

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Sports shorts

### LeBron moves into 12th place on career scoring list

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James has moved past Dominique Wilkins into 12th place on the NBA's career scoring list.



James recorded a three-point play at the 3:52 mark of the first quarter of the Cleveland Cavaliers' game Thursday night against Brooklyn, giving him 26,671 career points. Wilkins had 26,668 during his Hall of Fame career with Atlanta, L.A. Clippers, Boston, San Antonio and Orlando.

James has also surpassed Jerry West, Reggie Miller, Alex English, Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, John Havlicek and Tim Duncan on the scoring list this season.

James is likely to pass Oscar Robertson, who scored 26,710 career points, for 11th place on Friday night in Atlanta.

### Michigan State guard named AP Player of the Year

HOUSTON (AP) — Denzel Valentine of Michigan State is The Associated Press Player of the Year, edging out Oklahoma's Buddy Hield by three votes.

Valentine is the first Spartans player to win the award.

Valentine received 34 of 65 votes from the national media panel

that selects the weekly AP Top 25. Hield was the only other player to receive votes. Hield and Valentine were the only unanimous selections to the AP All-America team.

Valentine, a 6-foot-5 senior, led Michigan State (29-6) to a second-place finish in the Big Ten regular season and was the conference player of the year. He averaged 19.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 7.6 assists while directing the Spartans' offense.

"I was getting worried that we were going to watch this girl drown to death, because no matter how hard we were hitting it, it [the glass] wasn't cracking or spidering for a while."

— **Anthony Lazard**  
Iowa State senior football player in an interview with The Des Moines Register, recounting events from a spring break trip to South Padre Island, Texas on March 16 where Lazard and two other teammates — Jack Spreen and Joe Doran — pulled a woman out of her sinking car after the woman wrecked her car and plunged into a nearby canal.

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1985** — Villanova shocks Georgetown with a 66-64 victory to win the NCAA basketball title. The Wildcats, led by Dwayne McClain's 17 points, shot 79 percent from the field.

**1992** — A week before the Stanley Cup playoffs are set to begin, the NHL players strike for the first time in the league's 75-year history.

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

## Prep Roundup

# Vikings pick up win against pesky Pirates

### Umatilla tops Riverside tennis by one match

East Oregonian

UMATILLA — The Umatilla Vikings tennis squad secured a 6-5 team win over the Riverside Pirates on Thursday afternoon.

On the girls side, the Vikings won four of seven matches while both boys teams split the four

matches 2-2. The Vikings did get the win on a tiebreak, as the team outscored Riverside 25-21 in game scores.

### Tennis

Riverside  
5

Umatilla  
6

Jennifer Vazquez (U) def. Viki Coria (R) 8-6  
Zaiena Goyton (R) def. Daisy Garcilazo (U) 9-7  
**Girls Doubles**  
Alejandra Munoz-Ordaz/Cinthia Rodriguez-Mendoza (U) win by default  
Yessenia Garcia-Sanchez/Fatima Sanchez (U) def. Jessica Calvillo/Mosquieda (R) 8-6  
U. Coline/Sayra Diaz (R) def. Chyanne Hinstley/Diana

a win over the Helix Grizzlies on Thursday afternoon.

At the No. 1 singles match, Weston-McEwen's Caleb Olson took the victory over Helix's Erik Jones with a close 8-6 finish. The No. 2 and No. 3 singles matches on the boys side both went in the TigerScots' favor with 6-0 wins.

**Boys Singles**  
Caleb Olson (W) def. Erik Jones (H) 8-6  
Kellen Fairchild (W) def. Allen Holden (H) 6-0  
Ryan Schmidt (W) def. Moro Gabriel (H) 6-0.  
**Girls Singles**  
Lynne Roberts (H) def. Johanna Albert (W) 8-4  
Macaila Espey (H) def. Emmaline Irvine (W) 6-3

**Boys Singles**  
Junior Coria-Coria (U) def. Adolfo Bedolla 8-5  
Luis Gonzalez (R) def. Douglas Gomez 8-5  
**Boys Doubles**  
Austin Thompson/Bryan Altamarino (R) def. Giovanni Armenta-Madrigal/Edgar Madrigal (U) 8-4.  
Joel Escamilla/Leonel Corona-Garcia (U) def. Donovan Caunaou/Brandon Juarez (R) 8-0  
**Girls Singles**  
Sidney Webb (U) def. Gema Juarez (R) 8-0  
Adriana Lial (R) def. Meydelins Lopez Ortega (U) 8-3

**WESTON-MCEWEN 3, HELIX 2** — At Athena, the Weston-McEwen tennis teams continued its 2015 schedule with

## Pro Basketball

# Aminu's career night lifts Blazers



Portland Trail Blazers forward Al-Farouq Aminu, right, dunks in front of Boston Celtics forward Amir Johnson during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, March 31, 2016.

### Portland sits 1.5 games behind Memphis for fifth

By MALIKA ANDREWS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — There was no stopping Al-Farouq Aminu on Thursday night. Aminu slammed down a fast-break running dunk to set a career high for points and tie the game at 81. He yelled and flexed on the baseline, baring his teeth, clenching his fists and ran back down the court, slapping the hands of his teammates who jumped off the bench to celebrate.

Aminu scored a career-best 28 points, including a career-high six 3-pointers, and the Portland Trail Blazers extended their winning streak at home to a season-high six games with a 116-109 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

"He turned the game around for us," teammate Damian Lillard said. "For a guy that hadn't been shooting the ball great on a lot of those 3-point shots, tonight when we needed him, he rose up and knocked them down pretty much every time."

In some ways, Aminu said this performance was a long time coming. He has played in the NBA for six years and has worn four different jerseys, but has never had a game like this. In other ways, he said, this game was just his turn to pick up the slack.

"I always trust the process," Aminu said. "I keep doing what I am supposed to do every day and when you're out there on the court, the work has already been done."

With only six regular-season games remaining, Portland (40-31) holds the sixth seed in the West. Boston (39-37) entered as the East's fourth seed, but fell to sixth with the loss.

CJ McCollum added 17 points and Lillard had 14 for Portland, helping to avenge a 116-93 blowout loss to the Celtics two weeks ago in Boston.

Isaiah Thomas led the Celtics with 22

See BLAZERS/2B



## MLB

# Overhauled Mariners great unknown in AL West

### Seattle starts season at Texas on Monday

By TIM BOOTH  
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Through all the various remodels over the course of too many lost seasons there have been two constants for Seattle baseball for the past decade: Felix Hernandez and missing the playoffs.

So as a new season arrives in Seattle, with yet another massive offseason overhaul having taken place, Hernandez is still here waiting for the chance to pitch in the postseason, the only accomplishment missing on his career resume.

"I've been here a long time and now I'm old. No, I'm kidding. But really I enjoy being here. I like the organization and I'm excited to still be here," Hernandez said. "This year is a little different because there are new faces."

After an offseason that featured one significant change after another, the Mariners will open the season Monday at Texas as one of the



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Felix Hernandez during a spring training baseball game against the San Diego Padres in Peoria, Ariz., Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

biggest unknowns, not just in the AL West, but in baseball. From the chair of new general manager Jerry Dipoto, to first-time manager Scott Servais and down to the 25th man on the bench, Seattle is essentially an entirely new team.

That brings excitement and

uncertainty. It also does little to instill belief that the longest playoff drought in baseball will come to an end in 2016.

"I feel very confident that our game plan has been executed," Dipoto said. "Now we're going to find out as the season starts, how

good the game plan was."

Hernandez remains the center of Seattle's core, along with Robinson Cano, Kyle Seager and Nelson Cruz, coming off one of the finest seasons ever by a Seattle hitter since the opening of Safeco Field. But it's the construction around those four that has changed drastically since the conclusion of last season when Seattle was expected to contend for a division title only to fall flat.

Seattle will begin the year with nearly half its 25-man roster having played elsewhere in 2015. Leonys Martin and Nori Aoki are now mainstays in the outfield. Adam Lind is at first base with Korean slugger Dae-Ho Lee spelling him against left-handed pitchers. Chris Iannetta is at catcher with a pitching rotation that includes newcomers Wade Miley and Nathan Karns.

And there is Seattle's bullpen that was completely overhauled and could determine how successful Servais is in his first season.

"Rookie managers, and I'm in that category right now, the thing that makes you look good is a really

See MARINERS/2B