

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Seahawks lose lineman to Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers addressed a need created by Logan Mankins' retirement by signing former Seattle Seahawks guard J.R. Sweezy to a five-year deal in free agency.

Sweezy joins the Bucs after spending his first four seasons with the Seahawks, starting 49 of 59 regular-season games and 10 postseason games in helping win a pair of NFC championships and one Super Bowl.

The Bucs began overhauling their offensive line when they drafted left tackle Donovan Smith and right guard Ali Marpet, who became immediate starters as rookies in 2015.

Sweezy was a 2012 seventh-round draft pick of the Seahawks.

Seattle brings back WR Kears

SEATTLE — The Seattle Seahawks continue to focus on retaining their own free agents by agreeing to terms with wide receiver Jermaine Kearse.

Kearse and the Seahawks reached agreement on a three-year deal on Thursday night, becoming the third player Seattle has brought back this week.

Seattle previously agreed to deals with defensive tackle Ahtyba Rubin and cornerback Jeremy Lane.

Kearse has been a complementary asset to Seattle's wide receiver unit along with Doug Baldwin and the emergence last season of rookie Tyler Lockett. Kearse has also made some of the more memorable catches in franchise history, including the crucial touchdowns in both the 2013 and 2014 NFC championship games won by Seattle.

Last season, Kearse had 49 receptions for 685 yards and five touchdowns in the regular season. He

"Baseball's tired, it's a tired sport, because you can't express yourself ... If a guy pumps his fist on the mound I'm going to go, 'Yeah, you got me. Good for you. Hopefully I get you next time.' That's what makes the game fun."

— Bryce Harper
Washington Nationals outfielder and 2015 NL MVP in an interview with ESPN discussing Harper's annoyance with all of MLB's unwritten rules, such as celebrating home runs or other big moments, stating the game needs more dramatics and "flair."

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1979 — St. John's and Penn post two of the biggest upsets ever in the NCAA tournament in the second round of the East Regional in Raleigh, N.C. St. John's, the 40th and last team selected, beats No. 2 seed Duke 80-78, and Penn comes from behind to beat No. 1 seed North Carolina 72-71.
2011 — Jimmer Fredette scores a career-high 52 points to lead No. 8 BYU to an 87-76 win over New Mexico in the Mountain West Conference semifinals.

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

College Basketball

Ducks holds off Huskies



Oregon forward Elgin Cook reacts after his team defeated Washington in an NCAA college basketball game in the quarterfinal round of the Pac-12 men's tournament Thursday, March 10, 2016, in Las Vegas. Oregon won 83-77.

Boucher scores 19 to lead No. 9 Oregon to semifinals

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — The Oregon Ducks got caught up in Washington's in-your-face style, playing at a speed even they couldn't handle.

Once they slowed it down to their usual breakneck pace, the Ducks were able to wear the Huskies down.

Chris Boucher had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and No. 8 Oregon withstood Washington's early aggressiveness and a late flurry to hold off the Huskies 83-77 in the Pac-12 Tournament quarterfinals Thursday.

"We knew they were going to try to get up in our space and deny us," said Oregon's Elgin Cook, who had 19 points. "We were all sped up at first, and I just wanted to tell everybody to calm down and keep their composure."

Top-seeded Oregon (26-6) got off to a sluggish start, but built an 11-point lead midway through the second half. Andrew Andrews



brought the Huskies back, scoring 10 of his 19 points during a quick flurry to help eighth-seeded Washington (18-14) pull within two late.

The Ducks held, though, hitting four free throws in the final 33 seconds to earn a spot in Friday night's semifinals against No. 15 Arizona or Colorado.

Tyler Dorsey scored 17 points and Dillon Brooks added 15 for the Ducks, who had a 46-33 rebounding advantage.

"We had bad turnovers today. We didn't make very good decisions. We'll have to clean that up," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "But our effort on the boards, I think, was the difference in the game. We were able to make just

enough plays to get by."

Washington's comeback bid came up short and so did its chance to get into the NCAA Tournament bracket.

Realistically, the Huskies needed to win the tournament and losing in the quarterfinals all but assures they'll be in the NIT. Still, a postseason bid after being picked 11th in the Pac-12 isn't a bad consolation.

Marques Chriss scored 19 points Washington.

"I thought we probably surpassed a lot of people's expectations," Huskies coach Lorenzo Romar said. "In terms of our own expectations, we felt we could go a little bit further than we did. But it wasn't due to a lack of trying and selling out for the cause of what we wanted to do."

The Ducks closed the regular season strong, winning their final five games for their first conference title since 2002. One of those finishing wins was against

See DUCKS/3B

Prep Basketball

Hermiston stays alive with win over Bend

Bulldogs play Saturday for fourth place against Marist Catholic

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

CORVALLIS — The energy just wasn't there. Easy shots didn't go down. Layups went in and out. Three-pointers were off.

In a game largely played by muscle memory, with fatigue and disappointment palpable, the Hermiston Bulldogs gutted their way to a blowout 53-26 win Thursday morning over the Bend Lava Bears, earning them a place in the 4th place game Saturday at 9 a.m. at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis. They'll

Girls Hoops



Bend
26



Hermiston
53

play Marist Catholic.

"I saw a team trying to survive after losing a devastating loss," head coach Steve Hoffert said. "It wasn't the way the script was written. After losing to Corvallis, I saw a team today just putting their will out to win and survive. Emotionally, they weren't there. They were there physically and basketball-wise. It wasn't an emotional game. They were just winning by sheer will and pride, basically."

It's understandable that Hermiston would be emotionally drained after a first-round loss to the Spartans. The Bulldogs, which advanced to the state title game last season only to fall eight minutes short, had planned and worked to return to the final and win this time.

So when faced with the reality that wasn't going to happen, Thursday's game wasn't surprising. But

See HERMISTON/2B

College Basketball

No. 25 Cal outlasts Oregon State at Pac-12 tourney

Bruce helps Beavers keep score close

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Ivan Raab scored two big baskets late to finish with 21 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, helping No. 24 California outlast Oregon State 76-68 Thursday night in the Pac-12 quarterfinals.

Raab gave the Beavers trouble all night, particularly the biggest moments. He scored on a putback to put Cal (23-9) up four and finished off a three-point play with 1:22 left to make it 70-63.

Jabari Bird added 20 points for the Bears, who will face No. 12 Utah in the quarterfinals Friday night.

Oregon State (19-12) managed to keep it close despite playing without its second-leading scorer Tres Tinkle, who suffered a right foot injury during practice last week.

One reason was Derrick Bruce.

The shifty freshman guard, who had never scored more than 11 points, had 25 against the Bears.

Gary Payton had 20 points and 16 rebounds for Oregon State, which still should be in good shape to end its 26-year NCAA Tournament drought.

The Beavers boosted their NCAA Tournament chances in the opening round by holding off Arizona State 75-66.

Oregon State managed to beat Cal in the teams' first meeting this season, 77-71 in Corvallis, but lost 83-71 in Berkeley in the second meeting.

Bird caused the Beavers problems in the second meeting, scoring 23 points, and was trouble for them again, scoring 11 in the first half. Jordan Mathews also had 11, helping the Bears to a 34-30 halftime lead.

Bruce did most of the work

See BEAVERS/3B



Oregon State guard Gary Payton II shoots around California center Kameron Rooks during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the quarterfinals of the Pac-12 men's tournament Thursday, March 10, 2016, in Las Vegas.

AP Photo/John Locher



Oregon's Vernon Adams Jr. works out for NFL football scouts during Pro Day at the University of Oregon, Thursday, March 10, 2016, in Eugene, Ore.

College Football

Oregon holds annual pro day

By RYAN THORBURN
The Register Guard

EUGENE — Four major networks constructed sets inside the Moshofsky Center to cover Marcus Mariota's throwing session a year ago.

The bright lights were missing during Oregon's pro day Thursday, but there was another projected top-10 pick from Hawaii on the field.

DeForest Buckner, coming off an impressive performance at the NFL Scouting Combine, went through position drills with

longtime teammates Alex Balducci and Christian French.

In the 2015 draft, quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Mariota were selected with the first two picks. Buckner believes he should be the first defensive lineman taken off the board, ahead of Ohio State's Joey Bosa.

"Today was really just showing that personally I think I am the best defensive lineman in this draft," Buckner said. "Really just coming back out here and reassuring them. ... I got film to back it up. I played every position on the D-line throughout

See PRO DAY/2B