

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

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1B

MILTON-FREEWATER

La Grande slides into finals



La Grande's Rilyn Kirkland slides safely under the tag of Milton-Freewater catcher Ally Marly during the fifth inning of a Little League softball game at the 11/12-year-old District 3 semifinals on Thursday in Milton-Freewater. La Grande won 17-2.

Milton-Freewater eliminated from Little League bracket

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The Milton-Freewater 11/12-year-old softball team could not take advantage of a rematch against La Grande on Thursday, as La Grande pounded out 17 hits and 17 runs to take down Milton-Freewater 17-2.

The win advances La Grande into the District 3 championship game against unbeaten Pendleton, whom defeated La Grande 14-4 on Wednesday. For Milton-Freewater, its season comes to an end with its second loss of the tournament.

Rilyn Kirkland was the star of the game for La Grande, pitching 4.2 innings and allowing only one hit and one run with three strikeouts as well as going a perfect 5-5 at the plate with three triples and four runs scored.

She scored the games first run in the first inning after picking up a single and a stolen base to set her team up, and then came



Milton-Freewater's Tallulah Sireels makes contact with a pitch from La Grande's Callie Glenn during the sixth inning of a Little League softball game at the 11/12-year-old District 3 semifinals on Thursday in Milton-Freewater.

across to score on an RBI triple from Sierra Meuser for the 1-0 lead. La Grande scored one run in each of the first four innings against Milton-Freewater starting pitcher Hanna Prock.

In the other dugout,

Milton-Freewater's offense could not find the metaphorical 'On' switch, getting retired in order in the first three innings and could not make any kind of hard contact against Kirkland. Milton-Freewater did not earn its

first baserunner until the fourth inning when Tallulah Sireels reached on a fielding error by La Grande's right fielder.

In the fifth inning, the wheels fell off for Milton-Freewater. La Grande's offense sent 11 batters to the plate in the inning and tagged Milton-Freewater pitcher Anna Propeck for four hits and six runs to jump to an 11-0 lead.

Milton-Freewater finally earned its first and only hit of the game in the fifth inning as well, when Kadence Brown led off the inning with a single up the middle. She then proceeded to steal second and third base before coming home to score on an RBI groundout by Cambree Chester to cut the lead to 11-1. Propeck, who walked earlier in the inning, scored later in the inning on a passed ball for the 11-2 lead.

La Grande came out in the sixth inning and piled on with six runs and four hits to push the

See LITTLE LEAGUE/2B

NBA Draft



LSU's Ben Simmons poses for a photo with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after being selected as the top pick by the Philadelphia 76ers during the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 23, 2016, in New York.

76ers take Simmons No. 1

14 international players picked in first round

By BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ben Simmons went from Down Under to the top of the NBA draft, and a record number of international players followed.

The Philadelphia 76ers took the Australian with the No. 1 pick on Thursday night, making him the first of a record 14 international players chosen in the first round.

Nearly half the selections in the 30-pick round were international players, topping the 12 international players chosen in the first round in 2013.

Simmons climbed on stage to the sound of cheers from a Philly-filled crowd hoping he could turn around the 76ers.

Not long after the same crowd was largely quiet as the draft filled with unfamiliar names.

The picks included the first Austrian (Utah center Jakob Poeltl, No. 9 to Toronto), the highest Greek player ever drafted (Georgios Papagiannis, No. 13, Phoenix, rights dealt to Sacramento), two Croatians (Dragan Bender, No. 4 to Phoenix and Ante Zizic, No. 23, Boston), and two players from the Caribbean (Buddy Hield, Bahamas, No. 6 to New Orleans; and Skal Labissiere, Haiti, No. 28, picked by Phoenix but dealt to Sacramento).

Some of the international players won't come to the NBA next season, and perhaps

See NBA/2B

MLB

Sampson exits without a pitch, Seattle skid hits 6

Nuno gets emergency start, M's use six pitchers

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Seattle Mariners were at a loss from the start Thursday.

Pitcher Adrian Sampson exited with discomfort in his right elbow while warming up for the first inning and Seattle wound up dropping its sixth in a row, 5-4 to Detroit in 10 innings.

Sampson will be evaluated back in Seattle.

"Was no pop or anything, just a little discomfort. Felt it was best if I



Robinson Cano struck out to end the inning.

The Tigers got the winning run in the bottom half when pinch runner Cameron Maybin easily scored on a bases-loaded wild pitch by Steve Cishek with two outs.

"That's the way it goes," Cishek said. "It's just embarrassing to give it away like that. Rather have him put in play."

Detroit swept a four-game set from Seattle for the first time since August 1980 at Tiger Stadium.

Steven Moya drew a one-out walk from Cishek (2-4) in the 10th and Maybin pinch ran. Pinch hitter

See MARINERS/2B



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Adrian Sampson points to his right forearm as he talks with catcher Chris Iannetta before the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Thursday, June 23, 2016 in Detroit. Sampson was replaced with pitcher Vidal Nuno.

Sports shorts

Marbles king and queen crowned

WILDWOOD, N.J. (AP) — Louie Lee proved himself the current dominant male player in his sport, crushing his opponent in a national championship match Thursday in New Jersey.

Louie, of Mesa, Colorado, is 11 and he shoots marbles. He shoots them so well, in fact, that he scored five "sticks" — think of a tennis player serving and slamming four aces in a row — to beat Zayd Hadjali, 14, of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, by a score of 8-2 in the best of 15 game series.

With the win, Louie was dubbed "king" of the 93rd National Marbles Championship. He took his place on a wooden throne next to "queen" Haley Grensko, 13, of Pittsburgh, who beat Lauren Shuty, 12, also of western Pennsylvania, 8-5.

Lee

Grensko

"This track has been here since the '60s. We had the glory days of IndyCar here back in the '80s and early '90s. To be back, I think it's what the series needs."

— Mario Andretti
Retired IndyCar driver, 76, on the series' return to Road America. The Kohler Grand Prix on Sunday marks the return of IndyCar to the rural Wisconsin road course for the first time since 2007.

LeBron out of Rio Olympics, Melo left to chase history alone

NEW YORK (AP) — With LeBron James taking a pass, Carmelo Anthony alone will have a chance to become the most-decorated Olympian in men's basketball history.

The New York Knicks forward has agreed to chase a fourth Olympic medal, a person with knowledge of the details said Thursday.

He and James both have two gold medals and a bronze, but James informed USA Basketball that he has withdrawn from consideration, agent Rich Paul told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

James ranks as the team's career leader in points and assists in the Olympics, while ranking second in rebounds.

The Americans still have two spots to fill on their 12-man roster that will be named Monday.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1910 — For the second consecutive year, Hazel Hotchkiss wins the singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association championships.

1998 — Jamaica becomes the first Caribbean nation to win a World Cup soccer match since Cuba beat Romania in 1938. Theodore Whitmore scores in the 40th and 54th minutes as the Jamaicans beat Japan 2-1.

2012 — Major college football finally gets a playoff. A committee of university presidents approve the BCS commissioners' plan for a four-team playoff to start in 2014.

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