

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

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Sports shorts

Holy Cross stuns Lehigh, earns NCAA berth

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — Holy Cross players stuck strands of a basketball net in the back of their hats.



That's one superb souvenir to cap a monumental run.

Winless on the road in regular-season conference games, the Crusaders turned into Patriot League Tournament road warriors — and the path is extended all the way to the NCAA Tournament.

Malachi Alexander scored 26 points and Holy Cross sealed its stunning run to the Patriot League title and an NCAA Tournament berth with a 59-56 victory over Lehigh on Wednesday night.

The Crusaders are 14-19 and had lost all nine conference road games during the regular season.

Westbrook's huge night lifts Thunder

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 25 points, a career-high 20 assists and 11 rebounds



to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Los Angeles Clippers 120-108 on Wednesday night.

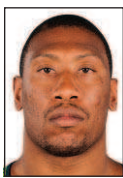
According to STATS, it was the first triple-double with at least 20 points and 20 assists since Rod Strickland did it for the Washington Wizards in 1998.

It was the 30th triple-double of Westbrook's career and his 11th this season.

Irvin confirms deal with Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) The Oakland Raiders have filled another hole in free agency by agreeing to a four-year contract with former Seattle pass rusher Bruce Irvin.

FACES



Irvin confirmed he was leaving the Seahawks to join the Raiders on his Instagram account Wednesday. He thanked the fans in Seattle, management and his teammates, saying they will always be connected for winning the Super Bowl in 2014. He added he is excited for a new chapter in his career and hopes to bring a title to Oakland.

Irvin's deal is worth a reported \$39 million.

"I was frankly, very surprised, that my diversity efforts for my whole career would have been called into question, over this, in my view, a routine endorsement."

— **Brian France**
NASCAR chairman and chief executive on the backlash since he publicly endorsed Republican frontrunner Donald Trump for president.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2007 — Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby, 19, becomes the youngest player in NHL history with two 100-point seasons after scoring a goal in a 3-2 overtime win over the New York Rangers.

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

HERMISTON

Dawgs come up short against Spartans

Corvallis shoots 70 percent in fourth quarter to pull away

East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert thought he had the perfect defensive game plan

for the Corvallis Spartans.

After talking with a dozen coaches and doing plenty of film study, Hoffert discovered that the Spartans were hesitant on shooting 3-pointers, and that they prefer to attack with their guards. But when the two

Girls Hoops



Hermiston
40



Corvallis
48

teams battled in the 5A quarterfinals on Wednesday, Hoffert's plan wasn't perfect at all.

The Spartans shot 70 percent from 3-point range in the fourth quarter to swing the momentum back in their favor to

pull away with a 48-40 win to knock the Bulldogs into the consolation bracket.

"We were doing what we needed to do on defense, but they had so much confidence it didn't matter," Hoffert said.

Hermiston (22-4) started out of the gates sluggish on offense, netting just five first quarter points

See BULLDOGS/3B

College Basketball

Beavers give Devils their due

Oregon State beats Arizona State at Pac-12 tournament

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Stephen Thompson Jr.

scored 13 points and Oregon State moved a step closer to its first NCAA Tournament berth in 26 years by holding off Arizona State 75-66 Wednesday night in the first round of the Pac-12 tournament.

The Beavers (19-11) and Sun Devils traded missed shots through most of the first half, combining to go 5 for 26 from 3-point range.

Oregon State, the No. 6 seed, began to hit a few while building a nine-point halftime lead and withstood a couple of Arizona State rallies in the second half to earn a spot in Thursday's quarterfinals against No. 3 seed California.

Arizona State (15-17) never fully recovered from its early shooting woes, ending a difficult first season under coach Bobby Hurley.

Gerry Blakes had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Savon Goodman added 14 points for the Sun

See BEAVERS/2B

Pac-12



Arizona St.
66



Oregon St.
75



Oregon State guard Gary Payton II dunks against Arizona State during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the first round of the Pac-12 men's tournament Wednesday, March 9, 2016, in Las Vegas.

AP Photo/John Locher

Prep Basketball

Webb leads horde of Vikings on all-league teams

EOL releases girls and boys postseason honors

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

UMATILLA — The Umatilla girls basketball team took care of business on the court this season, and the Eastern Oregon League coaches took care of the Vikings when it came time to name the all-league rosters.

Of the Vikings' nine players, seven were awarded a spot in the EOL All-League teams, led by senior guard Sidney Webb as Player of the Year.

Umatilla coach Scott Bow, who was named Coach of the Year, said he didn't see it coming.

"It was very surprising," he said of the team's all-league haul. "It was more than I expected would get honored and put on there."

He said it didn't take any lobbying from him, either.

"It wasn't too much of me doing the work, it was other

See ALL-LEAGUE/3B



In this Jan. 21, 2016 file photo, Umatilla's Sidney Webb (23) tries to move into the lane against Riverside during a game in Umatilla.

EO file photo/Sam Barbee

Pro Football

Broncos hurting, Panthers healing in early free agency

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Brock Osweiler left Denver. Doug Martin remained in Tampa.

Alex Mack left Cleveland and DeMarco Murray was traded to Tennessee. Mike Tolbert remained in Carolina.

In a flurry of shuffling and staying put, NFL free agency began Wednesday.

And the Super Bowl winner lost its second quarterback in less than a week, while the loser of the big game held on to two key performers.

With Peyton Manning retired, his supposed successor Brock Osweiler headed to Houston. Broncos defensive end Malik Jackson went to Jacksonville, and linebacker Danny Trevathan is now in Chicago. Denver clearly has been weakened.

At least Super Bowl MVP Von Miller has been franchise tagged and won't be going anywhere.

"We've stayed true to our philosophy of building a team of players who want to be Denver Broncos and want to be here. That's been a successful approach for us," general manager John Elway said.

See FREE AGENCY/3B

