

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Seat license holders sue Rams

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A second lawsuit has been filed over the Rams' move to Los Angeles, this time by holders of personal seat licenses who say they should retain their right to seat licenses and season tickets in California.

The suit was filed last week in St. Louis County. Messages seeking comment from the Rams were not returned.

The suit alleges that the PSL agreement is valid through 2025, but does not stipulate where the games are played. It seeks class-action status for more than 30,000 other PSL holders who retained their licenses through the 2015 season.

Bryant tops All-Star starters list as top vote getter

(AP) — Kobe Bryant is the leading vote-getter for his final NBA All-Star Game, and Kawhi Leonard and Kyle Lowry made late moves to join him in the starting lineup.

Leonard will start in his first All-Star Game and Lowry will start on his home court in Toronto.

Bryant had 1.9 million votes and was selected an All-Star on Thursday for the 18th time. MVP Stephen Curry of Golden State was next with 1.6 million. They will be joined in the Western Conference lineup by Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, and San Antonio's Leonard.

Cleveland's LeBron James and Indiana's Paul George will start in the East frontcourt with New York's Carmelo Anthony. Miami's Dwyane Wade starts at guard with Lowry, who overcame a 32,000-vote deficit to Cleveland's Kyrie Irving.

FACES



Bryant

"He was playing catch with my little brother, and my little sister asked if he could climb the tree. He never actually got up."

— David Long

Michigan Wolverines verbal commit on coach Jim Harbaugh, who has been at the forefront for his recent recruiting antics, including climbing a tree while on a visit to Long's house in Los Angeles earlier this week. Long committed to Michigan after the visit, saying Harbaugh is a "really laid-back guy." Harbaugh also recently spent the night at a recruit's house in Arizona, and even went with the recruit to school.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1920 — The New York Yankees announce they will be the first team to wear uniform numbers, according to the player's position in batting order.

1962 — Bob Feller and Jackie Robinson are elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Robinson becomes the first African-American to enter the Hall.

2006 — Kobe Bryant scores 81 points — the second-highest total in NBA history — and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 122-104.

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

MISSION

Sensational sophomore driving Golden Eagles winning streak

In this Dec. 14, 2015 file photo, Nixyaawii's Mary Stewart shoots the ball over Stanfield's Melissa Banderas in the Golden Eagles 52-30 win against the Tigers in Stanfield.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris/file



Mary Stewart has been key addition to Nixyaawii lineup this season

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Nixyaawii girls basketball team can earn an enviable distinction when it takes the court at Joseph tonight.

The Golden Eagles have won their last 15 games in a row, the longest active streak in OSAA girls basketball this season, and one more would move them past the '07-08 squad for the longest in program history.

The .500 Joseph squad wouldn't appear to be a team capable of ending that run, and with the way No. 3 Nixyaawii (15-1) has been playing of late, it's conceivable it could enter the district tournament on a 22-game roll.

A big reason for the Golden Eagles' success this season has been the play of sophomore guard Mary Stewart.

Having recently turned 15 years old she's got awhile before she'll be driving a car, but listening to her teammates and coach it's clear she's in the driver's seat when it comes to Nixyaawii's current win streak.

"You see good, talented kids, but you don't see kids that can really come in and make everybody else around them a little better," said Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern. "And I think that's just what's amazing about her."

Stewart is averaging 21.8 points in the Golden Eagles' five league wins and about 19 points a game for the season. She's recorded six double-doubles and has posted season-highs of 33 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists.

"I just try to be a team player," she said during a break in practice on Wednesday.

Unselfish and humble by nature, Stewart can be a hard nut to crack based on first impressions. She can

See STEWART/2B

UMATILLA

Coffey scores career high in Vikings win

Junior forward nets 14 points off bench to lead charge

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Taija Coffey didn't play basketball last year.

The Umatilla junior forward took the year off to focus on other things, and now — halfway through her junior season — things are beginning to click. She led Umatilla in scoring Thursday night with 14 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and swiped four steals off the bench in the Vikings' runaway 49-20 victory at The Pit.

"I think she loves coming off the bench more than she likes starting, to tell you the truth," Umatilla (14-4, 4-0) coach Scott Bow said.

Coffey started the season in the starting lineup, but quickly moved to the bench when she struggled early on. Bow said it took some time for her to re-adjust to the speed of varsity basketball.

"It all comes with teammates. I couldn't do it without them," she said. "We've all come a long way and what I do comes from within them, too."

But with Thursday's performance — when she recorded a career-high in points, breaking her previous high of 13 points set last week against Vale — she says she once again is



Umatilla's Sidney Webb (23) tries to move into the lane against Riverside's Alondra Caldera (left) and Brenda Avalos during the Vikings' 49-20 win Thursday in Umatilla.

Staff photo by Sam Barbee

Girls Hoops



Riverside
20



Umatilla
49

comfortable on the hardwood.

"I don't have that thought in my head of, 'Oh, I didn't play last year,'" she said. "Now I'm just comfortable and I've gotten back in it. Again, it's just like with my teammates. It's that time of the season. We all just got together and everything's just cool."

Bow says that having her in the right spots to be able to succeed has also helped her improvement.

"I think I did a little better job

putting her in better situations," Bow said. "This is usually that point of the year that coaches see their teams starting to excel. Those kids that really start figuring it out and start peaking, and (Coffey's) one of those kids right now."

But Coffey wasn't the only Viking to play well Thursday night. Umatilla's defense was absolutely

See VIKINGS/2B

PENDLETON

Buckaroos win at Hood River

Pendleton rout aided by forfeits

East Oregonian

HOOD RIVER — The Pendleton Buckaroos made the trip down I-84 for a dual with the Hood River Eagles on Thursday night and head home with a 51-20 victory.

"We came out and competed hard," said

Pendleton coach Fred Phillips. "Anytime we can get a league win it's a good thing."

The Buckaroos were helped out by five forfeits for Hood River at 132, 145,

160, 170, and 180, though the Buckaroos still held a 21-20 advantage in the nine matches that were wrestled on Thursday.

"It was a little uneventful coming over here, knowing how many forfeits they would have," Phillips said, "but the kids didn't let up, and went out and competed."

Pendleton's Marcus

See BUCKAROOS/2B