

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS



1B

Olympics

Team USA golden again

U.S. gymnasts and gold medalists, right to left, Gabrielle Douglas, Simone Biles, Lauren Hernandez, Madison Kocian and Aly Raisman bite their medals during the medal ceremony for the gymnastics women's team in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2016.



AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

United States gymnasts defend all-around title

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Just call them the Final Five. Dominant. Peerless. Golden. The U.S. women's gymnastics team gave retiring national team coordi-

nator Martha Karolyi a fitting send off in the Olympic finals on Tuesday night, putting on a two-hour display of precision and class. Their score of 184.897 was more than eight points clear of silver medalist Russia, a blowout that Michael Jordan's "Dream Team" should envy.

The Americans' second straight Olympic team triumph — and third overall — was never in doubt. From the second Laurie Hernandez drilled her opening vault to Simone Biles' boundary-pushing floor exercise to end it, the U.S. put on an exhibition that showed how

far the divide between themselves and everyone else has become.

It's a gap that Karolyi created from scratch since taking over for husband Bela in 2001. She's molded the U.S. program into a ponytailed juggernaut. The

See GYMNASTICS/2B

Olympics



AP Photo/Matt Dunham

The water of the diving pool appears a murky green, in stark contrast to the pool's previous day's color and also that of the clear blue water in the second pool for water polo at the Maria Lenk Aquatic Center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Tuesday.

Green, not gold, color of the day at Olympic diving pool

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Green, not gold, was the color of the day at the Olympic diving venue.

Sure, China won its third consecutive gold medal on Tuesday, but the buzz was about the color of the water in the diving pool — a murky green.

That was in stark contrast to the pool's light blue color the previous day and also that of the clear

water in the second pool used for the water polo competition at Maria Lenk Aquatic Center.

British diver Tom Daley, who earned bronze in men's synchronized 10-meter on Monday, tweeted a photo of the two pools next to each other and captioned it, "Erm... what happened?"

Water quality has been a major issue surrounding the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, but in the ocean and

See POOL WATER/2B

MLB

Rawls back at practice for Seahawks

Second-year running back hits the field for first time since his December injury

By CURTIS CRABTREE
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Seahawks running back Thomas Rawls carried a football Tuesday for the first time since a broken ankle ended his rookie season last December.

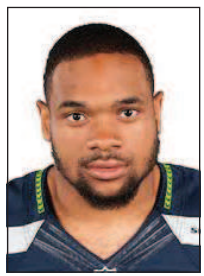
Rawls was limited to individual work in his first practice with Seattle since being activated from the physically unable to perform list on Sunday, but to Rawls it was a big step toward getting back to where he wants to be.

"I think it fit real good in the timeline. Just taking it day by day and getting better," Rawls said after practice. "Just visualizing and getting my feet wet a little bit out there and I'm so excited and glad to be out there with the fellas."

Though he passed his physical and was eligible to practice Sunday, the rest of the team was having a "mock game" scrimmage which made it unfeasible for Rawls to begin his first work of camp then.

Rawls suffered a broken ankle and ligament damage in a game against the Baltimore

See RAWLS/3B



Rawls

HERMISTON

Farm-City brings out the best in rodeo

Rodeo kicks off tonight with loaded contestant list

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Like many great ideas, the Farm-City Pro Rodeo was conceived at a party.

It was 1987 at a celebration for local saddle bronc rider Butch Knowles' average championship at the National Final Rodeo when the topic of conversation turned toward bringing the PRCA to Hermiston once a year.

With a successful junior rodeo already utilizing the local arena and drawing good crowds, Knowles and fellow PRCA saddle bronc rider David Bothum knew there was a way.

They just needed a little nudge.

"It was actually our wives Cyd (Bothum) and Mary (Knowles) that came up with the idea," said Bothum on the eve of the opening of the 28th Farm-City Pro Rodeo. "I think they guessed we'd be home a few more days each year."

Bothum and Knowles — "It was more Butch," says David — took the idea and ran with it, and found a community eager to get on board.

Today the rodeo occupies a spot on the Wrangler Million



In this Aug. 14, 2015, file photo, Richmond Champion of The Woodlands, Texas, rides Rum Flavoured to an 86-point ride in the bareback event at the 2015 Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Dollar Tour, and attracts the best competitors and stock from the PRCA. It's something the community should, and does, take a great amount of pride in hosting each year.

"The satisfaction a guy gets from it is on Saturday night when you see all the people smiling and having fun, and all the pictures," said Bothum, who as a competitor he used to travel

to more than 100 rodeos a year before the PRCA put a limit on entries per season.

"The community has been unbelievable. If it wasn't for the community it wouldn't be what it is today," he added. "It's not like you have to ask, they ask you. Hermiston is very amazing about that. There's not many communities that would give like Hermiston does."

Sports shorts

Prince Fielder done with baseball

(AP) — Texas Rangers slugger Prince Fielder will have to quit playing baseball after his second neck surgery.

A person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press that Fielder isn't formally retiring, but that doctors won't give the six-time All-Star medical clearance to play again.

Fielder, who is signed through 2020, had a cervical fusion on July 29 to repair a herniation between two disks in his neck.

That was done just above the area where the 32-year-old Fielder had the same procedure in May 2014, only 26 months earlier.

He will finish his 12 MLB seasons with 319 career homers, the same number that his father Cecil Fielder had in 13 seasons.

FACES



Fielder

"I'm disappointed. When I heard him say I can actually play in all four games, I was really excited to get some at-bats. I don't know what happened."

— Alex Rodriguez

New York Yankees designated hitter expressing his displeasure with team manager Joe Girardi benching him for the first two games the team's series in Boston. Rodriguez, 40, will play his final game for the Yankees on Friday evening in New York.

Tebow to give baseball a try

(AP) — With professional football not working out, Tim Tebow is going to give baseball a try.

The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and former NFL first-round draft pick plans to hold a workout for Major League Baseball teams this month. Tebow last played organized baseball in high school.

Agent Brodie Van Wagenen, the co-head of CAA Baseball, said in a statement that the workout is not a publicity stunt.

"His work ethic is unprecedented, and his passion for the game is infectious. He knows the challenges that lie ahead of him given his age and experience, but he is determined to achieve his goal of playing in the Major Leagues," he said.

He has not played in the NFL since 2012 with the New York Jets.



Tebow

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1980 — Jack Nicklaus wins his fifth PGA Championship with a record score of 274, seven strokes ahead of Andy Bean.

2007 — Tiger Woods matches the major championship record with a 63 in the PGA Championship. Woods misses a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole that would have given him the record.

2008 — In Beijing, Michael Phelps begins his long march toward eight gold medals by winning the 400-meter individual medley in 4:03.84 — smashing his own world record.

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