

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016

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Sports shorts

Knicks hire Jeff Hornacek as coach

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks have hired Jeff Hornacek, who emerged last month as Phil Jackson's coaching choice.



Jackson went with the former Phoenix Suns coach over anyone who had played or worked under him. The Knicks finished last year at 32-50 under interim coach Kurt Rambis.

Jackson said in a statement Thursday that Hornacek has "tremendous basketball acumen and possesses strong leadership skills."

The two discussed the job in mid-May but took more than two weeks to complete a contract. The Knicks plan to introduce Hornacek, the 28th coach in franchise history, at a news conference Friday.

US cyclist drops out of Olympics citing Zika threat

(AP) — American cyclist Tejay van Garderen has withdrawn his name from consideration for the Rio Olympics amid concerns that he may contract the

FACES



van Garderen

Zika virus and pass it along to his pregnant wife. He is believed to be the first athlete to back out of the Summer Olympics because of the mosquito-borne illness.

Garderen, a member of the 2012 Olympic team, would have been a likely choice for one of the two U.S. spots. The 27-year-old Tour de France veteran is a strong time trial rider and his climbing ability would have been well-suited to the hilly course at the Rio Olympics.

Van Garderen's wife, Jessica, is due in October.

Other athletes, including U.S. soccer star Hope Solo, have expressed concerns.

"Not only is that something that is bad for our network partners, but for all of the fan research we have shows that the fans hate it. There may be a compromise in there where we can cut it down significantly."

— Adam Silver

NBA Commissioner speaking before Game of the NBA Finals on Thursday on his intent to try and eliminate or find a way to fix the Hack-a-Shaq strategy where teams intentionally foul poor free throw shooters. Silver was "on the fence" with the issue last year.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1932 — Lou Gehrig becomes the first major league player to hit four consecutive home runs in a game.

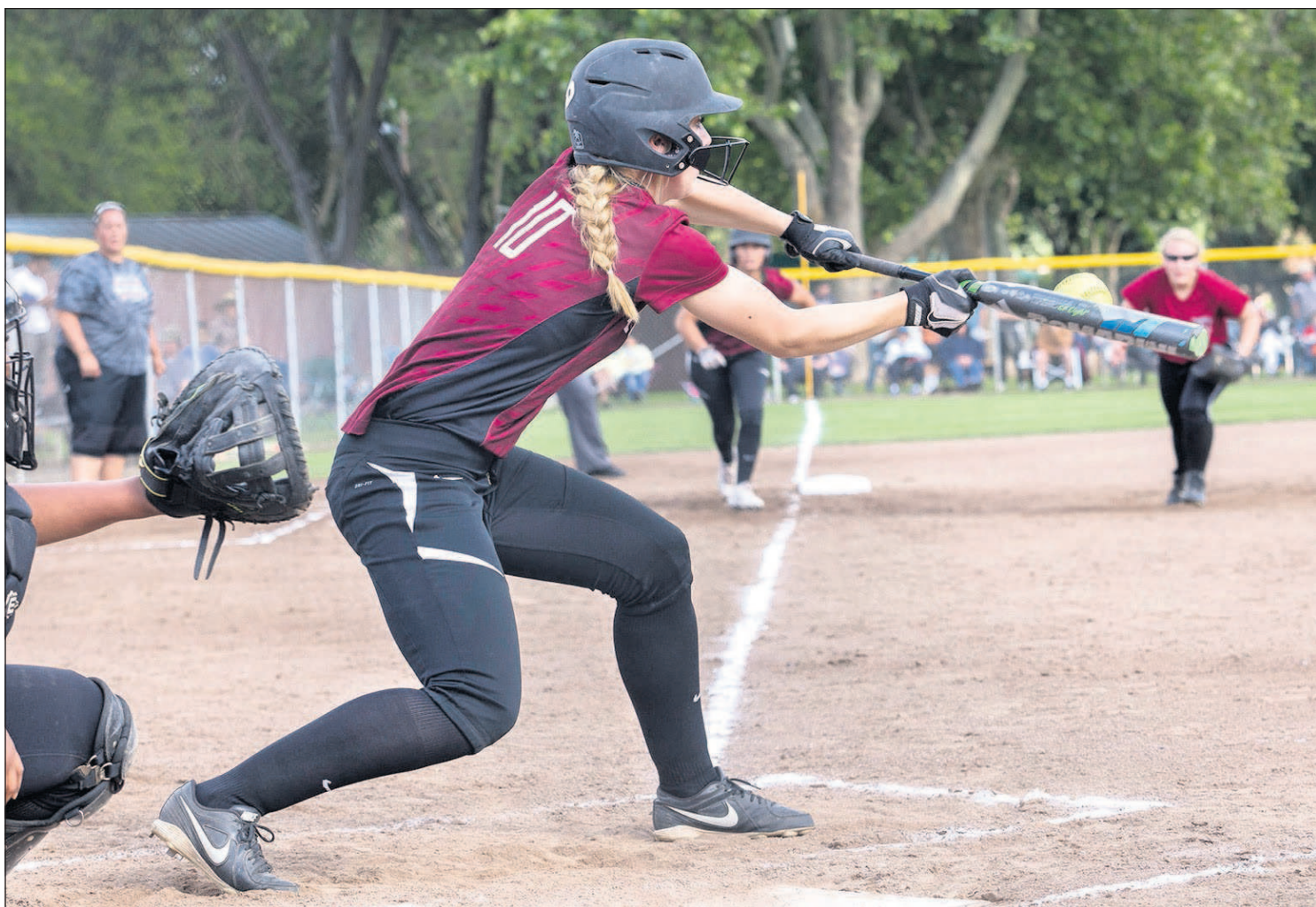
1995 — Pedro Martinez of Montreal pitches nine perfect innings against San Diego before giving up a leadoff double to Bip Roberts in the 10th inning of the Expos' 1-0 win.

2011 — Roger Federer ends Novak Djokovic's perfect season and 43-match winning streak in the French Open semifinals.

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

MILTON-FREEWATER

Pioneers not feeling pressure



Sydney Richwine, of Mac-Hi, bunts the softball during Friday's state playoff game against Douglas in Milton-Freewater.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Mac-Hi confident but relaxed in trek for third-straight state title

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

When softball practices kicked off on Feb. 29, the Mac-Hi Pioneers had one goal in mind: a state championship.

After the hundreds of hours of practices, games, and individual workouts in the time since then, the Pioneers are just one game away from reaching that goal and capturing their third straight Class 4A state title.

Achieving the three-peat would be a tremendous accomplishment for the school and for the community, as only three schools have reached that milestone in OSAA history. Churchill did so twice from 1980-1983 and 1985-1987 when there were only two classifications, Crater repeated in Class 5A in 2007-2009 and Valley Catholic did so in Class 3A also in

2007-2009.

However, as Mac-Hi prepared for their final day of practice at Yantis Park on Thursday, it's obvious the team does not feel much internal or external pressure as the game approaches. Practice was just as loose and fun as it had been all year, with music blaring and girls having fun which creates the relaxed atmosphere that has been a key to the team's success.

"When I see them goofing around and dancing around I know they're good to go," Mac-Hi coach Nicole Christian said. "We know it's a big deal for the town and the school but it's never been a feeling of we *have* to win this game. I think we've surprised a lot of people getting back but we definitely

4A Softball Championship



#3 Braves (22-3)

• Saturday, 1 p.m.

• at OSU Softball Complex

• Online: OSAA.org/radio-network



#1 Mac-Hi Pioneers (25-5)

aren't okay with just getting back we want to take Banks down again."

The title game will feature a repeat of the 2015 championship game, as the No. 1 seed Pioneers will take on the No. 3 seed Banks Braves.

The Pioneers took down the Braves 4-0 in the title game last year, and then defeated the Braves again in the 2016 non-league schedule in a 5-4 game on Apr. 2.

Christian said that the familiarity with the Braves has helped with preparation this week, but they know the Braves are a bit of a different team than the one they saw in April.

"I think any time you face a team you've seen before it helps, but it was only (Banks') second

game of the season and we had a few more games under our belt at the time," Christian said. "But in the end we know them, they know us and it's going to be a great battle on Saturday."

Christian said that Banks has shifted its pitching staff a bit since the two teams played, with freshmen Kaylin Hernandez and Michaela Shaw stepping in and carrying the load for the latter half of the season. The Pioneers haven't changed much in their preparation for the Braves, other than a heavier dose of reps at the plate to make sure they are fully ready to go.

"I think we've been consistent throughout the year (in our preparation)," Christian said. "When we're down to this game, there's not much you can do other than fine tune stuff and have fun."

See PIONEERS/2B

Warriors bench blows by Cavs in Game 1

By JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry's "Strength In Numbers" supporting cast made all the timely shots and all the difference for the defending champions in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Draymond Green had 16 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, Shaun Livingston scored a personal postseason best of 20 and Golden State's bench came up big as the Warriors beat LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-89 on Thursday night to move three wins away from a repeat title.

Golden State's bench outscored the Cavs' reserves 45-10 in the opener of this finals rematch.

In a series with so much star power on both sides, this was a night for Livingston and fellow reserves Leandro Barbosa and Andre Iguodala. Barbosa returned from a minor back injury to shoot 5 for 5, while 2015 finals MVP Iguodala had 12 points, seven rebounds, six



Ezra Shaw, Getty Images via AP, Pool

Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) dunks against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the first half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, June 2, 2016.

assists and some stingy defense on James.

James kicked off his sixth straight finals with 23 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, but cold-shooting Cleveland went 38.1 percent from the floor. Kyrie Irving, lost to a knee

injury in Game 1 last year, scored 26 points, 11 on free throws.

Kerr stuck with regular starter Harrison Barnes, and he delivered 13 points. Curry had 11 points, six assists and five rebounds, while Thompson scored nine points.

NBA Finals



89



104

Iguodala had moved back into the starting lineup Monday for the Game 7 clincher against Oklahoma City with a primary duty of defending Kevin Durant, shining in that role, and again came off the bench to play 36 minutes Thursday.

Cleveland emerged from halftime with a newfound energy, zipping passes every which way, going hard to the basket whenever possible and swarming Curry and the others on the defensive end to create turnovers and poor decisions.

Kevin Love's basket with 3:57 left in the third put the Cavs ahead before Green's dunk moments later.

Love made an impressive finals debut with 17 points and 13 rebounds after missing last year's run with a dislocated shoulder that required surgery.

Mariners stun Padres with come-from-behind win

By BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kyle Seager, Dae-Ho Lee and the Seattle Mariners scored 14 times in two innings to erase a 10-run deficit and stun San Diego 16-13 Thursday night, the latest pratfall for a Padres team that was ripped in a radio interview by its executive chairman a day earlier.

Trailing 12-2 after five, the Mariners benefited from a bullpen meltdown by the Padres. Seager hit a bases-loaded, two-run single with one out in the sixth to chase starter Colin Rea, followed by

Lee's impressive, pinch-hit, three-run homer off Brad Hand that landed in the second balcony of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner.

The Mariners then sent 13 batters to the plate in their nine-run seventh, getting seven straight hits with two outs. Seager once again had a big hit, a two-run single followed by an RBI single by Lee, who stayed in the game at first base. Pinch-hitter Stefan Romero singled in the tying run, and Shawn O'Malley's RBI single gave the

MLB



16



13

Mariners a 13-12 lead.

Norichika Aoki added an RBI single and Franklin Gutierrez had a two-run single to make it 16-12. Aoki had two

hits and scored twice in the inning. Hand and fellow relievers Ryan Buchter, Brandon Maurer and Matt Thornton combined to allow 10 runs on nine hits in 1 2/3 innings.

Maurer (0-2) gave up three runs while failing to get an out in the seventh.

Cody Martin (1-0), called up earlier in the day from Triple-A

Tacoma, pitched the sixth for the victory. Steve Cishek worked a scoreless ninth for his 13th save in 16 appearances.

The Padres sent 13 batters to the plate in the fifth, scoring seven runs on seven hits, two walks, a hit batsman and a balk by Miley. Myers and Upton each had a two-run single. Jay and Alexei Ramirez each had an RBI single.

Nelson Cruz hit a solo homer to right-center estimated at 445 feet with one out in the fourth, his 11th.

Lee, pinch-hitting for Adam Lind in the sixth, pulled the Mariners to 12-7 with his three-run homer.