

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

PENDLETON

T-Wolves loaded in 2016

BMCC returns seven players from the 2015 title team

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

There are a lot of numbers the Blue Mountain Community College volleyball team could concern itself with as the 2016 season nears.

Four and five come to

mind right away — that's the number of consecutive and overall NWAC championships the teams has won.

Seven is another good one — that's how many sophomores return to the roster.

Also high on the list could be 42 (wins last season) or 50 (the record number of wins collected by the 2014 squad).

Sixteen, which is how many divisional games are on their schedule, is certainly deserving. And one would have to think 2,340, which is the miles they'll travel by bus to get to and from those games, would at least be on the fringes

of their consciousness.

Certainly the almighty No. 1 is on their mind, right?

Wrong.

The only number the Timberwolves are thinking about right now is a big fat zero, as in 0-0.

That's their record during the third week of practices, and that's going to remain their record for the rest of the season. It'll also remain the score to every game and every match, right up until a winner is declared.

"We're really big into 0-0,"

See T-WOLVES/2B



In this Sept. 11, 2015 file photo, BMCC's Jordan Mix tips the ball over North Idaho's Brooke Bell in the Timberwolves' 3-2 win against the Cardinals in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

MLB

M's hold off Angels

Seattle wins 10th in 12 games

By ABBEY MASTRACCO
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ketel Marte drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly, Leonys Martin scored from second base on a bunt, and the Seattle Mariners held on for a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night.

Robinson Cano had three hits, Kyle



Seager and Chris Iannetta each had two hits and scored a run as the Mariners won for the 10th time in 12 games to move two games

behind Baltimore for the second AL wild card.

Drew Storen (3-3) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win. Mariners closer Edwin Diaz gave up a run and loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, but struck out Jeffry Marte and got Andrelton Simmons to ground out for his eighth save in eight chances.

Yunel Escobar went 5 for 5 for Los Angeles, his fifth career five-hit game. Since 2000, only Ichiro and Johnny Damon have more with seven each.

Tyler Skaggs (1-2) gave up four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings.

With the score tied at 2-all, Iannetta led off the fourth with a single to center and moved to third on Martin's single. After Martin stole second, Ketel Marte's sacrifice fly drove in Iannetta with the go-ahead run. Shawn O'Malley then laid down a bunt and reached base safely. Jeffry Marte thirled tried to throw Martin out at third but he was already breaking for home plate and scored easily on the relay.

Mike Morin then came on

See MARINERS/2B

HERMISTON

Hermiston's Tyler Rohrman (16) goes up against Tucker Salinas during a drill in Wednesday's football practice at Kennison Field. Rohrman, a junior, is one of three returning starters to the Bulldogs secondary.

Staff photo by Matt Entrup



Dawgs secondary a primary strength

Hermiston returns three starters to defensive backfield

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

When Hermiston senior Vaemu Ena grew two inches between his sophomore and junior seasons, Bulldogs coaches took a look at the 6-foot-2, 175-pound athlete and

figured a move up to the defensive line was in order.

That's where he was listed on the team's initial roster, but it wouldn't be where he finished.

With three senior returners already on the line and another junior in front of Ena, the athletic former linebacker was moved to safety, where he quickly made the position his own. By the end of the season he had earned honorable mention all-state and first-team All-Columbia River Conference honors and was one of the defense's

most productive players with 40 tackles, five interceptions with a whopping 158 return yards, and three pass break-ups in just eight games.

He's one of, but not the only, reason Hermiston coach David Faaeteete is hoping the defensive backfield can be one of the team's top units in 2016.

"I think our secondary is going to be pretty tough this year," he said. "We've got a lot returners back there. I think everybody's back in the secondary."

Well, yes and no.

Junior cornerback Tyler Rohrman, senior safety Joey Gutierrez and junior cornerback Dayshawn Neal round out the starting unit. Rohrman was a second-team All-CRC corner last season and had 21 tackles and three pass breakups in six games.

Gutierrez is a converted All-CRC second-team linebacker who had 42 tackles, one interception, two pass breakups and one fumble forced as a junior, and Neal started at quarter-

See HERMISTON/2B

Olympics



AP Photo/Lee Jin-man

Gold medal winner Brianna Rollins, center, silver medal winner, Nia Ali, right, and bronze medal winner Kristi Castlin, all from the United States celebrate after the 100-meter hurdles Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Americans make track and field history

US women become just seventh country to sweep 100M hurdle event

By EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — It's no easy thing to push Usain Bolt, even in an Olympic warm-up race.

Might be even tougher upstaging him.

But that happened on a wild

Wednesday night in track. It began with the Jamaican star exchanging smiles, then wagging his finger at a brush up-and-comer who dared challenge him in the 200-meter semifinals. It kept going with another Jamaican, Elaine Thompson, completing the first 100-200 women's double since 1988. And it closed with an American sweep of the hurdles to put the cherry on top of a seven-medal day for the United States on the track.

Brianna Rollins, Nia Ali and Kristi Castlin finished 1-2-3 in the 100-meter hurdles to give the United States its first sweep in the event, its seventh in the

history of Olympic track and the 23rd for U.S. women, regardless of sport, over the history of the Summer Games.

After they saw their names come up on the scoreboard, they huddled together, hugged and jumped up and down before grabbing their U.S. flags from the stands.

"I knew that I got the gold but I just wanted to make sure that my other teammates got their medals, as well," Rollins said.

It was a not-all-unexpected result, though this might be an eye-opener: Both 2008 champion Dawn Harp-

See OLYMPICS/2B

Sports shorts

Graham could not be ready for Seattle's season opener

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll tempered some of his optimism regarding tight end Jimmy Graham's ability to be ready for the start of the season.

Carroll said Wednesday that, as expected, Graham will not play against Minnesota on Thursday in the Seahawks' second preseason game. Graham is recovering from a torn patellar tendon in his right knee suffered last November in a game against Pittsburgh. Graham was activated off the PUP list last week and returned to limited practice.

"Really we're shooting for where is he at the start of the season?" Carroll said. "We'll evaluate then how much longer it may take. We don't know that yet. But he feels good and he's confident it's going along well."

FACES



Graham

"Every time I watch 'em, I wish I was out there. I did not retire from Team USA. I just did not play this summer. So I still left the door open."

— LeBron James

Two-time gold medal winner in Olympic basketball and Cleveland Cavaliers forward on his decision to sit out the Rio Games.

US men's basketball finally shows potential in semifinals

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — This was the U.S. men's Olympic basketball team that everyone expected to see at the Rio Games, now right where it was expected to be — in the semifinals.

Emphatically ending a stretch of three straight close games, the Americans advanced by sprinting past Argentina 105-78 on Wednesday night.

Turning a slow start into an early ending with a 27-2 run in the first half, the Americans put away one old rival and set up a meeting with another. They will play Spain on Friday in a rematch of the last two gold-medal games.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Americans while DeMarcus Cousins, the playing as a reserve, finished with 15 points.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1994 — South Africa is introduced for the first time in 36 years during the opening ceremonies of the 15th Commonwealth Games held in Victoria, British Columbia. South Africa had been banned from the Games since 1958 because of its apartheid policies.

2008 — A day after winning an Olympic gold medal in Beijing, Rafael Nadal officially unseats Roger Federer to become the world's No. 1 tennis player when the ATP rankings are released. Federer had been atop the rankings for 235 consecutive weeks.

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