EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

Sports shorts

Browns hire MLB exec. to front office

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns have made an out-of-the-batter's box hire.

Paul DePodesta, a baseball executive with 20 years of major league experience, has been appointed their new chief strategy officer. Browns owner Jimmy Haslam has brought in DePodesta to help his team with decision making.

DePodesta began his baseball career as an intern with the Indians in 1996 and worked in Oakland alongside GM Billy Beane, whose "Moneyball" strategies helped the Athletics overcome budget constraints and win.

DePodesta admitted he has a lot to learn but he wants "nothing more than to help bring consistent, championship caliber football back to Cleveland."

MLB players sue Al-Jazeera over documentary

(AP) — Two Major League Baseball players have filed defamation lawsuits against Al-Jazeera America over statements made in a documentary about performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

FACES

Howard

Ryan Zimmerman of the Washington Nationals and Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies filed the suits Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Washington. The suits refer to the documentary "The Dark Side: Secrets of Sports Doping," which Al-Jazeera America broadcast Dec. 27.

The suit alleges that Charles Sly, a pharmacist who appeared in the documentary, made false statements when he said Zimmerman and Howard both took a human growth hormone. The documentary also suggested that Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning took HGH while recovering from neck surgery.

"Everyone's just kind of fatigued about it, to be honest. Everyone wants closure to it all, just wants to know one way or another."

— James Laurnitis
St. Louis Rams linebacker on the team's possible relocation to Los Angeles. The Rams, San Diego Chargers and Oakland Raiders all filed relocation applications with NFL this week aimed at moving to the largest vacant market in the US. They will be reviewed by league staff and three committees of owners that will meet in New York on Wednesday and Thursday. All owners will meet in Houston next week and are expected to vote on whether to allow any of the teams to move.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1994 — Nancy Kerrigan is attacked after practice at the U.S. figure skating championships in Detroit. Shane Stant clubs Kerrigan on the knee and flees the scene. Later that evening, Scott Davis wins the men's U.S. title.

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

HERMISTON

Bulldogs return home with big win

Hermiston pitches shutout in second quarter to roll past Tigers

La Grande 42
Hermiston 56

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

After a holiday season that was spent playing some of the toughest competition on the west coast, the Hermiston girls basketball team thought it had an easy win against the 4A squad La Grande Tigers on Tuesday night.

However the eighth-ranked Bulldogs quickly learned it wouldn't be that easy. After a lackadaisical first quarter that saw the Tigers jump to a 17-12 lead with the Bulldogs committing five turnovers, the Bulldogs clamped down in a big way to hold the Tigers scoreless in the second period en route to a 56-42 win.

"We've talked about running a fast-paced set, we ran a press to get us going tonight," Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert said. "I think what we did was effective, we just missed some easy looks and got frustrated, forced it, made some turnovers, missed another easy shot. It just gets in your head at times."

Hoffert wondered if the opponent didn't factor into the slow start a little, and senior guard Jansen Edmiston agreed. Hoffert noted that against the Central Catholics or West Linns of the world, the slow starts don't happen. It's simply a matter of focus, he said.

"We play those teams, we want to see those teams," Hoffert said. "We just didn't see La Grande as one of those teams. A little respect goes to La Grande. They came in here hell-bent to knock us off, and they competed well and had a good game."

La Grande certainly wasn't taking the Bulldogs lightly. Guards Kylin Collman and Avery Albrecht attacked Hermiston's man-to-man defense early, getting to the rim and forcing fouls. The Bulldogs

See HERMISTON/2B

Staff photo by Sam Barbee

Hermiston guard Jansen Edmiston (20) watches a layup attempt as La Grande guard Kali Avila (right) defend during Hermiston's 56-42 win Tuesday night at the Dawghouse.

PENDELTON

Buckaroos avoid 'Sand' storm

Pendleton puts clamp on Baker star, extends winning streak

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Focus.

It's been a theme for the Pendleton girls basketball team all season, and one they've struggled with at times while trying to find their identity.

After a sharp start in Tuesday's non-league game against Baker, the Buckaroos appeared to be getting a little hazy-eyed once again as they clung to a slim lead.

Baker 45
Pendleton 59

But a key timeout midway through the third quarter snapped them back to 20/20 vision and Pendleton dominated down the stretch to close out the Bulldogs 59-45 at Warberg Court.

Despite taking the lead for good in the middle of the first quarter, Pendleton was never able to rest on its cushion thanks to Baker's Brie Sand.

Every time Pendleton (4-7) seemed ready to put the game on ice, the guard's smooth jump shot and aggressive drives brought Baker (6-6) back into the fray, and her inside bucket with 3:52 left in the third quarter made it a 40-38 Pendleton lead.

That was when Bucks coach Michelle Gomez called the pivotal timeout, and apparently conveyed a message the players needed to hear.

"We had great defense on her all game but our help wasn't there, or weren't comfortable leaving their man," Gomez said. "So we allowed them to (and said), 'You know what, we'll (as coaches) take the blame for it. Help out on (Sand) a little bit more.' And I think they were a little bit more

See PENDLETON/2B

Pendleton's Kalan McGlothan shoots the ball guarded Paige Burchard (22) and Brie Sand in the Bucks' 59-45 win agains the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Prep Roundup

Mac-Hi fights off fatigue for win No. 8

Pioneers erases late deficit to earn victory

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Mac-Hi Pioneers used some second-half magic on Tuesday night, overcoming some fatigue and a fourth-quarter deficit to defeat DeSales (WA) 37-33.

The Pioneers trailed by three points at the end of the third quarter, and coach Brooke Garton feared that the team might have some tired legs after playing a game on Monday night. However, the Pioneers were able to find a second wind and earn their eighth win of the season.

"The girls wanted the win and got after it," said Garton. "It was an exciting game and they worked really hard. Everything is falling into place (for us) and I hope we can keep this momentum going strong."

Sydney Richwine was the Pioneers' top scorer with 15 points and also added eight rebounds, while Brittany Erb netted eight points and grabbed eight boards. Brooke Smiley was the teams' top rebounder with 13 boards.

Mac-Hi dominated the battle of the boards as a team 38-14, with Brooke Smiley leading the way with 13 total rebounds. The Pioneers also combined for six assists and 15 steals.

The Pioneers play again next Tuesday, when they host Waitsburg (WA) for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

DHS (0-1)	8	8	13	4	—	33
MHS (8-5)	9	10	7	11	—	37

DESALES — T. Acock 14, L. Lyons 9, E. Baumgart 5, Maiuri 5, K. Burrato, H. Burrato, A. Hader, Olsen.

MAC-HI — S. Richwine 15, B. Erb 8, S. Tveidt 6, B. Smiley 5, S. Carter 2, K. Crisman, B. Jones 0, B. Hernandez, A. Biggs.

3-pointers — DHS 5, MHS 0. Free throws — DHS 2-7, MHS 5-17. Fouls — DHS 18, MHS 14.

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN (WA) 53, WESTON-MCEWEN 44 — At Athena, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots' could not hang on to a second-half lead, as Liberty Christian stormed ahead in the fourth quarter to grab the win on Tuesday night.

The TigerScots trailed 25-15 at halftime, but exploded for 17 points alone in the third quarter to grab a 32-30 lead at the end of the third quarter. However, Liberty Christian found its rhythm in the fourth quarter, outscoring Weston-McEwen 23-12 in the final frame.

"It was a physical game all around," said Weston-McEwen coach Amber Doremus. "The girls played hard and didn't back down."

Ammarae Broncheau led Weston-McEwen in scoring with 11 points on 3-8 shooting, and added in five steals. Sarah Finifrock pitched in eight points and seven rebounds.

As a team, Weston-McEwen made only 15 of 62 shots (24 percent) from the floor, and also made only 11 of 26 attempts (42 percent) from the free throw line.

The TigerScots next play at Culver on Friday at 6 p.m. to begin league play.

See PREPS/2B