

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Roush, Rudd lead NASCAR Hall of Fame nominees

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Ron Hornaday Jr., Jack Roush, Ricky Rudd, Ken Squier and Waddell Wilson are joining 15 holdovers as nominees for the 2017 NASCAR Hall of Fame class.

NASCAR announced the additions Wednesday.

Hornaday is a four-time Truck Series champion. Roush has the most owner wins (322) in NASCAR national series history. Rudd held the consecutive starts record until Jeff Gordon broke it last year. Squier is a legendary motorsports broadcasting pioneer. And Wilson is a three-time premier series champion engine builder and three-time Daytona 500-winning crew chief.

From the 20-person nominee list, five inductees will be elected on May 25.

Rangers' Hamilton to start season on disabled list

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Texas Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton will start the season on the disabled list because of an injured left knee.

Rangers assistant general manager Thad Levine said the five-time All-Star, bothered by swelling in the knee, received a stem cell and platelet rich plasma injection Monday, when he was examined by Dr. James Andrews.

Hamilton, the 2010 AL MVP, will be on crutches for seven-to-10 days and is projected to need eight weeks of recovery time. Levine said Hamilton likely would start a minor league rehabilitation assignment in late April and the Rangers hope he will return to their lineup in early May.

Levine says "the reason we are giving him an eight-week program is so we don't cut any corners and give him a full spring training."

"My mother is homeless right now. Right now, she's staying with her sister. I just decided to do what's best for me and my family. It's just a little bump in the road for us. We'll overcome it."

— Peyton Barber

Former Auburn Tigers running back speaking to the media at the NFL Draft Combine on Wednesday on why he decided to declare for the NFL draft as an underclassman. Barber ran for 1,017 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2015 as a redshirt sophomore, and is one of 24 running backs at the combine.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

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1964 — Cassius Clay wins the world heavyweight title when Sonny Liston is unable to answer the bell for the seventh round at Convention Hall in Miami Beach, Fla.

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

PENDLETON

T-Wolves sputter in home finale

Columbia Basin's Sierra Perez stops Emma Bowers (10), of BMCC, from going to the hoop Wednesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Columbia Basin breaks away for lopsided win over BMCC women

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Needing a win to keep its postseason hopes alive, the Blue Mountain women's basketball team looked like it's ready for the offseason on Wednesday against Columbia Basin.

The Timberwolves started fast, but soon were mired in turnovers that allowed the Hawks to break away with a 88-73 win at Mosby Court.

The Hawks scored 29 points off of 23 BMCC turnovers and grabbed the lead for good with 1:46 to play in the first quarter when Kyle Garrick's jumper made it 21-19.

"We just did not get that consistent effort throughout defensively," said BMCC (11-16, 5-8 NWAC East) coach Adam Driver. "The big thing was 29-9 points off turnovers. That's the killer stat.

Lose by 15 and get outscored by 20 on points off turnovers. You can't live that way.

"That's kind of been the story of our season. We dig ourselves a deep hole and then struggle filling it in by the end of the game."

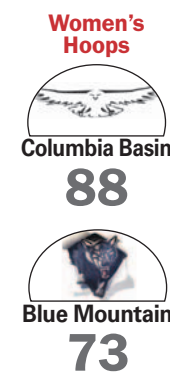
The Hawks (17-11, 9-4) finished the first quarter on a 11-0 run, then hit three 3-pointers in the first three minutes of the second quarter to push the lead into double digits when Holly Ellison's three made it 34-22 with 7:49 left in the frame.

Columbia Basin made five of its seven three-pointers in the second quarter to lead 48-32 at halftime.

"They shot the lights out," Driver said. "I'm not sure what their shooting percentage was ... they knocked them down for sure."

The Hawks were 19 of 39 (48.7 percent) from the field in the first half while BMCC was

See BMCC/2B



FACES



Hamilton

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HERMISTON

Bulldogs wrestlers not short on confidence

Hermiston ready to defend title while gunning for No. 10

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

The state wrestling tournament just isn't that big a deal for the Hermiston Bulldogs.

After all, they've been regular attendees at the state's biggest and most important tournament for at least a decade, and have won the thing eight of the past nine years.

"We've been going for so long, and we've been to bigger tournaments and bigger places, so it's the big tournament, but it's just another tournament," second-seeded 113-pounder Liam Tarvin said.

"It's just about wrestling," third-seeded 170-pounder Brock McDonough added.

So as the Bulldogs prepare this week to once again defend their state title starting on Friday at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland



EO file photo/Kathy Aney

In this 2015 file photo, The Bulldog's Bob Coleman (in black and yellow) wrestles Tanner Swinehart of Central during the 2015 5A 170-pound championship match at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

— and win the school's 10th team title — first-year head coach Kyle Larson isn't preparing any new messages.

"I just want my guys to go

wrestle hard, treat it like every other match," he said. "Don't get overwhelmed. Don't get too excited about what's going on."

Part of Hermiston's perceived

ambivalence about the state tournament is the amount of success had both team-wise and individually.

Sam Colbray (38-1), the top seed at 195 pounds, has won three state titles and is ranked second in the nation at 195 according to FloWrestling.org. Bob Coleman (39-2), seeded second at 182 pounds, took third at last year's tourney. Tarvin (29-11) won a state title as a sophomore at 106 pounds.

Needless to say, they aren't worried.

"We're confident, but we know what he have to do and we know how we're gonna do it," junior 152-pounder Valen Wyse, a No. 1 seed, said. "We're gonna keep it going like we have all year: wrestling like we're representing Hermiston. So being tough and moving forward."

Moving forward has been a rallying cry most season. After a dual loss to Post Falls, Idaho in December, the Bulldogs were nearly unbeatable. In that defeat, the Bulldogs were complacent and

See HERMISTON/2B

Prep Wrestling

Local teams ready for state tournament weekend

Region hopes to be well-represented on the podium

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

After a grueling four-month schedule, the end is finally in sight for some of Oregon's finest.

On Friday morning at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, the OSAA State Wrestling Championships will begin and the road to a state championship for more than 1,000 prep wrestlers will start to be paved. So we take a look at the teams and the wrestlers that are heading to the tournament this weekend and the path they face to become a champion.

Pendleton Buckaroos

The Pendleton Buckaroos head into the state tournament with some youth and inexperience. Lane Evens

(106 pounds) and Alex Rendon (126) both made the tournament as freshmen, and Scott Chambers (138) and Morgan Holcomb (145) qualified as juniors.

Holcomb is the Buckaroos' lone representative with state tournament experience, qualifying in each of the last two seasons with his best finish coming in 2014 where he placed third in the 120-pound bracket.

With that youth in mind, Buckaroos coach Fred Phillips said his guys will need to be on their best game come Friday.

"It's the state tournament, so everyone is going to have tough matches," he said. "They just have to show up and wrestle their best because that's where it's won. If it were all on paper there would be no point in it."

Holcomb grabbed the highest seed for the Bucks, slotting in at No. 3 at 145-pounds where he will take on the No. 14 seed Terry McCord III from Lebanon. Evens then drew in a

See WRESTLING/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

In this Jan. 30, 2016 file photo, Alex Rendon, of Pendleton, dominates Mountain View's Tristan Baker during a dual meet at Warberg Court in the 132-pound weight class.