

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016

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## Sports shorts

### Warriors win 36th straight at home

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 31 points and Draymond Green added 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Golden State Warriors to their 36th straight regular-season home win, 111-103 over the Miami Heat on Monday night.

Klay Thompson added 17 points to help the Warriors (36-2) get halfway to Chicago's record win total of 72 set in 1996-97 three games before the midpoint of the season.

Dwyane Wade scored 20 points and Chris Bosh and Gerald Green added 15 apiece for the Heat, who had won eight of their past 11 games here.



### NFL suspends Burfict three games

CINCINNATI (AP) — Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict has been suspended for the first three games of next season for repeated violations of the NFL's

rules against dangerous hits on opposing players. His most recent penalty was for targeting Steelers receiver Antonio Brown after an incompletion during Pittsburgh's 18-16 playoff win on Saturday night. The penalty for hitting Brown in the head moved the Steelers into range for the winning field goal in the final seconds.

The NFL noted that Burfict had already been fined four times for dangerous hits on players during the season. The NFL said it's also reviewing the conduct of other players and coaches during the acrimonious game.

"We're going to get them between the lines, between the plays, the whistle. So I mean, he's going to be sore after the game. That's how I see it, man.

He comes out on a screen, he better not come at [me]. I'm cutting him. That's where I'm at with it."

### — Darian Stewart

Denver Broncos safety promising retribution for a helmet-to-helmet hit by Pittsburgh Steelers center Cody Wallace on Denver safety David Bruton Jr. during their regular season game in December. The Broncos and Steelers meet in the divisional round of the playoffs on Sunday in Denver.

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1958 — The NCAA rules committee makes the first change in football scoring rules since 1912 by adding the 2-point conversion.

2008 — The Green Bay Packers beat the Seattle Seahawks 42-20 to reach the NFC championship game. Ryan Grant recovers from two fumbles that put the Packers down 14-0 after only four minutes. Grant sets a team postseason record by running for 201 yards, and scores three times.

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

## EOU adds wrestling for both genders

### Mountaineers will have only women's team in inland northwest region

By SETH DAHLE  
EOU Sports Information

LA GRANDE — Wrestling is officially making its way back to the campus of Eastern Oregon University, Director of Athletics Anji Weissenfluh announced at a press

conference on Monday afternoon.

Amidst reporters and cameras inside Quinn Coliseum, Weissenfluh announced that EOU will be adding women's wrestling and reinstating men's wrestling beginning in the fall of 2016.

"The addition of the programs

will allow us to attract local and regional talent," said Weissenfluh. "Eastern and Central Oregon have had and have a rich history of success in wrestling."

EOU received a startup fund of

See EOU WRESTLING/3B

### College Football

## Gutsy call pays off for Alabama

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Alabama needed it all to win the toughest national title game it had ever played during the Nick Saban dynasty. All of its power. All of its speed.

Even one gutsy trick. Derrick Henry, O.J. Howard and Kenyan Drake hit No. 1 Clemson with long touchdowns, and Alabama outlasted the dynamic play of dual-threat quarterback Deshaun Watson to win the College Football Playoff championship 45-40 on Monday night.

The Crimson Tide (14-1)  
See CHAMPIONSHIP/3B

NCAA  
Championship

Alabama  
45

Clemson  
40



Alabama's O.J. Howard kisses the championship trophy after the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Clemson Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz. Alabama won 45-40.

AP Photo/Chris Carlson

### HERMISTON

## Bulldogs rally to defeat No. 4 Storm

### Hermiston uses 12-3 run in 4th quarter to complete comeback on Summit

By SAM BARBEE  
East Oregonian

After trailing most of the game, the Hermiston boys basketball team rallied in the second half to down the No. 4 Summit Storm 56-53 Saturday in Hermiston to give the Storm just its second loss of the season.

Before taking a 41-39 lead with 49 seconds left in the third quarter, the Bulldogs' (8-6) last lead was 5-4 in the first quarter. For interim head coach Dave Ego, the comeback was an indication of the improved "attitude and work ethic" displayed by his group, which started last season 2-12.

"It says our attitudes getting better," he said. "Not hanging your head, and doing the things that we need to do. They kept working hard and it was a good effort down the line."

Early on, the height of Summit (8-2) gave Hermiston (8-6) some problems. Playing without Ire Neal, Summit's tall front line affected numerous Hermiston shots at the rim, but led just 16-14 after the first quarter. Hermiston started a small lineup — five guards — and wanted to run the Storm into oblivion.

It wasn't quite working, though,

From  
Saturday

Summit  
53

Hermiston  
56



Hermiston guard Chance Flores (1) rises for a layup over Summit's Nick Mason during the Bulldogs' 56-53 win Saturday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by Sam Barbee

and Summit's Jack Hurley hit a 3-pointer with 4:01 on the clock in the second quarter to take its largest lead of the game of eight points at 24-16.

But, as happened all afternoon,

Hermiston rallied to cut the halftime deficit to just three at 30-27 behind the aggressive fast-breaking offense Ego employs, and a strong effort by 6-foot-5 senior Preston Peterson off the bench.

"Going small like we did, we knew we could out-run 'em," Ego said. "That worked out for us. Peterson came in and played well and ran the floor well for us defensively, and that was necessary for us. It was a good team effort."

Summit tried to extend its lead in the third quarter, leading by as many as five after Cam Baker's putback with 2:51 left to move the count to 39-34, but a 7-0 Bulldogs run gave them its first lead since the second quarter, and the fourth quarter began with things tied up at 41.

Then Hermiston's offense came alive with help from its defense.

"We did a good job of closing out and contesting," Ego said of his team's defense against a Summit squad that likes to, and can, shoot 3s, holding the Storm to just four. "We did a pretty good job of getting the post people inside. That's another weakness for us especially with who we started."

Summit committed 24 turnovers on the day, while Hermiston made just nine and committed back-to-back turnovers just one. Hermiston started the fourth quarter with a massive 12-2 run with Dayshawn Neal, who finished with 15 points, and Chance Flores (17) doing most of the damage off those turnovers. Austin Naillon's 3-pointer with 2:55 to go in the final period gave Hermiston its largest lead of ten points at 53-43, and Summit looked dead. Naillon finished with 20 points to lead all scorers.

But the experience of the Storm showed as they made things interesting down the stretch.

In a minute, Summit had cut the lead in half at 53-48 when Russell Wells hit a 3, his only basket of the game, then, after Neal made one of two free throws, Hurley hit a 3 to

See BULLDOGS/3B

## Seahawks thaw out from Minnesota, move on in postseason

### Carroll calls slow start, comeback 'really cool'

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Despite all of his rapid optimism, there came a point in the NFC wild-card game where doubt crept into Pete Carroll's mind.

Not when the Seattle Seahawks were watching Blair Walsh line up for a potential game-winning 27-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Earlier. About 15 minutes of game-time earlier when the Seahawks were looking at a 9-0 deficit and had done nothing offensively.

"When they went to 9-zip it was a moment of, 'Oh boy, we haven't scored once, how are we going to score twice?' There was a moment there questioning

"When they went to 9-zip it was a moment of, 'Oh boy, we haven't scored once, how are we going to score twice?'"

— Pete Carroll,  
Seattle Seahawks head coach

what is going to happen next." Carroll said on Monday.

"And we came right back and got going, and got our score, and got the turnover and just flurried to the lead. Made it kind of fun. We were back in it. I thought the whole thing was really cool."

Thawed out from the sub-zero temperatures in Minnesota, the Seahawks were

See SEAHAWKS/3B



Minnesota Vikings kicker Blair Walsh (3) reacts after missing a field goal during the second half of an NFL wild-card football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, in Minneapolis. The Seahawks won 10-9.

AP Photo/Jim Mone