

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

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Sports shorts

Penguins to play for Stanley Cup

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bryan Rust scored a pair of second-period goals and Matt Murray stopped 16 shots to lift the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals on Thursday night to send the franchise to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2009.



Pittsburgh will host Western Conference champion San Jose in Game 1 of the final Monday night.

Jonathan Drouin scored his fifth goal of the playoffs for the Lightning and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 37 saves, but it wasn't enough to send Tampa Bay back to the Cup Final for a second straight year. Captain Steven Stamkos had two shots in his return from a two-month layoff while dealing with a blood clot.

Lillard makes All-NBA Second Team

PORTLAND — Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard was named to the All-NBA Second Team, it was announced Thursday by the league.

Lillard, 25, averaged a career-high 25.1 points, making him just the fourth Trail Blazer in franchise history to average more than 25.0 points per game. He also produced a career-best 6.8 assists and 4.0 rebounds in 75 games.

In his fourth NBA season, Lillard finished sixth in the NBA in scoring and tied for eighth in assists to become the first Portland player ever to rank in the top-10 in both categories. He also became the franchise leader in three-point field goals (828), and his 229 three-pointers broke his previous franchise record for the most made in a single season.

This represents the second All-NBA honor for Lillard after being named to the Third Team in 2013-14.

“That’s a touchy subject. I try and leave that one alone.”

— Brandon Browner

Seattle Seahawks defensive back on his role in helping the New England Patriots beat Seattle in Super Bowl XLIX. Browner is back in Seattle, where he helped found the “Legion of Boom,” this season and has been working in a new cornerback/safety/linebacker hybrid role.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1823 — A \$20,000 match race between American Eclipse (representing The North) and Henry (representing The South) is held at Union Course, Long Island, N.Y. American Eclipse wins in two-of-three heats, after his original jockey, William Crafts, is replaced by Samuel Purdy before the second heat. The race, witnessed by 60,000 spectators, is the first to have been timed by split-second chronometers, which were imported for the event.

1981 — Julius Erving of the Philadelphia 76ers is named the NBA's Most Valuable Player, making him the only player to win MVP honors in both the NBA and the ABA.

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

Hermiston High graduates Crystal Schmidt, left, and David Barnett are two of the NAIA's top javelin throwers at Carroll College in Helena, Mont.

Photo by Jerek Wolcott courtesy of the Independent Record



HERMISTON Hermiston heavers among NAIA's best

David Barnett and Crystal Schmidt compete for Carroll at nationals

(Editor's Note: David Barnett won the NAIA national championship in javelin on Thursday with a throw of 204.5 feet. Crystal Schmidt placed fourth with a program-record heave of 151.5 feet.)

By RYAN COLLINGWOOD
Independent Record

HELENA, MONT. — Two years ago, an unknown number flashed across Carroll defensive end and javelin thrower David Barnett's cell phone.

He recognized the 541 area code, though — matching that of his hometown of Hermiston — and answered the call.

“Guess who this is,” a female voice

on the other line sounded. “It’s Crystal Schmidt, and I’m here in Helena on a recruiting visit. Let’s get together.”

Schmidt and Barnett were friends and multi-sport standouts at Hermiston where Schmidt was a year ahead of Barnett.

Schmidt was fresh off a two-year All-American career at Blue Mountain Community College when she made the jaunt to Helena. Barnett was a freshman.

The last time the two competed in the same forum was the 2012 5A Oregon Track and Field Championships at the University of Oregon, where Barnett placed second in the javelin with a heave of 192 feet, 2 inches. Schmidt was third with a throw of 125 feet.

But here the two were in Montana's capital, away from track and field-rich Oregon, focused primarily on other pursuits.

Football brought the 6-foot-3,

See HEAVERS/2B

Prep Baseball/Softball

Six teams host quarterfinal games

Weston-McEwen baseball only squad on the road

East Oregonian

The Irrigon Knights baseball team announced its arrival in the state 2A/1A bracket with the largest win of the first round on Wednesday when it rolled past Lost River 17-1.

It was the first state postseason game for the Knights, and their win was one of seven for area teams in the first round of baseball and softball playoffs.

The No. 4 Knights are one of six local squads hosting state quarterfinals games today, and will throw out the first pitch against No. 12 Kennedy at 3:30 p.m.

The Trojans are the lowest remaining seed in the 2A/1A bracket after upsetting No. 5 Reedsport 8-6 in the first round.

It'll be the second time the teams have met in Irrigon this season. The first was a 10-9 Irrigon win on March 23 that saw the Knights score four runs in the final three innings to complete the comeback. The Knights pounded out 18 hits in that game.

First-round Irrigon starter Austin Rice could be available after throwing just 76 pitches against Lost River, and tossed three hitless innings against Kennedy in March.

No. 6 WESTON-MCEWEN at No. 3 MONROE, 4:30 p.m. — The TigerScots are the only team hitting the road today as they face the Dragons in the 2A/1A quarterfinals.

With two common opponents on their schedule this season, both teams own one-run wins over Regis and losses to Stanfield.

Monroe is led by a veteran roster that finished runner-up in the state last season. The TigerScots fell short of the final bracket last season but still have a few upperclassmen left from their runner-up



Irrigon's Cougar Kroske connects for a sacrifice single in the Knights' 17-1 win against Lost River on Wednesday in Irrigon. The Knights are one of six local teams hosting state quarterfinal games on Friday.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

finish in 2013-14.

No. 11 CATLIN GABEL at No. 3 STANFIELD, 4:30 p.m. — Catlin Gabel may have put up 11 runs in the opening round of the state tournament, but its paltry 113 on the season (5.4 per game) suggests the Eagles could struggle when they come to Madigan Field.

The Tigers are coming off an 11-2 win over Lakeview, and have been held to fewer than six runs in a game just twice this season. Stanfield has reached double digits in each of its last nine games, and is averaging 13 a game during that span.

The Eagles are scheduled to face Stanfield ace Dylan Grogan, who has thrown no-hitters in two of his last four starts and has allowed just four hits over his last 20 2-3 innings pitched.

Softball

No. 10 SILVERTON at No. 2 PENDLETON, 5 p.m. — The Buckaroos host the Foxes in a rematch from last season's semifinals, which Pendleton won 10-0 at Steve Cary Field on its way to a runner-up finish in 5A.

The Foxes have yet to face Pendleton pitcher Lauren Richards, though, who was at first base for last season's meeting.

Richards is coming off a five-inning perfect outing, and has allowed just six runs on 14 hits while striking out 42 and going 5-0 in her last 28 innings pitched.

Pendleton is averaging 9.5 runs a game for the season, 8.8 a game during its current 10-game winning streak, and 13-per in its last four.

Silverton, which edged Hillsboro

2-0 in the first round, averages 8.1 runs for the season and 6.3-per during its three-game winning streak.

No. 8 DOUGLAS at No. 1 MAC-HI, 5 p.m. — Douglas comes to Yantis Park in the quarterfinals for the second season in a row. Last season the Pioneers beat the Trojans 4-0 on their way to a second-straight 4A championship.

Mallory Copeland allowed just two hits in her playoff pitching debut in an 11-1 win over Hidden Valley on Wednesday, but will face a Trojans lineup that totaled 15 hits in an 8-5 win over Crook County in the first round.

Mac-Hi is coming off a 14-hit game of its own and both teams are averaging about 8.5 runs a game

See QUARTERFINALS/2B

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) celebrates after scoring against the Oklahoma City Thunder during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Thursday, May 26, 2016, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won 120-111.



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

NBA Playoffs

Warriors stave off elimination

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry scored 31 points, raising his arms in the early moments to awaken Golden State's raucous crowd, and the defending champion Warriors staved off elimination with a 120-111 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday night in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals.

The MVP made a snazzy layup late and dished out six assists, while Klay Thompson added 27 points as Golden State sent the best of-seven series back to Oklahoma City for Game 6 on Saturday night. Golden State trails 3-2 and is trying to become just the 10th team to rally from a 3-1 deficit.

“We’re not going home! We’re not going home!” Curry yelled at the top of his lungs in the waning moments.

Kevin Durant scored 40 points and Russell Westbrook added 31 points,

Western Finals
Oklahoma City 111 Golden State 120

• Thunder lead series 3-2

eight assists, seven rebounds and five steals for the Thunder, trying for the fifth NBA Finals appearance in franchise history and chasing just the second championship after the 1978-79 Seattle SuperSonics won it all.

The record-setting, 73-win Warriors, coming off their first back-to-back defeats all season, had been blown out in two losses at Oklahoma City by a combined 52 points.

Curry shot 9 for 20 and also had five steals, while Thompson had his 11th 20-point game for the second straight postseason despite shooting 2 for 9 from 3-point range. Draymond Green had 11 points and 13 rebounds.