

Prep Wrestling

Irrigon squeaks by Riverside in dual action

Knights earn ‘sloppy’ win against Pirates

BOARDMAN — Wednesday’s winter storm wiped out numerous prep sporting events across the

state of Oregon on Friday night, but the lights were still on at the Riverside High School gymnasium for some wrestling duals. The Irrigon Knights made the short 11 mile trek to Boardman to take on the Riverside Pirates, and the young Knights squad drove back home with a happy team following a 39-36 victory. Irrigon coach Jason

Dunten said that his Knights didn’t have their best night on the mat, but added that “We won where we needed to.” Riverside started the night off strong with three victories by pin through the first four matches as Fernando Ortega (106), Abraham Silva (113) and Kevin Altamirano (126) made quick work of their Irrigon opponents.

But then Irrigon began to piece together some stronger matches with wins by Silvestre Vasquez at 132 pounds and Jose Romero at 145 pounds each winning with pins of their own. But Riverside’s experience in the middle weights really showed, too, as state qualifiers A.J. Rockwell (138), Ulises Calvillo (152), and Ivan Escobedo (160)

each picked up easy wins over the Knights. “Riverside’s a real tough team,” Dunten said, “and we’re trying to get there. We feel we’re on an upward swing.” Irrigon finished the night on an upward swing to earn the win, as the Knights earned four straight wins on the backs of Franco Sanchez (170), Cristian Michaels

(182), Tanner Mills (195), and Kevin Murgia-Ortega (220). Riverside’s Anthony Kernal finished off the night with a 8-7 win by decision over Tucker McAllister at the heavyweight class. “There’s a lot more to come from Irrigon wrestling,” Dunten said, “and the coaches are real excited for the future.”

College Basketball

Beavers slide continues



Oregon State’s Stevie Thompson rises to shoot against Long Beach State in Friday’s game as part of the Dam City Classic at the Moda Center in Portland. Long Beach won 71-67.

Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP

College Football

Taggart changing recruiting approach

New Ducks coach embracing social media sharing

By RYAN THORBURN The Register-Guard

EUGENE — It’s safe to say that Chip Kelly and Mark Helfrich didn’t enjoy some aspects of recruiting in the age of social media. Hitting the recruiting trail and tweeting all about it is a part of the job new Oregon coach Willie Taggart relishes. “I love recruiting, I’ve always loved recruiting. It’s great,” Taggart said. “I feel like I have the best job in America. Every year you get to meet families and friends and probably the most important thing, you get to change somebody’s life every year.” Ducks fans curious about Taggart’s recruiting efforts can track some of his visits and breakthroughs by following the 40-year-old coach on Twitter (@CoachTaggart). “Ring, Ring, Ring. Great phone call for the Ducks from So. Cal,” Taggart tweeted late Thursday. “I love Duck hunting. Go Ducks! #QuackQuack.” Oregon received its second verbal commitment for the 2017 class since

Oregon State can’t hold halftime lead, losing streak hits 4

Dam City Classic

Long Beach
71

Oregon State
67

By ANNE M. PETERSON Associated Press

PORTLAND — Evan Payne scored 19 points and Long Beach State rallied in the final minutes to beat hosts Oregon State 71-67 in the Dam City Classic at the Moda

Center on Friday night. Stephen Thompson Jr. and Drew Eubanks had 17 points apiece for the Beavers, who have lost four straight. Oregon State (3-8) led by as many as seven points in the second half, but Jordan Griffin’s 3-pointer

tied it at 52 before Justin Bibbins hit a pair of free throws to give the 49ers (3-10) the lead with 4:06 left. JaQuori McLaughlin’s layup got the Beavers within 62-61, but Gabe Levin got a basket and a free throw with 1:31 to go. After

See BEAVERS/2B

NFL

Seahawks’ division title overshadowed by Sherman outburst

Veteran cornerback upset with goal-line playcall

By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Instead of spending the day after wrapping up another division title celebrating and talking about what comes next for the Seattle Seahawks, Pete Carroll was again forced to address another sideline outburst by Richard Sherman. This time, Sherman’s display had Carroll considering discipline for his standout cornerback. Seattle clinched its third NFC West title in the past four seasons with a 24-3

win over the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday night. It’s the fourth division title for the franchise since Carroll arrived in 2010 and a fifth straight playoff appearance dating back to 2012 and the arrival of quarterback Russell Wilson. The victory also kept alive Seattle’s hopes of landing the No. 2 seed in the NFC and a first-round bye in the playoffs. Yet, that accomplishment seemed to get overshadowed by a second visible sideline blowup by Sherman this season, this one directed at the plays being called by Seattle’s offense near the goal line. “There was a moment in the game there where he got really worked up and emotional,” Carroll said. Carroll met with Sherman on Friday

morning to talk over what happened. Carroll indicated Sherman’s response during the meeting determined whether there would be any discipline for what some might view as insubordination. “The meeting went very well and was very clear,” Carroll said. “And I know the guy I’m talking to. I know him as well as you could know a guy. I know how he feels about it and I’m fine about what happened. That doesn’t mean it was OK. That doesn’t mean it was something that didn’t need to be addressed. He was the only guy in my office this morning. We went right after it. I was going to make my decision on how to move forward based on what happened.”

See SHERMAN/2B



Dean Rutz/The SeattleTimes via AP

Seattle Seahawks’ cornerback Richard Sherman lays a big hit on Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff knocking him during the second half of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, in Seattle.

Sports shorts

Sarkisian named new offensive coordinator for Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama is hiring another former USC head coach as offensive coordinator. Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban announced Friday that Steve Sarkisian will replace Lane Kiffin, who has taken over the Florida Atlantic program. Sarkisian will also coach the quarterbacks. Sarkisian was an offensive analyst for Alabama this season. USC fired Sarkisian in October 2015 after athletic director Pat Haden said he showed up in school in no condition to lead practice following an embarrassing public display earlier at a pep rally where he appeared to be intoxicated while giving a speech. He later sought treatment for alcoholism.



Sarkisian

“Although no one from Louisville sought the information, once it was provided, we did not do what should have been done. The information should not have been accepted. It should have been rejected.”

— Tom Jurich University of Louisville athletic director after suspending offensive coordinator Lonnie Galloway for the bowl game for his role in accepting information from the Wake Forest radio analyst on Nov. 12 of this season.

Oregon’s hire of Leavitt official

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon formally announced Friday that Colorado defensive coordinator Jim Leavitt will join Ducks coach Willie Taggart’s staff in the same capacity. The announcement makes the hiring official after reports first surfaced Wednesday. Colorado coach Mike McIntyre issued a statement thanking Leavitt on Thursday. Leavitt has spent the past two seasons with the Buffaloes. This season, Colorado is ranked 17th nationally for total defense, allowing an average of 328.3 yards per game, and 18th in scoring defense at 20.5 points per game. Taggart, who spent the past four seasons at South Florida, was hired last week to take over the Ducks following a disappointing 4-8 season and the dismissal of coach Mark Helfrich.



Leavitt

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1933 — The Chicago Bears win the first NFL championship with a 23-21 victory over the New York Giants. The Bears score the winning touchdown on a 36-yard play that starts with a short pass from Bronko Nagurski to Bill Hewitt, who then laterals to Bill Kerr for the score. 2012 — Syracuse coach Jim Boheim becomes the third Division I men’s coach to reach 900 wins. Boheim, 68 and in his 37th year at his alma mater, reaches the mark when his third-ranked Orange post a 72-68 victory over Detroit in the Gotham Classic. Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com