

Sports shorts

Pac-12 backs Huskies-Beavers game officials

SEATTLE (AP) — The Pac-12 Conference says the conclusion of Oregon State’s last-second victory over Washington was handled properly by game officials.

Washington contacted the league office to review the final seconds of the Beavers’ 82-81 victory on Stephen Thompson Jr.’s 3-pointer at the buzzer. Washington had asked that the timing of the game clock be reviewed after it appeared that the clock started late.

The conference said that “the clock timing was handled appropriately by the game officials and the clock operator.” Washington also asked whether Thompson should have been called for traveling after he shuffled his feet before the game-winning shot, but the conference said traveling is a judgment call and not reviewable.



Pierre-Paul sues ESPN for invasion of privacy

BOSTON (AP) — It wasn’t the report about his fingers being blown off. It was the picture of his confidential medical chart sent to almost 4 million Twitter followers that prompted New York Giants linebacker Jason Pierre-Paul to sue ESPN and reporter Adam Scheffter for invasion of privacy.

Citing state privacy laws, Pierre-Paul asked a Miami-Dade County Circuit Court to award him at least \$15,000 in damages over the report that followed his Fourth of July fireworks accident.

The suit concedes that the injury to an NFL star was a matter of public interest, a legal standard that limits his right to a privacy claim. However, it contends that the photo of his actual medical chart describing the injury to three fingers on his right hand was not.



Pierre-Paul

“I don’t know that the record is that significant because it’s so simple for him. His 3-point shot is like a 2-point shot. It’s what he does. It’s to the point where we expect a half-court shot.”

— **Steve Kerr**
Golden State Warriors head coach on Stephen Curry’s record streak of hitting 3-pointers in 128 straight games. Curry made 10 3-pointers and scored 51 points in the Warriors’ 130-114 win over the Orlando Magic on Thursday.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1981 — The Boston Bruins beat the Minnesota North Stars 5-1 in a game marred by fights. The teams set an NHL record with 84 penalties worth 392 minutes, and 12 players are ejected.

2007 — Shaquille O’Neal passes the 25,000-point mark for his career midway through the first quarter of Miami’s 99-93 loss to New York. O’Neal is the seventh player to reach 25,000 points and 10,000 rebounds.

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

Girls Basketball

Pioneers embracing underdog role

Eight local girls teams prepare for playoff games

By **MATT ENTRUP**
East Oregonian

BEAVERTON — The Mac-Hi girls basketball team is back in the postseason and hoping to turn a few heads.

Appearing in their first state postseason game since 1987, the No. 23 Pioneers (13-11) are embracing the underdog role when they play No. 9 Valley Catholic

(18-7) at 6 p.m. in Beaverton in the 4A play-in round.

“I’m hoping the girls will go in with some confidence, and we kind of want them to go into Valley Catholic and walk in with a little bit of an attitude, because they’re so nice all the time,” said first-year Mac-Hi coach Brooke Garton. “We talked about what a great feeling to would be to get in that Valley Catholic gym and take a game from them.”

Despite never having experienced a basketball postseason, Garton said she likes the way her team is preparing mentally and

See **GIRLS HOOPS/2B**



In this Jan. 26, 2016 file photo, Mac-Hi’s Shannon Carter passes off to a teammate during a basketball game with the Baker Bulldogs in Mil-ton-Free-water.

EO file photo/ Kathy Aney

Boys Basketball

Knights ready for tough opener

By **ERIC SINGER**
East Oregonian

Irrigon’s hunt for third-straight state title begins Saturday

IRRIGON — The road to a third-straight state championship for the Irrigon Knights begins on Saturday evening, with what coach Mitch Thompson called ‘one of the toughest first-round match-ups in the state’ as they host the Kennedy Trojans.

The Trojans (14-10) finished the season ranked No. 9 in the OSAA — just one spot behind Irrigon (17-7) — and bring plenty of punch to the table.

“Kennedy’s a really tough team. They are a big, physical group of guys that are well-coached,” Thompson said. “Point guard Bishop Mitchell is one of the best athletes in the state, and we’ll have to corral him and keep him in front of us.”

The schools have some recent familiarity with each other, as the Knights and Trojans faced off against each other in the first-round of the foot-ball playoffs — a game that Irrigon dropped at Kennedy. But this time, the Knights are happy to be the ones staying home.

“We were pretty happy to get the home game,” said Irrigon senior Fredy Vera. “We knew it was a long drive for football, so we’re glad we don’t have to do that again.”

Vera is the lone key contributor to the Knights back-to-back state champion teams, and Thompson said he expects some of the younger players to have some butterflies for the game.

“I’m sure there will be some jitters at tip-off,” he said, “but our goal as coaches is to get the guys prepared. And Fredy’s a good enough leader that I think it won’t be a factor.”

The two teams have one common opponent from the season schedule with both teams falling on the road against the No. 1 3A team Dayton Pirates. Irrigon fell 48-46, while Kennedy lost 71-50.

On the season, Kennedy averages 50.8 points

See **BOYS HOOPS/2B**



In this Feb. 20, 2016 file photo, Xavier Rambo of Irrigon goes airborne as Heppner’s Patrick Collins’ (15) defends during the district championship at the Pendleton Convention Center.

EO file photo/ Kathy Aney

Racial remarks fuel on-court spat, lead to firing

Moses, Schimmel let go during second season at Sante Fe Indian School

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — A court-side confrontation has led the Santa Fe Indian School to fire basketball coaches Ceci Moses and Rick Schimmel, the parents of Shoni and Jude Schimmel. They say racial remarks set off the dispute.

The school’s varsity head coach Moses, and her husband and assistant coach Schimmel, were let go on Sunday following a Feb. 17 game at St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, *The Santa Fe New Mexican* reported.

The Santa Fe Indian School apologized

earlier this week for unsportsmanlike conduct at the game, while Moses and Schimmel said in a statement that the friction started when the St. Michael’s athletic director Tom Manning told their American Indian players to clear the court at halftime so the home team’s Pony Express dance group could perform.

“Get off the court. This is not the damn reservation,” Manning is accused of saying in a statement Schimmel made to Santa Fe police.

Schimmel also said Manning shoved him after halftime. But the physical contact was reduced to a tap on the shoulder by Manning in his statement to police. Meanwhile, St. Michael’s also has denied the allegations against Manning, saying that the “altercation” was unfortunate.

Moses and Schimmel started coaching

See **COACHES FIRED/3B**



Clyde Mueller/Santa Fe New Mexican via AP

From left, Santa Fe Indian School’s former head boys basketball coach Ceci Moses and her husband, Rick Schimmel, attend the school’s boys basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016 in the Pueblo Pavilion at Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

NBA

Harden scores 46 as Rockets beat Trail Blazers

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
Associated Press

PORTLAND — James Harden scored 46 points and the Houston Rockets overcame a 21-point, third-quarter deficit to beat the Trail Blazers 119-105 on Thursday night, snapping Portland’s six-game winning streak.

Dwight Howard added 19 points and 13 rebounds for Houston, which had lost four of five. But the Rockets proved resilient against the Blazers, rallying to tie it at 95 on Harden’s layup with 7:40 left, then taking the lead on Howard’s dunk.



The Rockets pushed with lead to 106-98 with 2:59 left and Portland couldn’t catch up. Harden’s layup and a pair of free throws lead to 112-102 and stretched the out of reach.

Damian Lillard had 23 points

for the Blazers, who had won 15 of their last 18 to move into playoff position in the Western Conference. CJ McCollum added 20 points.

Lillard, who was showered with chants of “MVP! MVP!” every time he went to the free throw line earlier in the game, had scored 30 or more

See **BLAZERS/2B**