

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, DECEMBER 10-11, 2016

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1B



Evan Jayne, of France, competes in the bareback riding event during the eighth go-round of the National Finals Rodeo, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, in Las Vegas.

Rodeo

Tension high in Vegas

World title races coming down to final round

East Oregonian

LAS VEGAS — There was no playing it safe at Thomas and Mack Arena on Friday night as the world’s top rodeo cowboys and cowgirls close in on the end of their season. Riders and ropers let it all hang out in the penultimate ninth performance of the Wrangler

National Finals Rodeo, and the result was one of the most exciting performances of the 10-day rodeo. Of the contestants with ties to Umatilla County, only R.C. Landingham was able to make good on his efforts with a check on Friday. The bareback rider and former Blue Mountain Community College competitor who now resides in Hat Creek, California, placed fifth in the round with 85.5 points on Sun Glow of Harry Vold Rodeo. It was a ride worth \$6,769, although it still wasn’t enough to get him within striking distance of aggregate and world standings leader Tim O’Connell. O’Connell has 757 points on nine head after scoring 82 on Friday, and leads second-place J.R. Vezain by 26 points. World No. 2 Tanner Aus, who trails O’Connell by nearly \$85,000 there, won the round with an 88.5 on Pete Carr Pro Rodeo’s Good Time Charlie. Another former BMCC Timberwolf, steer wrestler Dakota Eldridge of Elko, See **RODEO/2B**

PENDLETON

Timberwolves in transition

Dave Baty makes it official, resigns after eight seasons and five titles

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

It was clear change was coming for the Blue Mountain Community College volleyball team even before the season ended with a fifth-place finish at the NWAC Championships. The official resignation of co-head coach Dave Baty last week did not come as a surprise after his career as a firefighter routinely interfered with his ability to attend practices and matches during the season. By taking a backseat role for the team he had guided to five NWAC championships and made into the envy of the Pacific Northwest, Baty set the ball in motion for a smooth transition to his daughter and coaching partner of three seasons Jessica Humphreys. As his duties as a captain with Pendleton Fire Department demanded more and more of his time, Humphreys and assistant Lindsay Barnes would become the key coaching figures in practices and on the sidelines during matches. Under their guidance the Timberwolves finished on an 18-5 streak and qualified for their eighth-straight NWAC Championships, and although they were unable to

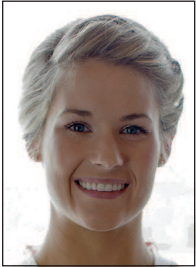


In this file photo from Nov. 23, 2014, Blue Mountain coach Dave Baty watches as the players celebrate winning the team’s third-straight NWAC championship in Tacoma, Washington.

extend their record run of four-straight titles, the season was considered another resounding success. “Jessica went to the N W A C tournament and finished fifth, I’m very proud of the run they made,” said BMCC Athletic Director



Baty



Humphreys

away after eight seasons, five championships and a 315-66 (.827) win-loss record that included a 34-7

mark at the NWAC Championships. The T-Wolves’ four-straight titles from 2012-2015 is an NWAC record, and their most wins in a season under Baty was 50 in 2014. “I could not not listen to my wife any longer when she told me, ‘This is taking a physical toll on you,’” said Baty, who also had been taking on additional duties in his hometown fire district in Weston. “I was losing weight, not eating right, it was leading to health issues. See **T-WOLVES/2B**

Prep Roundup

Dawgs rally for win

Chance Flores plays hero for Hermiston boys

East Oregonian

PASCO, Wash. — Chance Flores sank a short lay-in with just nine seconds left on the clock to give his Hermiston Bulldogs a 60-59 victory on the road against Chiawana on Friday night. Flores’ basket also marked the first time in the game that the Bulldogs (5-0) held a lead. “It was a pretty sloppy game on our end, a lot of things to work on,” Hermiston coach Casey Arstein said, “but we’ll take a win on the road any day.” Flores scored 20 points in the game, though none were bigger than his final two points. With See **DAWGS/2B**

Boys Hoops

Hermiston
60

Chiawana
59

NFL

Packers won’t doubt Thomas-less Seahawks defense

Green Bay needs win to stay in playoff race

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The loss of safety Earl Thomas to a season-ending injury left a gaping hole in the Seattle Seahawks’ formidable defense. The Green Bay Packers are more concerned about the considerable talent still left with the Seahawks. Life without Thomas begins Sunday when Seattle travels to Lambeau Field in an important game in the NFC playoff picture.

Seattle Seahawks
(8-3-1)

Green Bay Packers
(6-6)

- Sunday, 1:25 p.m.
- at Lambeau Field
- TV: FOX



In this Dec. 4, 2016, file photo, Seattle Seahawks free safety Steven Terrell (23) runs with Ahtyba Rubin (77) and Richard Sherman, right, after he intercepted a Carolina Panthers pass in the second half of an NFL football game, in Seattle.

The Packers (6-6) need a win to keep pace with first-place Detroit in the NFC North. The Seahawks (8-3-1) have two avenues to clinch the NFC West on Sunday, the easiest being a win over Green Bay along with an Arizona loss or tie. Whatever happens, coach See **SEAHAWKS/3B**

Snow, cold no problem for Seattle

Playoff experience from 2014 has Seahawks ready for anything

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The idea of going to Green Bay in December, with the expected cold temperatures and the likelihood of snow, might have caused issues in the past for the Seattle Seahawks. Not anymore. Not after what the Seahawks experienced last January in Minnesota in the first round of the playoffs. “You can’t get any worse than we had in Minnesota,” cornerback Richard Sherman said. “Everything else is an oven compared to that.” See **SNOW/3B**

Sports shorts

Earnhardt Jr. cleared to race

CONCORD, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr., who missed the final 18 races of last season because of a concussion, has been medically cleared to return next year. Hendrick Motorsports announced Thursday that Earnhardt will take part in the Daytona 500 on Feb. 26. Earnhardt completed 185 laps during a nearly five-hour session at Darlington under the guidance of his Hendrick Motorsports crew chief, Greg Ives. In addition to the on-track test, which was observed by NASCAR, the driver has logged more than 15 hours in a racing simulator during his recovery. Earnhardt said he would do more testing in January “to help knock the rust off” ahead of the season-opening race he has won twice. “When it’s time to go to Daytona, I’ll be ready,” he said.



Earnhardt, Jr.

“It takes so much energy to hate. I just don’t understand it.”

— **Brandon Marshall**
Denver Broncos linebacker in response to an anonymous letter he received filled with racial slurs and threatening language. Marshall is African American, which based on the language used in the letter was the key reason he was targeted.

Westbrook records his seventh triple-double in a row

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had his seventh consecutive triple-double Friday night in the Oklahoma City Thunder’s game against the Houston Rockets, the longest streak since Michael Jordan had seven straight in 1989. Westbrook finished the game with 27 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists. He got his 10th rebound with 7:46 left in the fourth quarter. He already had 16 points and 10 assists at that point. The Thunder won the first six games during his streak, but came up short against Houston with a 102-99 loss. It was Westbrook’s 12th triple-double of the season and the 49th of his career. He is the NBA’s active leader in the category. Jordan’s streak came during a run of 10 triple-doubles in 11 games.



Westbrook

THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1994 — Art Monk sets an NFL record for consecutive games with a reception on New York’s first play in the Jets’ 18-7 loss to the Detroit Lions. Monk’s 5-yard catch gives him 178 consecutive games with a reception, breaking Steve Largent’s NFL mark.
2006 — LaDainian Tomlinson breaks Shaun Alexander’s NFL single-season touchdown record of 28 when he scores three times in the San Diego Chargers’ 48-20 victory over the Denver Broncos. Tomlinson has 26 TDs rushing and three receiving.

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