

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

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1B

Sports shorts

MLB forms new diversity program

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball has hired Tyrone Brooks from the Pittsburgh Pirates as senior director of its new front office and field staff diversity pipeline program.



The program is designed to increase the pool minority and female candidates for on-field and baseball operations positions.

Brooks, 42, had been Pittsburgh's director of player personnel. He will report to Chief Legal Officer Dan Halem.

He previously worked for the Atlanta Braves and Cleveland Indians.

Renee Tirado was hired by MLB as senior director of recruitment and will report to Steven Gonzalez, a senior vice president and deputy general counsel for labor and human resources. She spent the past three years as head of diversity and inclusion, Americas, for AIG.

Seahawks QB picked 1st in Pro Bowl Draft

WAHIAWA, Hawaii (AP) — Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson has been selected with the first pick in the Pro Bowl Draft.

Wilson was chosen Wednesday by Michael Irvin, who is serving as a Pro Bowl legend captain opposite fellow Hall of Famer Jerry Rice.

Rice took New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning with his first pick, the second overall in the draft.

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones went with the third pick to Team Irvin, and Oakland Raiders defensive end Khalil Mack was drafted by Team Rice with the fourth pick.

The draft was held in an airplane hangar at Wheeler Army Airfield, located in the town of Wahiawa in the central plain of Oahu.

Only ticketed military members were allowed to attend the draft.

The Pro Bowl will be played Sunday at Aloha Stadium.

"I'm an African-American quarterback that scares people because they haven't seen nothing that they can compare me to."

— **Cam Newton**
Carolina Panthers QB suggesting race may play a factor in why he has no shortage of detractors despite being a leading league MVP candidate putting up record-breaking numbers that will soon be playing in his first Super Bowl.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

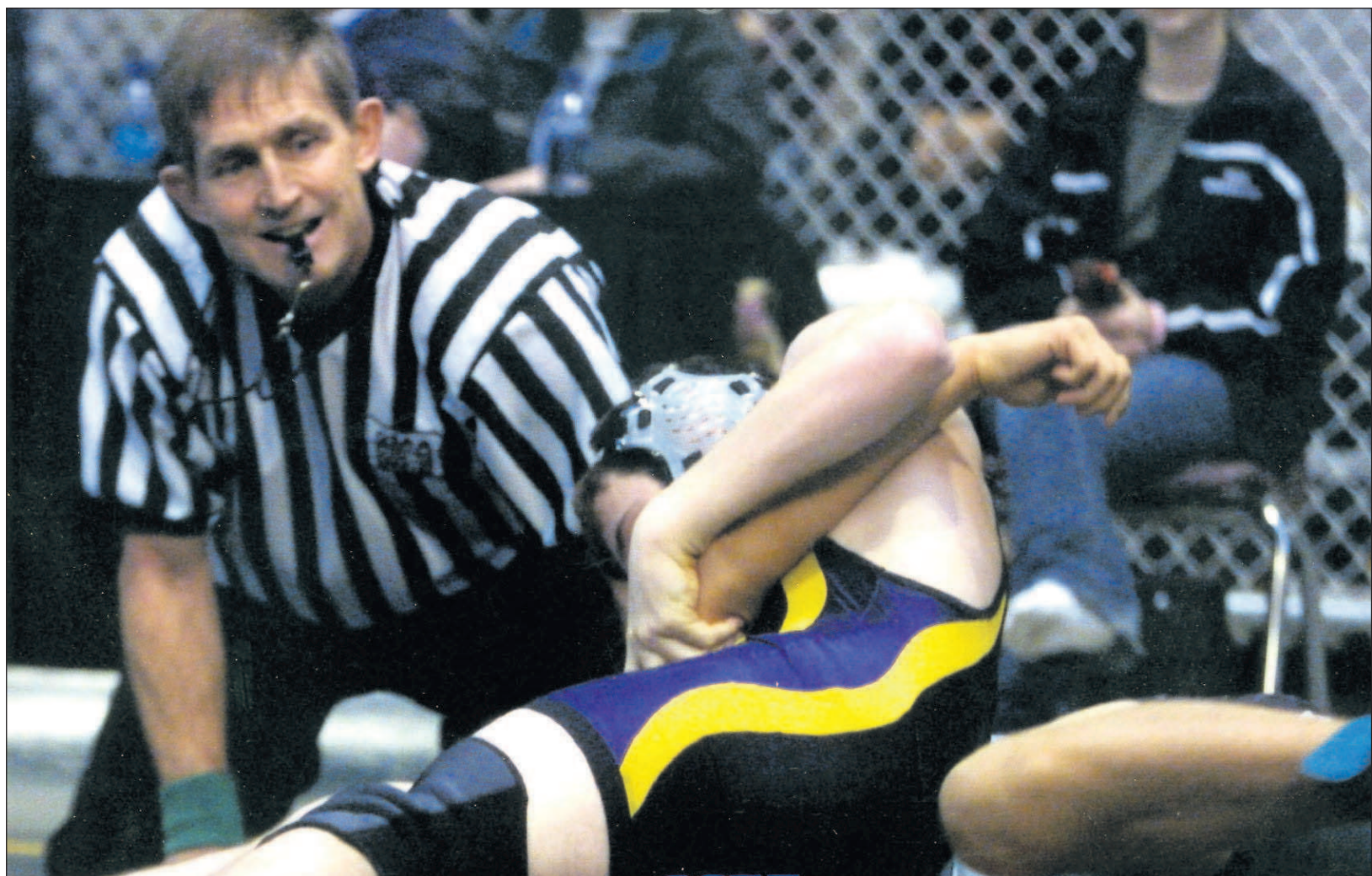
1901 — The American League is founded. The league plans for a 140-game schedule, set player rosters at 14 and recognizes the Players Protective Association, the players union.

1990 — The San Francisco 49ers beat the Denver Broncos 55-10 in the most lopsided Super Bowl. The 49ers are the first repeat NFL champion in a decade and tie the Pittsburgh Steelers with four Super Bowl wins.

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

PENDLETON

Freeman's wait is over



In this 2006 photo, Dale Freeman officiates a match at the OSAA wrestling state championships. The former Pendleton wrestling coach and 15-year officiating veteran was elected to the Oregon Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame earlier this month.

Former Pendleton coach inducted into wrestling hall of fame

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

After seven years of waiting, Dale Freeman finally received the news he had been waiting on.

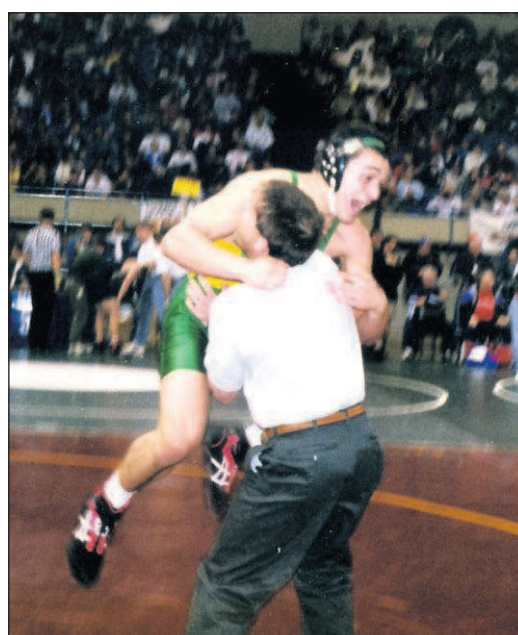
Earlier this month, Freeman opened a letter from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Inside, the letter detailed Freeman's election to the Oregon Chapter of the Hall of Fame for his lifetime service to the sport.

Freeman — who coached the Pendleton High School wrestling program from 1987-2000, and has officiated for the OSAA since 2001 — was elated when he read the letter.

"I was pretty proud," he said. "It's a pretty neat honor and I wasn't sure if it was ever going to happen, but now I feel humbled."

Seven years ago, Freeman was approached by former La Grande wrestling coach Verl Miller — who is on the Oregon Chapter board of directors — who told Freeman 'I'm going to get you in the Hall of Fame.' Two weeks later, Freeman received the application from Miller via email and he filled it out and sent it back and then the waiting game began. Freeman had long believed that the eastern part of the state rarely received the recognition as the western part, and with Miller as the lone eastern representative on the board, he figured it was a long shot.

But earlier this season, Miller walked up to Freeman at the Muilenburg tournament in December and simply said told him 'You're on,'



In this 1998 photo, Pendleton wrestling coach Dale Freeman celebrates with wrestler Eric Arbogast after knocking off the No. 1 seed in a semifinal match at the state tournament.

to which Freeman still did not believe until he received his letter a short time later. Freeman said that receiving this honor is a

'feather in the cap' of his 30-plus year wrestling career.

"Regardless of me being on this, my career is what it was and wrestling was my life," he said. "They talk in the letter about leaving a legacy, we all want to leave something and if I want anybody to remember about me is what I did with kids and helped encourage them to do whatever they needed to do to get through."

The wrestling career for Freeman began when Freeman was in high school as a 112 pound freshman. He had played basketball in junior high, but when he made it to high school and everyone else grew in height and weight but he didn't, he decided that wrestling would be the best way to go.

He completed his high school career as a four-year varsity wrestler, improving from just two wins as a freshman to finishing in third place in the state tournament as a senior.

Following high school, Freeman enrolled at Southern Oregon University and made the varsity wrestling team in his first year. However due to academic issues, Freeman was forced to leave school where he then joined the Air Force, which is where he began to make a connection and realize his potential as a wrestling coach. He was stationed at March Air Force Base in Riverside, California where he and some other airmen he had been working out with got involved with a local youth wrestling club.

See FREEMAN/2B

PENDLETON

Warriors heat up, tame T-Wolves

Walla Walla's deep ball downs Blue Mountain

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The Blue Mountain women's basketball team watched a golden opportunity to take down one of the NWAC East's top teams sail away over their outstretched arms in a frustrating 25 minutes of game time on Wednesday night.

Walla Walla shook its early shooting woes to steal the momentum heading into halftime and quickly built what amounted to an insurmountable lead in the third quarter before putting away the Timberwolves 73-60 at Mosby Court.

The Warriors (15-4, 4-2 East) started the game just 1 for 9 from the field with six misses from beyond



BMCC's Savannah Heugly shoots the ball guarded by Walla Walla's Tabitha Wellsandt in the Timberwolves' 73-60 loss to the Warriors on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

the three-point arc as the T-Wolves (8-12, 2-4) came out red hot hitting five of their first six shots to build a 13-5 lead after Savannah Heugly slipped a pass to a cutting Kylie Collins for an easy layup with 4:06 left in the first quarter.

However, BMCC coach Adam Driver could see the eventual cause of their demise already showing as

the T-Wolves continually were late rotating on defense, giving the cold-shooting Warriors plenty of open looks.

"We were slow on our rotations and leaving their shooters open, and when you do that against Walla Walla they're eventually going to start knocking those things down," he said.

See T-WOLVES/2B

PENDLETON

Blue Mountain men lose sixth straight

T-Wolves implode down stretch, lose to Walla Walla

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Nearing the halfway point of league play and still looking for its first win in the NWAC East, the Blue Mountain men's basketball team needs to catch fire to avoid an early end to its season.

The Timberwolves appeared to have finally created a spark on Wednesday against Walla Walla at Mosby Court, but flamed out down the stretch in a 88-75 loss at Mosby Court.

See BLUE MOUNTAIN/2B



BMCC's La'Quan Hawkins shoots the ball over Walla Walla's Payton Radliff in the Timberwolves' 88-75 loss to Walla Walla on Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris