

Sports shorts

Rams trade for No. 1 overall pick

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — The Rams are tired of waiting to get a franchise quarterback, and they want to make a splash in their return to Los Angeles.

So after waiting a day out of respect for Kobe Bryant, they went all in on one of the biggest trades in NFL draft history.

The Rams acquired the No. 1 overall pick from the Tennessee Titans, giving up six draft picks over the next two seasons in exchange for three choices.

In the first NFL trade involving the top overall pick since 2004, the Rams also acquired Tennessee's choices in the fourth and sixth rounds. In exchange, the Titans got the 15th overall pick from Los Angeles along with two second-round selections and a third-round pick in this draft, along with the Rams' first- and third-round picks in 2017.

UConn players first three selected in WNBA draft

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) — Breanna Stewart, Moriah Jefferson and Morgan Tuck had historic careers at UConn. The trio made more history Thursday

FACES night in the WNBA as the top three picks in the draft.

Stewart went first to the Seattle Storm, Jefferson second to San Antonio and Tuck third to Connecticut. It's the first time that the top three picks came from the same school.

No draft in any major sport has ever had the top three picks come from the same school according to information provided to the WNBA by the Elias Sports Bureau.

“He needs to be smart enough to say there’s a problem. It’s like the alcoholic that won’t admit he’s an alcoholic; well, you can’t address that you’re an alcoholic if you don’t ever admit there’s a problem.”

— **Ethan Banning**
Owner of Triple Threat Performance in Phoenix, Arizona and former personal trainer for Boston Red Sox third baseman Pablo Sandoval speaking about Sandoval's eating habits in an interview with the Boston Herald. Banning said that Sandoval needs to have a babysitter to help him with his overeating habits.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1918 — Babe Ruth pitched a four-hitter for Boston in the season opener and drove in two runs in a 7-1 win over Philadelphia.

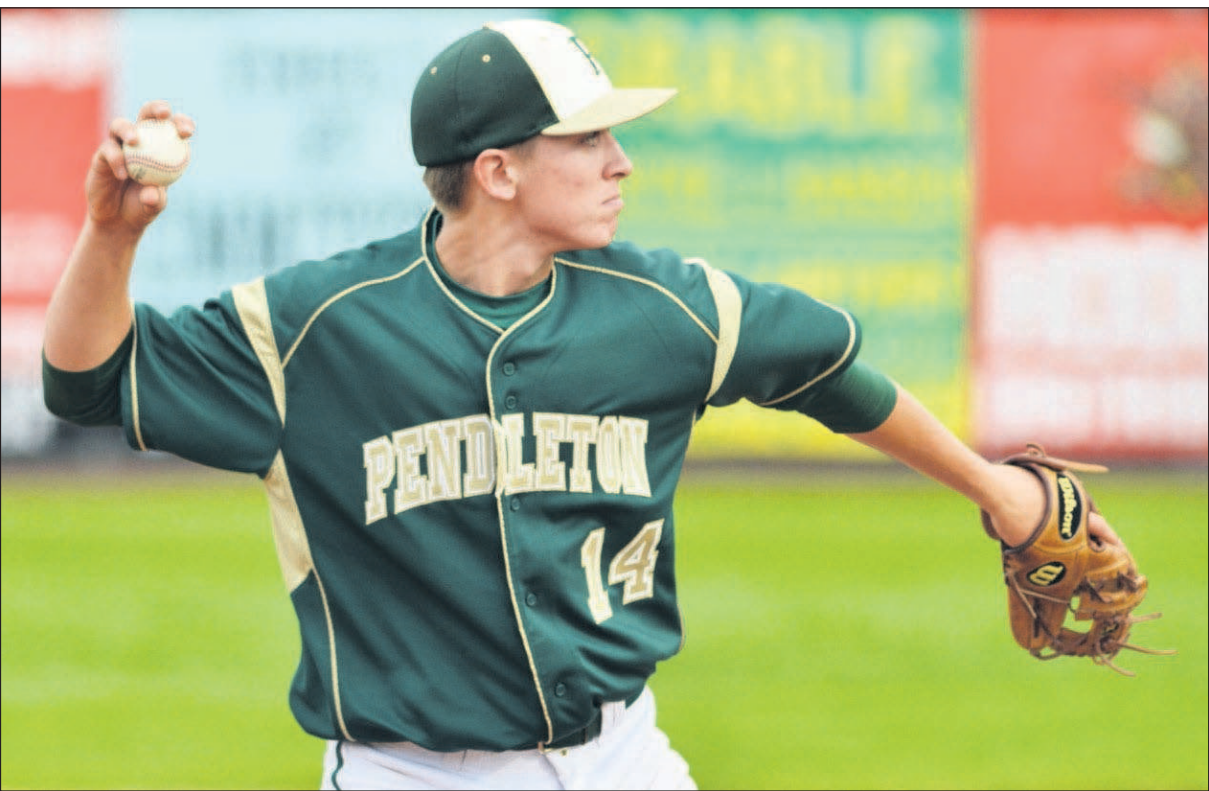
1952 — The Detroit Red Wings beat the Montreal Canadiens 3-0 to capture the Stanley Cup. The Red Wings holds the Canadiens to two goals in the four-game sweep.

1998 — The first-ever AL-NL doubleheader is held in New York's Shea Stadium. The New York Yankees beat the Anaheim Angels 6-3 and the New York Mets edge the Chicago Cubs 2-1.

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

CRC Baseball

Consistency key to CRC race



In this May 23, 2015 file photo, Pendleton third baseman James Bradt throws the ball to first base in the Bucks' 6-1 win against Hillsboro in Pendleton.

Pendleton, Hermiston baseball working hard as conference play approaches

By ERIC SINGER & MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Since the Columbia River Conference's creation for the 2011 season, Pendleton has won three titles and Hood River Valley and The Dalles each have one. Hermiston has finished second three times.

The hunt for the 2016 CRC crown begins with two doubleheaders on Saturday when Pendleton plays at defending CRC and state champion Hood River and Hermiston hosts The Dalles.

Here's what to look for out of the local teams as they begin the league season:

PENDLETON (9-4)
The non-league schedule has
See **BASEBALL/2B**

CRC Softball

Bucks poised to extend run

Pendleton, Hermiston prepare for softball league openers

By ERIC SINGER & MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

With some Class 5A leagues already seven games into their conference schedules, the Columbia River Conference finally joins the action on Saturday with a pair of doubleheaders.

The defending CRC champion Pendleton Buckaroos (11-2) will open at the Hood River Valley Eagles (7-6), and Hermiston (8-5) will host The Dalles (11-3) at Rocky Heights Elementary at noon.

Hermiston has finished in last place in each of the past two seasons while Pendleton is looking for a fifth-straight title.

Here's what to look for out of the local squads as they enter league play:

PENDLETON (11-2)
Much of Pendleton's recent dominance of the CRC can be attributed to a steady stream of power hitters that rewrote the Buckaroo record books on a yearly basis. Pendleton still has plenty of power in its lineup, but the Bucks are better equipped to win low scoring games this season as well with an experienced pitching staff that has allowed a league-low 45 runs in preseason play.



In this April 28, 2015 file photo, Pendleton's Lauren Richards winds up for a pitch against The Dalles at Steve Cary Field in Pendleton.

EO file photo/
Kathy Aney

Senior Kiersten Murphy and sophomore Lauren Richards have split starting duties this season with Richards throwing mostly in the second game of doubleheaders, and senior Gracie Lyon has thrived in a relief role.

All three pitchers excel at keeping the ball low and don't put their defense in spots where it has to

make tough plays. "I feel very comfortable and confident in all three pitchers we have this year," said Pendleton coach Tim Cary. "I think we can put any one of them in at any time, which is a nice luxury to have no doubt about it."

See **SOFTBALL/2B**

Prep Roundup

Hegarty first at PCC

Pendleton boys golf places 2nd

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton boys golf team shot well considering the conditions at Pendleton Country Club on Thursday, but couldn't out-shoot The Dalles and took a surprise second-place finish.

The Dalles came in at 323 while Pendleton shot 328. Third-place Kamiakin shot 333 and Hermiston was fourth with 350.

"We beat them quite handily the last time we played them," Pendleton coach Nels Nelson said. "They really surprised us."

"It's just kind of a wake-up call as you would say."

Pendleton senior Reilly Hegarty shot a 78 to take medalist honors and teammate Brayden Pulver shot an 80 to finish fourth. The Dalles had three players in the top five, led by co-runner-up Chase Snodgrass with

See **PREPS/2B**

Rip City Return: Blazers make playoffs despite doubters

Portland begins series at LA Clippers on Sunday

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — For the regular season finale, the Portland Trail Blazers passed out T-shirts reading "Never Doubt Rip City."

Just in case there are still some doubters, the "never" is underlined.

The Blazers defied preseason expectations and made the playoffs, claiming the fifth seed in the Western Conference. They open their third straight postseason on Sunday in Los Angeles against the Clippers.

It's almost as if the Blazers succeeded despite the cynics.

"One person picked as what, 15 out of 15 in the West? I mean, the list goes on. I think everybody felt disrespected, like that's not what our season is gonna be," guard Allen Crabbe said. "It was everybody's goal since training camp that we were gonna play hard and it was us against everybody. Everybody stuck with that: We got better as the season went along and we had a



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) has some words with referee Tre Maddox (73) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

AP Photo/Steve Dykes

helluva season."

Portland was expected to reach the playoffs last season — and did — with a starting lineup that included Damian Lillard, LaMarcus Aldridge, Wesley Matthews, Nicolas Batum and Robin Lopez. But Matthews' late-season Achilles injury messed with the team's chemistry, and they were eliminated in the first round by a strong Memphis team.

Going into this season, the play-

offs seemed a longshot.

All the starters except Lillard departed in the offseason, and coach Terry Stotts was tasked with assembling a cohesive unit around his talented point guard. One odds-maker predicted Portland would win about 26 games.

Lillard and backcourt partner CJ McCollum went on to pace a group that finished the regular season 44-38. The Blazers won seven of their final nine games to close out

NBA

Portland Trail Blazers (44-38)

Los Angeles Clippers (53-29)

Game 1: Sunday at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m. (TNT)
Game 2: Wed., April 20 at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m. (TNT)
Game 3: Saturday, April 23 at Portland, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Game 4: Monday, April 25 at Portland, 7:30 p.m. (TNT)
Game 5: Wednesday, April 27 at Los Angeles, TBD
Game 6: Friday, April 29 at Portland, TBD
Game 7: Sunday, May 1 at Los Angeles, TBD

the regular season. "It's going to be tough like it has been all season long. They're a really good team," Lillard said about the Clippers. "But we know that we have a chance. So we've got to go out there and be ourselves, lock in and be ready."

In the finale Wednesday night against the Nuggets, a 107-99 Portland win, Lillard broke Matthews' franchise record for 3-pointers and now has 828 for the Blazers. He averaged 25.1 points, becoming just the third Portland player to average

See **BLAZERS/3B**