

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

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Sports shorts

EOU finishes 41st in Director's Cup

CLEVELAND — Eastern Oregon University took fourth in the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) and 41st overall in the final standings of the 2016 Learfield Directors' Cup, the NAIA announced.

EOU tallied 313.50 total points in the standings, slipping in behind Northwest Christian (40th, 317.25), Southern Oregon (8th, 591.25) and College of Idaho (12th, 542.50).

The Learfield Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 20 sports in Division I (10 women's, 10 men's) and 12 sports in the NAIA.



Ex-Baylor coach claims wrongful termination

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Fired Baylor coach Art Briles is ripping his former employer, accusing the school of wrongful termination and indicating

he has no interest in settling a federal lawsuit filed against him and the university by a woman who was raped by a football player.

In a motion filed Thursday as part of the lawsuit, Briles said he wants a judge to assign him new counsel and his personal attorney Ernest Cannon, said the school was using the coach as a scapegoat for its failings in handling allegations of sexual assault.

"The conclusion is inescapable that the motive of Baylor and the Board of Regents was to use its head football coach and the Baylor athletic department as a camouflage to disguise and distract from its own institutional failure to comply" with federal civil rights protections, Cannon wrote to Baylor's attorneys.

"If you're convinced it's a state administered system, your athletes have to pay the price for that. ... If it's tough love, it's tough love."

— **Dick Pound**
Former WADA president speaking about possible sanctions for the Russian track and field program in relation to doping. Russia will learn today whether its athletes will be allowed to compete in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1954 — Rocky Marciano scores a 15-round unanimous decision over Ezzard Charles at New York to retain the world heavyweight title.

1961 — Gene Littler shoots a 68 in the final round to edge Doug Sanders and Bob Goalby in the U.S. Open.
1976 — The 18-team NBA absorbs four of the six remaining ABA teams: the New York Nets, Indiana Pacers, San Antonio Spurs and Denver Nuggets.

2010 — The University of Utah accepts an invitation to become the 12th member of the newly expanded Pac-10 conference.

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

NBA Finals

Cavaliers send series back to Cali



Cleveland Cavaliers guard J.R. Smith (5) celebrates a basket against the Golden State Warriors during the second half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Thursday, June 16, 2016.

AP Photo/Ron Schwane

Warriors can't escape early hole as James, Cavs force Game 7

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 41 points, Kyrie Irving added 23 and the Cleveland Cavaliers sent the NBA Finals packing for California by beating the rattled Golden State Warriors 115-101 on Thursday night to even this unpredictable series and force a decisive Game 7.

James delivered another epic performance in an elimination game

and the Cavs saved their season for the second time in four days and are headed back to Oakland's Oracle Arena for Sunday's climactic game on the brink of history.

One more win and they'll become the first team to overcome a 3-1 deficit in the NBA Finals, and more importantly, give title-starved

Game 6
Golden State 101
Cleveland 115

Cleveland its first major sports championship since Dec. 27, 1964.

"I want to win for sure," James said. "But I want to give everything I've got and we'll see what happens. We forced a Game 7. It's going to be a fun one."

The Warriors never imagined being in this spot. The defending

champions, who powered their way to a record 73 wins in the regular season, won the first two games by 48 combined points. But MVP Stephen Curry and Co. have lost their touch, their poise and are in danger of their historic season — and a second title — vanish.

Curry was ejected from Game 6 with 4:22 left after he was called for his sixth personal foul, cursed at an official and fired his mouthpiece

See NBA FINALS/2B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs earn postseason honors

Hermiston's Brady Christiansen draws contact from Lincoln's Blake Phillips (18) as Benjamin Hofmann in the Bulldogs' 15-1 loss to the Cardinal on Friday in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston lacrosse finishes year with five all-conference picks

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Five Hermiston Bulldogs made the cut on the High Desert League's all-conference rosters following the 2016 season.

The Bulldogs placed junior

attacker Brady Christiansen and junior midfielder Tucker Salinas on the all-conference second team and senior attacker Javier Garcia, and sophomore defensemen Tayler Arnold and Jake Palmer were named as honorable mentions. As a team, Hermiston

went 6-10 overall playing as an independent this season.

Christiansen, a third-year varsity starter for the Bulldogs, was happy to see several teammates join him with all-conference recognition.

See BULLDOGS/2B

College National Finals Rodeo

BMCC poised for strong finish

Six Timberwolves with shot at final round

East Oregonian

CASPER, Wyo. — The Blue Mountain women's rodeo team will have a chance to end the long-go with a bang at the College National Finals Rodeo.

After no Timberwolves competed in Thursday's performance, several members of the team are poised to lock up berths in the short-go in tonight's final performance of the third round.

The T-Wolves remain in second place in the team points with 260, and leader Gillette College is just 37 points ahead.

Danyelle Williams also trails Gillette's Taylor Engesser by just 20 points in the women's all-around standings.

Williams will compete in barrel racing and breakaway, but can only reach the short-go in the barrels after she missed her first breakaway attempt

See RODEO/2B

MLB

Mariners hang on against Rays, avoid sweep

Lee, Seager power Seattle to victory

Seattle 6
Tampa Bay 4

By MARK DITTLER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Seattle Mariners finally held onto a lead and won their series finale at Tampa Bay.

Dae-Ho Lee drove in three runs, James Paxton went six effective innings and the Mariners avoided a three-game sweep by beating the Rays 6-4 on Thursday.

Seattle wasted a four-run lead in Tuesday's 8-7 loss. The Mariners took a two-run

advantage Wednesday before dropping a 3-2, 13-inning decision.

"Every game was tough to get through it, but we're lucky to get out of here with a win today," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "There were no easy innings today."

Lee had an RBI single in a three-run first and drove in two with a double during the fourth. He is tied for the team-lead with Robinson Cano with seven games

of three or more RBIs this year.

Paxton (1-2) gave up three runs and seven hits. The left-hander had been winless in seven starts since a victory at Toronto on May 23 last year.

"Getting a win today was huge," Paxton said. "We didn't want to come out of this series being swept."

Steve Cishek, the third Seattle reliever, pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 19 chances.

Blake Snell, a 23-year-old Seattle native, was recalled from Triple-A Durham before the game and started for the Rays.

See MARINERS/2B



AP Photo/Chris O'Meara

Seattle Mariners' Chris Iannetta looks down at Tampa Bay Rays catcher Curt Casali after knocking him down while being tagged out at home plate trying to score from third base on a fly out by Shawn O'Malley during the seventh inning of a baseball game Thursday, June 16, 2016, in St. Petersburg, Fla.