

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, MARCH 12-13, 2016

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

Sports shorts

Timbers extend GM Wilkinson

PORTLAND (AP) — The defending champion Portland Timbers have re-signed President of Soccer Gavin Wilkinson to a long-term contract.

Wilkinson serves as general manager for the Timbers, the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League, T2 of the United Soccer League, the Timbers U-23s and the Timbers' development academy.

Terms of the deal with Wilkinson, who has been with the Timbers' organization for 16 years, were not released.

A native of New Zealand, Wilkinson joined the Timbers in 2001 as a player when the team was with USL's A-League. He served as head coach of the team from 2007-10 and has served as GM since 2007.



Browns release Manziel after 2 subpar seasons

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns have released troublesome quarterback Johnny Manziel, ending his drama-filled stay with the team.

The team finally cut ties on Friday with the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner after two disappointing seasons. Manziel faces an uncertain future in the NFL and potential criminal charges in Texas following a domestic violence incident.

Cleveland used a first-round pick in the 2014 draft to select Manziel, but Manziel's pro career has not gone well as he has become better known more for his excessive social life than anything else.

Manziel started just eight games for the Browns, where he passed for 1,675 yards with seven TDs and seven INTs.



Manziel

"You can't catch it, turn, bring it below your waist, and then shoot it with enough force to shoot it 80 feet in 0.8 seconds. The clock didn't start nearly on time. I've already watched it five times."

— **Mick Cronin**
Cincinnati men's basketball coach on the buzzer-beating shot by Connecticut's Jalen Adams in the third overtime of their American Athletic Conference quarterfinal game on Friday. Connecticut went on to win 104-97 after the fourth overtime period.

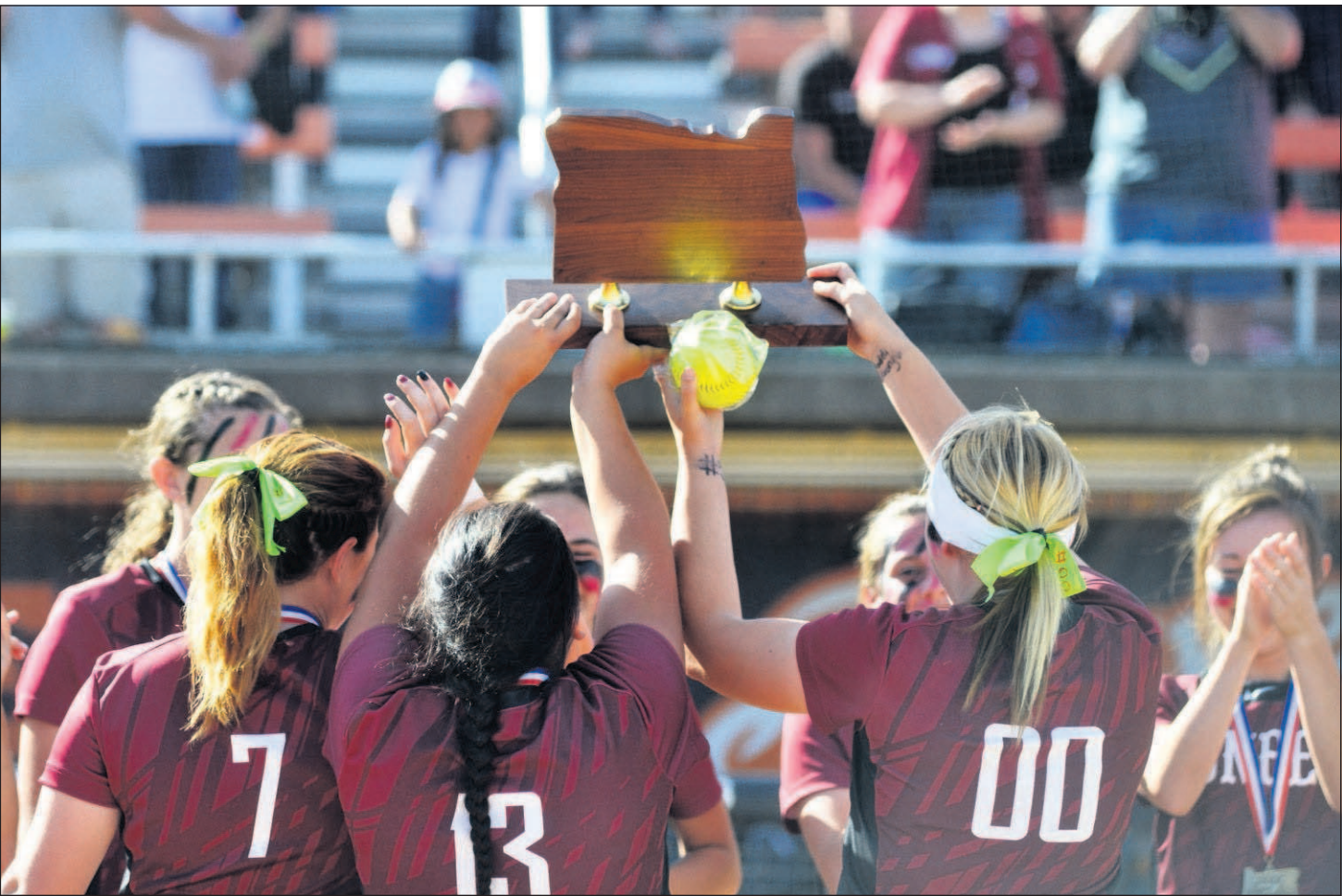
THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1985 — Larry Bird scores 60 points, including Boston's last 16, to set a Celtics record in a 126-115 victory over Atlanta. Bird hit 22 of 36 field goals and 15 of 16 free throws, breaking Kevin McHale's team record of 56 points established nine days before.

2002 — Siena (17-18) with an 81-77 victory over Alcorn State in the play-in game, becomes first team in 47 years to win an NCAA men's basketball tournament game with a losing record.

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

New seasons bring high hopes



In this June 6, 2015 file photo, members of the Mac-Hi softball team hold up the first place trophy for their fans after the Pioneers' 4-0 win against Banks in the class 4A state softball championship game in Corvallis.

EO file photo/
E.J. Harris

Teams excited for opening of spring sports next week

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The sounds of spring are back on diamonds across eastern Oregon, and hopes are high once again as softball and baseball teams prepare to throw out their first pitches of the season.

Four local softball teams ended their seasons in the state championship game in 2015, and the Pilot Rock Rockets, Mac-Hi Pioneers, Pendleton Buckaroos and Weston-McEwen TigerScots are looking strong once again, but with some notable differences.

For the Bucks and Pios, replacing the top players in the state and the production they brought to the diamond will be no easy task.

More to come

The East Oregonian Spring Sports special section with information on all the area's teams will be released in the Wednesday, March 16, edition.

Mac-Hi's Colette Robert, who is now a freshman at University New Mexico, was nearly untouchable from the rubber in her senior season while also swinging the team's most dangerous bat.

She threw two perfect games and shut out all four of the Pios' playoff opponents to lead the team to its second-straight 4A state title. She was named Softball Player of the Year at the Oregon Sports Awards before heading off to compete at the

Division I level in the NCAA.

"I think a lot of people think they're going to walk all over us this year," said Mac-Hi coach Nicole Stewart. "I hope they do overlook us."

The Pioneers fans get their first look at the new lineup, which returns several all-state players, on Thursday when they host Weston-McEwen at 4:30 p.m.

Pendleton, which saw 5A Player of the Year Darian Lindsey graduate and head off to Mt. Hood Community College, will open its season on Tuesday by hosting Hanford (WA) at 4 p.m.

The Bucks have appeared in four of the last five state championships, finishing runner-up after a 3-2 loss to Putnam last year, and coach Tim

Cary said he's urging the team to remember the process that got them there as they prepare to embark on their current campaign.

"I think the key will be, as cliché as it is, to take it one day at a time and keep our focus clear," he said. "They will realize it takes hard work to get to that point, it's not just handed out."

Also looking for another deep run in the playoffs are 2A/1A defending champions Pilot Rock, which graduated only one player from last season's title roster. The Rockets open on Monday by hosting Riverside at 4 p.m.

"The goal is the same as it was last year, which is to win another (title)," Rockets coach Darin Fitz-See **SPRING SPORTS/2B**

GETTING A JUMP ON THE SEASON



LEFT: Kiara Glover, of Pendleton, competes in long jump Friday at the Portland Indoor Track Classic at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. She finished 10th with a jump of 4.78 meters. RIGHT: Nolan Bylinga, of Pendleton and running unattached, led his heat of the mile from beginning to end Friday at the event.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pro Basketball

Splash Bros. rout Blazers from long range

By JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry scored 34 points, Klay Thompson had 37 and the Golden State Warriors avenged their worst defeat of the season by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 128-112 on Friday night, extending their record regular-season home winning streak to 47 games.

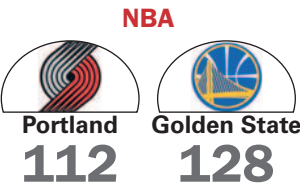
The Splash Brothers combined to shoot 15 for 25 on 3-pointers and went 26 for 55 overall, with Thompson joining Curry as the only players with 200 3s in four straight seasons. They scored 30 or

more points in the same game for the sixth time in their careers.

D r a y m o n d Green added 17 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists while making all nine of his free throws.

CJ McCollum scored 18 points and Portland topped the defending champions with 19 3s to Golden State's 18 as the teams combined for the most 3s in NBA history — on 37-for-76 shooting.

From the tip, the defending champion Warriors were out to



bury the Blazers after an embarrassing 32-point defeat in Portland last month coming out of the All-Star break. Golden State lost 137-105 at Portland on Feb. 19 — its largest margin of defeat since a 39-point setback to Denver in 2012 — before an impressive seven-game winning streak.

Curry scored 18 points in the opening period after going scoreless in the first two nights earlier

See BLAZERS/2B

College Basketball

Oregon holds on for 95-89 OT win over Arizona

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Elgin Cook scored 22 points and No. 8 Oregon survived a wild closing sequence in regulation to beat No. 15 Arizona 95-89 in overtime Friday night in the Pac-12 semifinals.

O r e g o n (27-6) led by 17 early in the second half, but Arizona (25-8) charged back and tied it in improbable fashion.

O r e g o n 's Chris Boucher missed two free throws with 12 seconds left, and Arizona's Gabe York followed with a 3-pointer after gathering a rebound. Mark Tollefsen stole the inbound pass and was fouled, but hit just 1 of 2 free throws to send the game to overtime.

The Ducks dominated overtime, going up six on 3-pointers by Dwayne Benjamin and Dillon Brooks to earn a spot in Saturday night's championship game against No. 24 California or No. 12 Utah.

Tyler Dorsey had 19 points and Brooks 17 for the Ducks, who had 11 blocked shots and 10 steals.

York had 21 points, and Allonzo Trier added 16 before fouling out late in regulation.

MGM Grand Garden Arena becomes McKale North whenever Arizona is playing in the Pac-12 Tournament, but the Ducks had no trouble winning at the real home

See DUCKS/2B