

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

BOARDMAN

Eagles break through in second half

No. 1 Catlin Gabel outlasts No. 4 Riverside in semifinals

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — No. 1 Catlin Gabel scored four times in the second half, led by a hat trick from senior Charley Ward, and advanced to the 3A/2A/1A state

championship with a 4-1 win over No. 4 Riverside on Tuesday.

It was the first goals scored on either team in eight games, and through one half of play the score was still knotted at 0-0.

That wouldn't last, though, and Ward scored three times after intermission for the Eagles (17-0-1) and Luke Van Buskirk



added their fourth goal to push Catlin Gabel to its 16th state championship appearance and first since 2010.

Senior midfielder Alejandro Llamas scored for the Pirates (12-4-1), which put seven of their 16 shots on goal. Catlin Gabel also had 16 shots with nine on frame.

Riverside had eight corner kicks to Catlin Gabel's two.

The Pirates will graduate five seniors, but will return 10 juniors, two sophomores and three freshmen from a team that went 6-0 in Special District 4 to win the league title and then won in the playoffs for the 10th straight year.

Catlin Gabel will face No. 2 Portland Adventist in the championship on Saturday in Hillsboro.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| RHS | 0 | 1 | - | 1 |
| CG | 0 | 4 | - | 1 |

Goals — RHS Alejandro Llamas; CG Charley Ward 3, Luke Van Buskirk.
Saves — RHS Adolfo Bedolla 5; CG Goalkeeper 6.

College Football

Helfrich's future in doubt

Ducks' slide could force school into money decision

By RYAN THORBURN
The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Mark Helfrich hasn't lost his sense of humor during a bleak season.

During Oregon's 45-20 loss to USC on Saturday night, an ESPN sports business reporter tweeted that Phil Knight is willing to fund a \$10 million salary for a coach to get the Ducks back in contention

for a national championship.

"That's the nature of the profession," Helfrich said at his weekly Sunday press conference at the Knight-funded Hatfield-Dowling

Complex. "It would be cool if it was that easy."

Before answering a follow-up question, Helfrich joked: "I take it that wasn't me that was getting the \$10 (million)?"

The athletic department is still paying the fourth-year coach to get the program back on track after the Ducks fell to 3-6 overall and 1-5 in the Pac-12.

Helfrich said Oregon's young team didn't have any issues dealing with a late-arriving, laid-back homecoming crowd at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

But some players said they were not ready for the Trojans.

"It's very strange to say the least," senior tight end Johnny Mundt said of being on the wrong end of lopsided scores two years after dominating opponents en route to a Pac-12 championship and the College Football Playoff title game. "There's downs where we're just getting stuffed in the backfield, and I feel like we don't know what the heck we're doing out there."

"But we're figuring it out, we're learning as we go. We've just got to pick up things a lot quicker and keep the momentum going,"

See HELFRICH/2B

Trail Blazers hold off Suns

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, drives to the basket past Phoenix Suns center Alex Len during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016.

AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/lyder

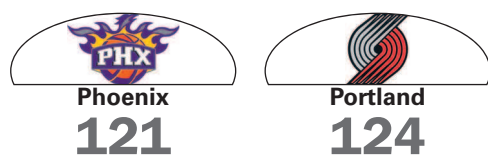


Lillard scores 38, McCollum adds 33 in a Portland victory

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard scored 38 points, including key free throws in the waning seconds, and the Portland Trail Blazers held off the Phoenix Suns for a 124-121 victory on Tuesday night.

CJ McCollum added 33 points for the Blazers, who have won three straight. Portland



led by as many as 18 points early in the game but the Suns threatened down the stretch. Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 6:45 left that put

Portland in front 101-95. Eric Bledsoe made a free throw to pull Phoenix within 115-114 with just under a minute left, but he missed the second attempt that would have tied it and Lillard scored a layup on the other end.

Bledsoe hit two free throws to again get within a point, but Lillard was fouled with 13.3 seconds left and made both to put Portland up 119-116.

See BLAZERS/2B

Officiating again the story after mistakes in Seattle's win



In this Oct. 30, 2016, file photo, Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman (25) talks to an official in the first half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans.

NFL says it is 'absolutely going to address' situation

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Richard Sherman took the opportunity last week to criticize NFL officiating for what he deemed incorrect calls, almost daring the league to fine him for being so outspoken.

"Sometimes the truth is the truth, it's the truth," the All-Pro cornerback said last week. "It is what it is. This is basically reality TV, so I guess I'm good for ratings probably."

So it seemed almost fitting that just a few days after making some bold

comments, Sherman was at the center of another officiating flap in Monday night's 31-25 win over the Buffalo Bills.

Once again, NFL refs were in the spotlight of a prime-time game that left the league scrambling to provide explanations of what happened and the mistakes that were made.

Any time Dean Blandino, the NFL's head of officiating, has to send an explanatory tweet during a game about a mistake, it's not a good look for the league.

"We are absolutely going to address it," Blandino told NFL Network late Monday night. "Anytime you have a sequence like that at any point during the game, we want to see what happened and just walk through the steps of where the breakdown was. Regardless of the

outcome of the game, we are going to address the situation with our crew."

Officiating controversy and Monday night games in Seattle have become almost a regular occurrence. For the third time in five seasons, the day after a Seattle Monday win was spent breaking down the role of officiating mistakes in the Seahawks' victory.

The latest black eye for the refs came when Walt Anderson's crew chose not to flag Sherman for unnecessary roughness as he attempted to block Dan Carpenter's field goal attempt at the end of the first half. Sherman was penalized for being offside — and was determined to be unabated to the kicker — but the play was not stopped in time to prevent

See OFFICIATING/2B

Sports shorts

Mariners trade for veteran catcher

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners have acquired catcher Carlos Ruiz from the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for left-handed pitcher Vidal Nuno.

The clubs announced the trade Monday at the start of the general manager meetings. The Mariners have exercised the option on Ruiz for the 2017 season worth \$4.5 million.

The acquisition of Ruiz fills an immediate need for Seattle after the Mariners declined the option on Chris Iannetta for 2017. Ruiz, who will turn 38 before the start of next season, hit .264 with three home runs and 15 RBIs in 62 games last season with the Phillies and Dodgers. Ruiz was traded from Philadelphia to Los Angeles in August.

Nuno appeared in a career-high 55 games last season for Seattle and was 1-1 with a 3.53 ERA.



Ruiz

"I do coach my own guys but I forgot, I guess I should have asked Pete when somebody asked me a question about one of his players, I should have asked Pete about the appropriate response I guess."

— Rex Ryan

Buffalo Bills coach in response to criticism from Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, who took issue with an answer Ryan gave reporters when asked about Seahawks CB Richard Sherman.

Washington moves to No. 4 in latest CFB playoff rankings

(AP) — Washington moved into fourth in the College Football Playoff rankings, putting the four remaining unbeaten teams from the Power Five conference at the top of the selection committee's second top 25.

Alabama, Clemson and Michigan still hold the top three spots. The committee's first ranking of the season caused a bit of a stir because the unbeaten Huskies were behind Texas A&M last week. The Aggies then went out and lost at Mississippi State to clear up the mini-controversy.

Ohio State is behind Washington, but the Buckeyes are still in fine shape. Ohio State plays Michigan on Nov. 26 in a game that could decide the Big Ten's East division.

Louisville moved up a spot to sixth, followed by Wisconsin and Texas A&M.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1953 — The U.S. Supreme Court rules 7-2 that baseball is not subject to antitrust laws, maintaining the game is a sport, not a business.

1996 — Evander Holyfield pounds Mike Tyson into submission at 37 seconds of the 11th round to win the WBA heavyweight title in Las Vegas. Holyfield, a 7-1 underdog, becomes the second man to hold the title three times.

2010 — Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki wins his 10th straight Gold Glove to tie the AL record for Gold Gloves by an outfielder shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline.

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