

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

WSU lost \$13.2 million in 2015

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — The athletic department at Washington State University will run a deficit of more than \$13 million for fiscal 2015, in part because of mandates by the Pacific-12 and NCAA and lower-than-projected television revenues.

Athletic Director Bill Moos announced the second straight year of losses on Tuesday.

Last year, WSU reported a \$13.7 million deficit for fiscal year 2014.

The Spokesman-Review reports that WSU's athletic department spent \$67.3 million in fiscal 2015, but had overall revenues of \$54.1 million, creating a \$13.2 million deficit.

Moos says the gap between revenues and expenses is effectively a loan the department takes from the university.



Broncos lose guard Mathis to Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Evan Mathis, a starting guard for the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos last season, and the Arizona Cardinals have agreed to terms on a one-year contract.

A person familiar with the situation said the deal is worth \$6 million, plus \$69 because his uniform number is 69. The person asked for anonymity because the terms were not officially released.

Mathis, a 2013 All-Pro and two-time Pro Bowl selection, fills an immediate need and is an upgrade at right guard for the Cardinals, who sent Jonathan Cooper to New England on Tuesday as part of the trade that brought defensive end/outside linebacker Chandler Jones to Arizona.

"I was a little surprised at the stance that he took. It's unfortunate. But talk about a quality decision, a life decision and a family decision. He talked about being there for his family and family first and front and center, and I respect and admire that."

— **Kenny Williams**
Chicago White Sox president on the abrupt decision of first baseman Adam LaRoche, 36, to retire after Williams asked that LaRoche's son spend less time around the team. By all accounts Drake LaRoche, 14, was well-liked and helpful when he was in the clubhouse, but Williams said he wanted fewer distractions for the team this season. LaRoche was scheduled to make \$13 million this season.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
2010 — Michael Jordan becomes the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the National Basketball Association. The NBA's Board of Governors unanimously approve Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson.

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

Women's College Basketball

Heehn caps record-setting season with championship



Lane Community College sophomore Gabby Heehn is introduced with the starting lineup during Sunday's NWAC Women's Basketball Championship in Everett, Wash. Heehn hit her first five three-pointers of the game to help the Titans establish a lead they would never relinquish in a 76-59 win over Peninsula.

Former Buck and Bulldog shoots Lane to NWAC title

By **MATT ENTRUP**
East Oregonian

For former Pendleton and Hermiston basketball standout Gabby Heehn, the 2015-16 season was all or nothing.

At least that's how she was viewing it entering her final year of eligibility at Lane Community College coming off an ACL tear suffered in the third game of what would have been her sophomore year.

"I put in a lot of time and effort just trying to get back to where I was before I tore my ACL, because ACL injuries are kind of a make or break," said the 2013 Hermiston graduate of the knee injury.

Not only did Heehn regain the physical tools that allowed her star as an outside shooting threat at Pendleton, then Hermiston, she went a step further.

Heehn knocked down a school-record 125 three-pointers during the Titans NWAC-championship season that culminated on Sunday with a 76-59 victory over Peninsula in Everett, Washington.

It was a rematch of the 2014-15 championship, which Heehn had to watch from the sidelines as her team fell to the Pirates 85-75.

"It was kind of like a revenge thing, it felt great," she said.

See **HEEHN/2B**



Lane Community College sophomore Gabby Heehn shoots a three-pointer against Peninsula in the NWAC Women's Basketball Championship on Sunday in Everett, Wash. Heehn went 6 for 8 on three-pointers in the game to help the Titans beat the Pirates 76-59.

Contributed photo by Tracy Swisher/NWAC

Prep Basketball

Vera headlines locals on all-state rosters

Heppner leads region with three selections

East Oregonian

Irrigon Knights senior Fredy Vera accomplished a lot over his high school basketball career.

He was a crucial part of Irrigon teams that won back-to-back state championships in 2014 and 2015, found his name on an all-state roster, and even picked up a Columbia Basin Conference Player of the Year award for 2015-2016.

Now he can add one more accolade to that list as he was named to the first team all-state roster for 2015-2016, as voted by all of the coaches in the 2A classification.

Vera almost single-handedly carried his Knights squad to a 17-8 record, a second-place finish at the CBC district tournament and a trip back to the postseason, where they fell just short of advancing to the state bracket with a close loss to Kennedy. He was a second team all-state selection in 2015.

The region also had one representative on the second team roster, as Heppner Mustangs senior forward Patrick Collins was selected by the coaches to the team for the second-straight year. Collins averaged a double-double this season, and shot well over 40 percent from the floor, all while anchoring the Mustangs defensive unit on their way to a state



In this Feb. 20, 2016 file photo, Fredy Vera (12), of Irrigon, goes airborne against Heppner's Patrick Collins (15) and Caden Hedman (12) during the Columbia Basin Conference Basketball Tournament at the Pendleton Convention Center.

See **ALL-STATE/2B**

OUR VIEW

Three's not a crowd

The state of officiating is a pretty popular discussion topic in today's sports landscape.

Our society today wants their games officiated correctly and precisely, and will go to great lengths to assure that. We have seen the introduction and fine tuning of instant replay in sports to make sure calls are correct and we have seen sports such as Major League Baseball discuss using robots to make sure plays are even more correct.

So with that in mind, I was stumped to see just two

officials for each of the OSAA's 2A state tournament games two weeks ago, and then find out there were only two officials for each of the tournament games in each of the six classifications.

I had seen three-person crews with my own eyes during the regular season, so I knew they existed, and was confused as to why the OSAA would deploy the minimal two-person teams for the biggest games of the year.

Growing up in Ohio, it was a rarity to see only two officials for a varsity basketball game, let alone the state championship games.

But as it turns out, 2015-2016 was the first year the OSAA had used three-person officiating crews. OSAA associate executive director Cindy Simmons said the decision is up to the individual schools and leagues, and the reasons against increasing the officials was often in part to the ability to staff the games with three each night and the cost of adding a third official.

"We had made some special exceptions for three person crews in the past for leagues that couldn't staff two for each (the boys and girls) game," she said. "We have been trying to move towards three-person crews for a number of years, but there are a whole lot of moving parts for the schools."

Nine of the OSAA's 38 basketball leagues agreed to staff three officials for their games this season, with the Columbia River Conference being one of them.

Hermiston girls basketball coach Steve Hoffert said he has mixed feelings on the change, saying that he prefers the two-person crew.

"I think it does more for the game, because sometimes with three people there's not a good flow," he said. "The physicality can get taken away at points which hurts teams like us that like our defensive pressure."

But here is my plea to the OSAA and the rest of its member schools: it's time to pony up for three officials.

The game of basketball is played at such a fast pace and the kids playing the game are so much quicker and stronger that two sets of eyes officiating the game is not enough any more. A third official fills in a big blind spot on the court and is key for picking up off-the-ball action that often goes unnoticed by the two officials focusing on the ball and the basket.

Three officials are deployed at the collegiate

See **SINGER/2B**



ERIC SINGER
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