

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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In this Nov. 20, 2015, file photo, South Florida head coach Willie Taggart looks on during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Cincinnati, in Tampa, Fla.

College Football

Oregon calls on Taggart

Ducks fly south to pick next football coach

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Willie Taggart has become known for rebuilding programs at Western Kentucky and South Florida. His next endeavor will be much more high profile, trying to turn around the struggling Oregon Ducks.

Oregon announced Wednesday that it had hired Taggart to take over following a disappointing 4-8 season and the dismissal of coach Mark Helfrich.

Taggart has been coach at USF for the past four seasons, guiding the team from a 2-10 record his first year to a 10-2 mark this year and a spot in

the Birmingham Bowl.

Before he arrived in Tampa he spent three seasons at his alma mater, Western Kentucky, inheriting a winless program that he turned around with back-to-back winning seasons.

"Willie places an emphasis on ensuring a positive student-athlete

experience and on winning, and his previous stops have proven his success at both," Oregon athletic director Rob Mullens said in a statement. "We have a very bright future under his leadership."

A news conference to formally introduce Taggart was set for Thursday.

Taggart, 40, is the first coach Oregon has hired from outside the program since

See OREGON/2B

HERMISTON

Bulldog senior named all-state

Freddy Rodriguez caps prolific career with first team honors

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

For the past four years, Freddy Rodriguez was an integral part of the Hermiston boys varsity soccer team.

He quickly rose through the ranks from freshman role player to being elected a team captain as a junior, and being an electric offensive player every step of the way. As a senior this year, Rodriguez led his Bulldogs to the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs and earned all-league honors for the fourth-straight year.

But this week, Rodriguez added one more accolade to his prolific Hermiston career — all-state player.

Rodriguez was selected to the first team all-state roster for Class 5A as voted by the coaches, the lone Hermiston player to be recognized on the teams. He scored 24 of the team's 66 total goals (36 percent) and also led the team with 12 assists as a senior, helping the Bulldogs to a 12-4-1 overall record.

"It's absolutely deserved," Hermiston head coach Rich Harshberger said of Rodriguez's honor. "He was a four year letterwinner, a four year all-league guy and this is just the cherry on top for his senior year."

"He was absolutely an integral part of this team beyond physical skill on the field, but also by being a leader and working hard and leading by example, showing the younger guys what it takes to play at this level."

Though no teammates joined him, Rodriguez was joined on



This Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016 file photo shows Hermiston's Freddy Rodriguez (9) going against Sandy's Henry Ruiz (14) during a state playoff game at Kennison Field. Rodriguez was named to the 5A All-State first team.

the all-state team by three players from Hermiston's Columbia River Conference rival Hood River Valley as seniors Jorge Campos and Noe Magana made first team and junior Angel Sonato made second team. State champion Woodburn — who knocked Hermiston out of the state tournament with a 2-1 win in the quarterfinals for the second straight year — led the way with five all-state selections as well as

Coach of the Year honors for Stan Baker.

Player of the Year honors for each classification will be released later this week.

5A Boys All-State Soccer

First team
Jorge Campos, sr., Hood River Valley
Andy Ellingson, sr., Woodburn
Cade Fieck, jr., Marist
Noe Magana, sr., Hood River Valley
Raul Ochoa, sr., Springfield
Reggie Reyes, sr., Woodburn
Freddy Rodriguez, sr., Hermiston

Second team
Cole Abbott, sr., Summit
Sean Hamel, sr., La Salle
Edgar Hernandez-Flores, sr., Wilsonville
Conner Karselboom, sr., Woodburn
Rafael Lopez, sr., Corvallis
Calvin Lucas, sr., Wilsonville
Marco Reyes, jr., South Albany
Edwin Rivas, jr., Hillsboro
Angel Sonato, jr., Hood River Valley
Casey Weaver, sr., Summit
Cole Whritenour, sr., La Salle
Quintin Castner, fr., La Salle
Coach of the Year
Stan Baker, Woodburn

Rodeo

Former T-Wolves win 7th round

Landingham, Eldridge continue strong finals

East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — R.C. Landingham saw his streak of 80-point scores snapped on Tuesday at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, but bounced back in a major way on Wednesday by posting the top score of the night to win his first round at Thomas and Mack Arena.

For the second night in a row Landingham drew a buckler from the Pickett Rodeo pen, and this time he topped Scarlet Fever for 84.5 points to edge world and aggregate leader Tim O'Connell for the round win and a check for \$26,231.

The former Blue Mountain competitor had ridden Scarlet Night for 78.5 points on Tuesday after three-straight rounds in the 80s, and heads into tonight's performance in seventh with 541.5 points on seven head.

O'Connell scored 83.5 points for second in the round and has 590 on seven.

Also bringing back a round win for BMCC alums on Wednesday was steer wrestler Dakota Eldridge after he turned in his fastest time of the week at 3.5 seconds. Eldridge remains in fifth in the aggregate but was just a tenth of a second from overtaking fourth-place Nick Guy after Wednesday's run and has 38.9 on seven.

Matt Reeves jumped back into the aggregate lead with a 3.8 that was second on the night and gave him 28 flat on seven

See RODEO/2B



Landingham



Eldridge

College Volleyball

Eastern Oregon nets three All-Americans

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Three key members of Eastern Oregon University's No. 6-ranked volleyball team added some accolades to their collection this week.

Senior setter Rachele Chamberlain, junior outside hitter Amanda Miller, and junior middle hitter Madisen Garlie were all named to the Tachikara-NAIA All-America teams on Tuesday morning. Chamberlain was the high honoree earning second team recognition, while Miller was third team and Garlie was



Chamberlain Miller Garlie

honorable mention.

Chamberlain had the sixth-best assist-per-set ratio in the country at 11.18 this season, and added 74 kills, 282 digs, and 71 blocks

along with it. It is the second-straight year Chamberlain was selected as a second team All-American, and also added Cascade Collegiate Conference Player of the Year honors this season as well.

Miller was an honorable mention selection in 2015 and improved immensely in 2016 to register a team-high 344 kills and a .333 hitting percentage. Garlie was playing in her first season at EOU after transferring from Oregon Tech before the season, and was the teams leading blocker with 124 to go along with 219 kills.

Sports shorts

OSU assistant is next San Jose State head coach

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — San Jose State has hired Oregon State assistant Brent Brennan as its new head football coach.

Athletic director Gene Bleymaier announced Wednesday that Brennan will replace the fired Ron Caragher as coach for the Spartans.

The 43-year old Brennan was an assistant coach at San Jose State from 2005-10 under Dick Tomey and Mike MacIntyre. He spent the past six seasons as wide receivers coach at Oregon State, where he coached standouts like Brandin Cooks and Markus Wheaton.



Brennan

"We told (Bautista's) agent that we are not interested because our fans don't like him. Our fans don't like Jose Bautista, with good reason."

— Dan Duquette

Baltimore Orioles GM speaking at the MLB Winter Meetings that the Orioles would not pursue free agent Jose Bautista. The Orioles and Bautista have had numerous run-ins over the years, including a shouting match with OF Adam Jones, and being in the middle of a bean-ball war with RP Darren O'Day.

Attorneys for Timbers' Ridgewell object to field sobriety test

PORTLAND (AP) — Defense attorneys say a Portland Timbers defender who was arrested on intoxicated driving charges shouldn't have been asked to perform a field sobriety test.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports that Liam Ridgewell's attorneys Christine Mascal and Sean Riddell say Lake Oswego police officers didn't have reasonable suspicion to test Ridgewell for alcohol while investigating an October crash involving his teammate, Jake Gleeson.

Mascal and Riddell filed a motion in Lake Oswego Municipal Court to suppress the evidence against Ridgewell, saying officers knew he wasn't involved in the crash or a witness to it. Ridgewell arrived at the scene after Gleeson called him for help.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1961 — Philadelphia's Wilt Chamberlain scores 78 points and grabs 43 rebounds in a 151-147 triple overtime loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. Elgin Baylor leads the Lakers with 63 points.

2011 — Three-time NL MVP Albert Pujols agrees to a \$254 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels on the final day of baseball's winter meetings.

2012 — Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel becomes the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy, taking the top prize after a record-breaking debut.

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