

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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MLB

'THE KID' GOES IN

Crowd of 50,000 watches Griffey Jr. join Hall of Fame

By JOHN KEKIS
Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Two players who began their careers at opposite ends of the spectrum nearly three decades ago ended up in the same place on Sunday — with their names etched on plaques at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

For Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza, the culmination of their long journeys was tinged with tears all around.

"I stand up here humbled and overwhelmed," Griffey said, staring out at his family and tens of thousands of fans. "I can't describe how it feels."

The two became a piece of history on their special day. Griffey, the first pick of the 1987 amateur draft, became the highest pick ever inducted. Piazza, a 62nd-round pick the next year — No. 1,390 — is the lowest pick to enter the Hall of Fame.

Griffey played 22 big-league seasons with the Mariners, Reds and White Sox and was selected on a record 99.32 percent of ballots cast.

See HALL OF FAME/2B



National Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Ken Griffey Jr. speaks during the induction ceremony at Clark Sports Center on Sunday, July 24, 2016, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Little League Softball

Oregon finishes pool play strong

Single elimination tournament starts today

East Oregonian

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — After a tough loss to begin the West Regional on Friday, Team Oregon rebounded in a strong way on Saturday and Sunday as they picked up a pair of victories with a 11-9 win over Utah and a 13-5 win over Alaska to finish off pool play.

On Saturday, seven of the nine Oregon starters recorded a hit in the game, while Josie Wilson, Delaney Duchek, Ella Chrisman, Sauren Garton and Ellie Samford all collecting two hits apiece in the game.

Garton had a team-high three RBI to go with her two hits, while Duchek led with three runs scored.

Garton got the start at pitcher and tossed five innings while giving up eight hits and nine runs, however just four of those were earned as Oregon struggled on defense again with six errors in the field. Garton had allowed just four hits and four runs until the sixth inning when Utah attempted their comeback.

Mackenzie Burke came on in relief of Garton in the inning and allowed just one more inherited runner to score on one hit, but closed the door to save the victory.

Oregon scored five runs over the first two innings to put pressure on Utah from the start, and Duchek got the scoring going with an RBI single up the middle to bring in Wilson for the 1-0 lead. Duchek and Maria Lilenthal both crossed the plate later in the first inning on a pair of Utah's defensive miscues, and then an RBI single into left field by Garton in the second brought home Duchek and Chrisman to give Oregon a 5-2 lead.

They then took complete control of the game in the fifth inning when Oregon put a five spot on the board behind a four-hit performance to jump out to a 11-2 lead. Ellie Samford had the big hit in the inning with an RBI triple into left field.

On Sunday, Delaney Duchek smashed a solo home run in the second inning to give Oregon its first lead of the game at 6-5 and later finished the game a perfect 4-4 at the plate with three runs scored and two RBI. Along with Duchek the top of Oregon's lineup continued to shine for the tournament as Josie Wilson and Maria Lilenthal combined to go 4-8 with four runs scored and three RBI.

Mackenzie Burke allowed five runs to Alaska in the top of the first inning to put her team in an early 5-0 hole, however settled down and found a groove for the final five

See SOFTBALL/2B

PENDLETON

Inaugural hillclimb a hit all around

Riders say event already one of best on circuit

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After three days filled with the sound of full-throttle motorcycles and the sight of dirt and dust flying around the air, the inaugural Nitro in the Blues pro hillclimb is being labeled as a big hit.

One reason it was such a success was because of the hill, which is located on a ranch one mile south of Rieth. It was labeled as an average hill compared to some on the



A rider attempts to keep his front tire down while competing in the Nitro in the Blues hill climb on Friday in Reith.

North American Hillclimbers Association circuit coming into the event, but event promoter

Ron Dillon said it turned out to be better than expected.

"I think it went really well.

The riders loved the hill and loved the dirt," Dillon said. "It's really good dirt and it holds the moisture well. The riders loved the layout with the flat bottom and steep hill and that everybody could see everything. We had rave reviews from everybody this weekend from the riders to the spectators."

One of those riders was Joe Shipman, a 29-year-old from Cottonwood, California and one of the top riders on the NAHA circuit, who scaled the hill three times with relative ease on his way to a victory in the Open Pro class on Sunday.

"It was a really great hill, one of the best hills we've ever been to," Shipman said. "The dirt here in Pendleton is really

See HILLCLIMB/2B

NBA

McCollum agrees to 4-year extension with Trail Blazers

Portland continues to lock up its core

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — CJ McCollum agreed to a four-year, \$106 million contract extension with the Portland Trail Blazers, a person familiar with the deal said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condi-

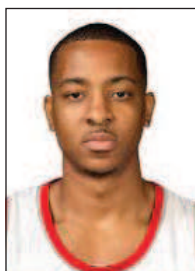
tion of anonymity Monday because the deal hadn't been announced. It was first reported by Yahoo Sports.

McCollum was voted the NBA's Most Improved Player after averaging 20.8 points, 3.2 rebounds and 4.3 assists during the regular season. He raised his scoring average by more than 14 points over the previous season.

As the 10th overall draft pick in 2013, McCollum bided his time on the

bench his first two seasons. The 24-year-old guard became a starter in the backcourt with Damian Lillard last season after four of the team's starters left in the offseason.

With one of the youngest rosters in the league (24.6 years), the Blazers were considered a team that was rebuilding. But they overachieved to earn



McCollum

the fifth seed in the West and advanced to the second round of the playoffs. McCollum averaged 20.5 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.3 assists in the postseason.

His 14-point improvement was the most since Tony Campbell improved from an average of 6.2 points to 23.2 points with Minnesota from the 1988-89

to 1989-90 seasons.

McCollum also finished the regular season with 197 3-pointers to rank ninth in the league and fourth most for the Blazers in one season. He scored in double figures in 79 games.

McCollum's extension comes in a busy offseason for the Blazers. This month they re-signed restricted free agents Allen Crabbe and Meyers Leonard.

Portland also signed free-agent forward Festus Ezeli

and acquired guard Shabazz Napier in a trade with the Orlando Magic for cash. Portland also signed forward Jake Layman, acquired in a draft-day trade, as well as free-agent wing Evan Turner.

In another move Monday, Portland signed free-agent guard Tim Quarterman. Undrafted out of LSU, Quarterman averaged 11.2 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3.6 assists as a junior for the Tigers last season.

Sports shorts

Manning cleared of HGH allegations

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL says it found no credible evidence that Peyton Manning was provided with HGH or other prohibited substances as alleged in a documentary by Al-Jazeera America last fall.

FACES



Manning

The league said the quarterback and his wife fully cooperated in the seven-month investigation, providing interviews and access to all records sought by investigators. Manning vehemently denied the allegations when they were made late in the season.

Manning retired from the NFL a month after Denver's 24-10 win over Carolina in Super Bowl 50.

The NFL is continuing its investigation into allegations made against other NFL players in the documentary, which the league said involves "different lines of inquiry and witnesses."

"Wear the UNI. And be proud of those before you. It's (an) honor to wear any MLB UNI."

— Greg Swindell

Former Major League pitcher on his public Twitter account on Monday evening. The tweet was in reference to Chicago White Sox pitcher Chris Sale's pre-game antics on Saturday when he cut up the throwback uniform the White Sox were scheduled to wear that day because Sale thought they were uncomfortable. Sale was suspended for one week by the White Sox.

Timbers defender out for year

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland Timbers defender Nat Borchers needs surgery to repair a ruptured left Achilles tendon and will miss the rest of the season.

Borchers was hurt on Saturday during the Timbers' 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Galaxy.

It did not appear that the veteran defender was injured by contact when he collapsed to the turf late in the first half. Borchers could not stand after he was treated on the field and left on a stretcher.

Borchers, 35, is a fan favorite and was a key last season when the Timbers won the MLS Cup. The injury comes at a time when another starting defender, Liam Ridgewell, is dealing with a calf injury.

Surgery has not yet been scheduled.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1981 — Pat Bradley shoots a record 279 total to win the U.S. Women's Open.

1998 — Three spectators are killed — the first fan deaths at a major race in the United States in more than a decade — and six are injured by flying debris from a one-car crash at the U.S. 500 at Michigan Speedway.

2005 — Greg Maddux records his 3,000th career strikeout against San Francisco, striking out Omar Vizquel in the third inning of a 3-2, 11-inning victory for the Giants.

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