achieved in every season.

New additions to local trophy cases rolled in like so many tumbleweeds as championships were claimed at the state, regional and even national levels by teams in the East Oregonian’s readership.

With just 10 spots to award in our year-end countdown, some tough decisions had to be made and some great moments had to be omitted.

Local impact and historical significance were the two main criteria for these rankings, but other

factors like improbability also came into play and in some cases made a huge a difference.

When push came to shove, it was a magical two days in June that ended up stealing the top spot. Championship runs in Autumn accounted for the second and third slots, and a pair of events that occurred within hollering distance in Pendleton rounded out the top five.

1. Softball season ends with bang: It may not be a high profile

sport, but softball thrust itself into the spotlight once again in 2015 as four local teams reached their state championships and two claimed titles.

It was an all-EO affair in the 2A/1A title game played June 5 at Oregon State Softball Complex in Corvallis as Pilot Rock met league foe Weston-McEwen for all the marbles.

Pilot Rock came to bat in the bottom of the seventh inning locked in a 2-2 tie, and the Rockets secured

See TOP 10/3B

Prep Wrestling

Bucks end year on high note



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pendleton’s Morgan Holcomb (152 pounds) controls the hands of Walla Walla’s Jahmal Mangarero before pinning him later in the bout Wednesday in Pendleton.

Pendleton takes first place and yields 16 placers in final meet of 2015

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Morgan Holcomb was ready to have some fun.

After rolling through the 152-pound bracket at the Rollin Schimmel Memorial Tournament on Tuesday, the Pendleton junior stepped onto the mat in the first place match and stared across at his opponent — which happened to be

teammate Scott Chambers.

But in that instance there were no bragging rights, no hyped competition, and no hard feelings — it was about having fun.

“We wrestle eachother every day in practice and it’s just fun for the experience in an actual match,” said Holcomb after the win.

As tough as Holcomb said the match was, the junior wrestler came out on top with a 14-2 major decision. The win improves Holcomb’s

season record to 17-0 and also notches his fourth tournament victory of the season.

“It’s a little tougher wrestling a teammate because you’re working moves on your partner (Chambers) in practice,” said Holcomb. “It was a little different today because Scott had some new moves he put on me and he almost had me a few times.”

From a coaches’ perspective, seeing teammates wrestling in the title match brings a little different

feeling than most matches do.

“Of course you want to see both guys going for the title,” said Pendleton coach Fred Phillips. “But we told them that we’ll be sitting there but we won’t be coaching ... just figure it out on your own and have some fun.”

On the team side, the Buckaroos took first place in the tournament with 276.5 points and finished with 16 placers. Walla Walla placed

See WRESTLING/2B

Prep Roudnup

Mustangs boys pull out victory on NBA stage

Collins turns in another double-double to lift Heppner

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — The Heppner Mustangs held on to earn their tenth win of the season, defeating Sherman at the Moda Center, home of the NBA’s Portland Trail Blazers.

“It was a really cool experience for them,” said Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm. “It really challenged their depth perception with shooting without a wall (behind the

basket) ... and with only the NBA 3-point line.”

Patrick Collins grabbed another double-double to lead the way for the Mustangs (10-1), netting a team-high 19 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Weston Putman added 12 points and 10 rebounds and C.J. Kindle also added 11 points on 4-8 shooting.

As a team, Heppner shot 44 percent from the floor and won the battle of the boards 26-20.

Heppner next plays at Irrigon on Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. to begin league play.

HHS (10-1) 18 17 10 15 — 60
SCHS (5-4) 14 14 12 15 — 55
HEPPNER — P Collins 18, W Putman 12, C.J. Kindle 11, C. Hedman 6, L. Grieb 5, J. Lindsay 4,

K. Clark 2, K. Murray 2, T. Bredfield, K. Smith, W. Stregall, K. Currin.
SHERMAN — M. Martin 19, Justesen 17, I. Coles 10, T. Martin 9, A. Fields, Blake, Winslow, K. Coles, Lawrence, Lloyd, L. Martin.
3-pointers — HHS 1, SCHS 0. Free throws — HHS 13-21, SCHS 9-10. Fouls — HHS 8, SCHS 15.

Fouled out — T. Martin (SCHS), I. Coles (SCHS).

HERMISTON 53, SKYVIEW (WA) 40 — At Barlow, the Hermiston Bulldogs finished off the Barlow Trail Classic with its second-straight win, this time a 13-point victory over Skyview on Wednesday.

Austin James led the Bulldogs with 18 points, while Tre Neal was close behind with 13 points. The Bulldogs nailed 13-13 free throws in the fourth quarter, led by James

who went 7-7.

Hermiston (5-5) next plays on Saturday when they host Kennewick (WA) at 7:30 p.m.

HHS (5-5) 17 16 5 15 — 53
SHS (0-1) 7 16 14 3 — 40
HERMISTON — A. James 18, T. Neal 13, C. Flores 8, D. Neal 7, A. Naillon 7.
SKYVIEW — Cheney 15, Martin 9, Nicholson 5, Scheidel 4, Wajko 3, Schumaker 1.
3-pointers — HHS 2, SHS 4. Free throws — HHS 23-29, SHS 8-15. Fouls — HHS 15, SHS 21. Fouled out — Scheidel (SHS).

PENDLETON 68, CRES-CENT VALLEY 65 — At Wilsonville, the Pendleton Buckaroos finished up the Holiday Inn Winter Invitational on Wednesday

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