

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, JUNE 11-12, 2016

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1B

Sports shorts

Lee’s two HR lead M’s past Rangers

SEATTLE (AP) — Dae-Ho Lee hit two home runs, including a three-run blast off Rangers starter Derek Holland, as the Seattle Mariners defeated Texas 7-5 on Friday night. Hisashi Iwakuma (5-5) allowed three runs all on solo home runs over seven innings for Seattle. Steve Cishek earned a four-out save, his 14th of the season.

Lee gave the Mariners the early lead with a solo shot off Holland (5-5) in the second inning. He crushed a slider from Holland to nearly the same spot over the wall in center field to give the Mariners a 4-1 lead in the fourth. Lee’s four RBIs matched a career-high.

Kyle Seager followed with a solo home run to right to extend the lead to 5-1. It was the first time this season Seattle hit back-to-back home runs.

Hockey world in mourning after death of Howe

DETROIT (AP) — Gordie Howe worked all his remarkable life to earn the respect and awe that came with being “Mr. Hockey.” The Canadian farm boy who developed his brute strength and incredible stamina on the Saskatchewan prairie could put his team ahead with a timely goal or even the

score with opponents with his elbows and fists. Away from the rink, Howe worked just as hard to become one of the most likable superstars in any sport.

If there is anything hockey reveres, it’s hard work. Few brought more of that to the game than Howe, whose boundless blend of talent and toughness made him the NHL’s quintessential star during a career that lasted into his 50s. He died Friday at the age of 88 surrounded by family members after a storied career that included four Stanley Cup championships.

With finesse and a heavy dose of grit, the Hockey Hall of Famer set NHL records with 801 goals and 1,850 points — mostly with the Detroit Red Wings — that held up until Gretzky came along.

“He was a tremendous bolt of lightning, created by Mother Nature out of thin air, a fantastic combination of power and beauty.”

— Billy Crystal Actor/comedian addressing a crowd of nearly 15,000 at a three-hour memorial for the former heavyweight boxing champion, who died last week at age 74 after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1990 — Nolan Ryan, 43, pitches the sixth no-hitter of his career as the Texas Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 5-0.
2012 — The Los Angeles Kings win their first NHL championship, beating the New Jersey Devils 6-1 in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals. Jeff Carter and Trevor Lewis score two goals apiece for the Kings, the first eighth-seeded playoff team to win the Stanley Cup.

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



FACES



Howe

All-State Baseball/Softball

Vera adds new all-state honor

Decorated Irrigon senior earns first team for baseball

East Oregonian

In a sports society that is seeing an increasing trend of one-sport athletes, Fredy Vera is a rare find.

The Irrigon senior was a three-sport star for the Knights throughout his high school career, carving out successful stints in football, basketball and baseball. He may have been known best for his basketball prowess, playing a key part of Irrigon’s back-to-back state championship teams in 2014 and 2015, but in his senior season he became much more than a basketball star.

Vera ended his career with the Knights in fantastic fashion, winning district Player of the Year honors in basketball and baseball, and making the all-state team in football, and recently he was selected to the first team all-state roster in Class 2A/1A for baseball.

He finished baseball’s regular season with a .525 batting average, an on-base percentage of .602, while also belting three home runs with 14 RBI and 41 runs.

“It’s really unexplainable. I can’t really put words together,” Vera said of his career. “It was the best four years anybody could ask for, winning two state titles in basketball, making history in football and also making history in baseball. I’m really going to miss being apart of the Irrigon Knights, but they will always be home!”

Vera will now also be remembered for leading both the Irrigon baseball and football teams into the history books, as both programs clinched berths into their respective state tournaments this year for the first time in school history.

Irrigon pitcher Austin Rice joined

See ALL-STATE/2B



In this May 27 photo, Irrigon’s Fredy Vera (5) gets a high-five from teammate Cougar Kroske after scoring in the Knights’ 12-3 win against Kennedy in the second round of the 2A/1A state play-offs in Irrigon. Vera and Kroske were two of 11 local baseball players selected to the 2A/1A, 4A and 5A All-State teams, which were released this week.

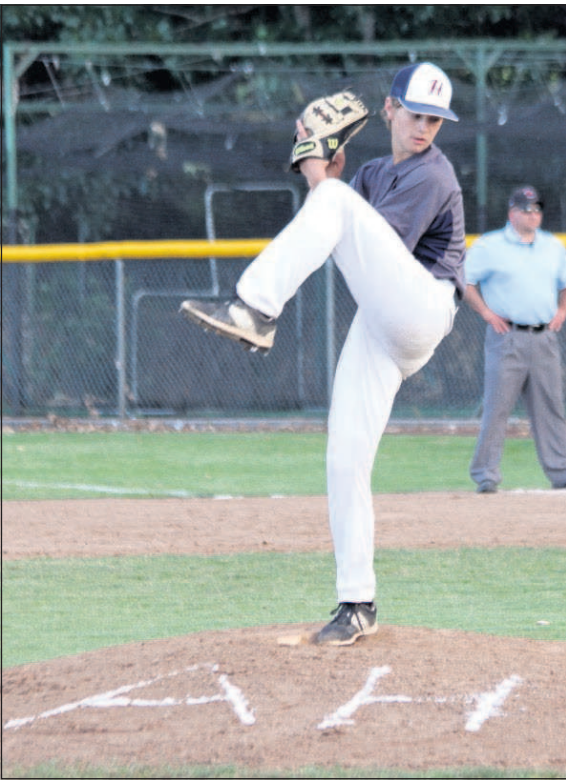
Staff photo by E.J. Harris

PENDLETON

Hodgen wins summer opener

Hodgen Distributing’s Daniel Naughton pitches from the mound, which is chalked with the letters AH on Friday at the Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament. Hodgen defeated Central Valley 10-0 in five innings at Bob White Field, where Ashlee spent much of her time helping her father Mike Hodgen with groundskeeping duties until her sudden death in July 2015 at age 24.

Staff photo by Matt Entrup



Naughton pitches complete-game shutout

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Daniel Naughton pitched a complete game and Nick Bower bounced a pair of doubles off the wall at Bob White Field to lead Hodgen Distributing past Central Valley 10-0 in five innings to open the summer baseball season on Friday.

Pitching from a mound chalked with the letters AH, Naughton allowed just two hits and struck out eight to conclude the first day of action in the Ashlee Hodgen Memorial Tournament.

“I thought Daniel Naughton threw a great ballgame,” said

See HODGEN/2B

IRRIGON

Salas elevated to head spot with Knights

Former assistant picked to lead Irrigon boys basketball team into Class 3A

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

For the past four years, the Irrigon Knights have established themselves as one of the premier boys basketball programs in Class 2A.

Over that span, the Knights put up a combined record of 98-12 overall and 48-4 in



Salas

league play, as well as earning back-to-back state championships in 2013 and 2014 under head coaches Jake McElligott and Mitch Thompson.

However, new challenges

await the Knights in 2016-2017 as they move up to Class 3A and they will also have a new man leading the way as former assistant Davy Salas was hired as the new head coach.

Salas spent the last two seasons coaching under Thompson, who resigned following the 2015-2016 season.

“I started coaching junior varsity two years ago and the goal was all along to become a varsity coach,” Salas said. “I was willing to be patient but when the opportunity popped up I knew I wanted it.”

See SALAS/2B

NBA Finals

Cavaliers on the ropes after loss

Warriors can clinch championship with win on Monday

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James said Game 4 was another “do-or-die” scenario for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

He can only hope he was wrong.

The NBA Finals have all but slipped away from James and the Cavaliers, an offensive disaster of a fourth quarter their undoing in what became a 108-97 loss to the Golden State Warriors in Game 4 on Friday night. Cleveland now trails the series 3-1, a deficit that no team has ever successfully overcome in the championship round.



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry celebrates a basket against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the second half of Game 4 of basketball’s NBA Finals in Cleveland, Friday, June 10, 2016.

Game 5 is Monday in Oakland, where the defending champion Warriors are 50-3 this season. If Cleveland is going to

pull off this miracle, it’ll need to win there twice.

So it’s not over.

See NBA FINALS/2B