

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEEKEND, DECEMBER 24-25, 2016

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1B

NFL

Seattle looks to strengthen hold on No. 2 seed against Arizona



• Saturday, 1:25 p.m.
• at CenturyLink Field
• TV: FOX

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — In each of the previous seven meetings between Seattle and Arizona, there's been meaning for both teams within the context of the division race or the NFC playoff picture.

That streak ends Saturday when the Seahawks host the Cardinals.

Seattle (9-4-1) has already wrapped up the NFC West title, guaranteeing at least one home playoff game. The significance for the Seahawks is trying to hold on to the No. 2 seed and a

possible first-round bye in the postseason.

And while the Seahawks are gearing up for a fifth straight postseason trip, the Cardinals (5-8-1) are just playing out the final two weeks after winning the

See SEAHAWKS/4B



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, left, bobbles a pass intended for Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Kenny Britt, right, in the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, in Seattle.

Top 10 Plays of the Year

A most remarkable rejection

In this June 19, 2016 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) blocks a shot by Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) during the second half of Game 7 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif. James had three blocked shots, including this key one against Iguodala on a fast break in the final minutes.

AP Photo/Eric Risberg, File



LeBron's block in The Finals is the play of 2016

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

They came from many sports, in many countries, with varying forms of pressure involved.

But if there's one parallel between all the entries on this list of sports plays of the year for 2016, it's this: They were all unexpected, and all teeming with drama.

From the NBA Finals to the Rio Olympics, the Super Bowl to a smaller-division college playoff game, and whether they were offered up by global icons like LeBron James or relative unknowns like Kevin Rader, they were unforgettable.

Here, the plays of 2016:

10. Comeback putback.
The scene: No time-outs left, a big late lead having turned into a one-point deficit, and an entire arena in Minnesota screaming for you to fail. Somehow that brought out the best in Nneka Ogwumike of the Los Angeles Sparks. Her basket with 3.1 seconds left in a thrilling Game 5 of the WNBA Finals gave the Sparks a 77-76 victory over the then-reigning-champion Lynx.

9. Catch it all.
One of the last college football plays of 2016 year provided one of the plays of 2016. Kevin Rader somehow — even with a defender

See TOP PLAYS/2B

UMATILLA Panthers edge Vikings at the line

Umatilla boys and girls basketball lose to River View

East Oregonian

A loose-ball foul with one second left in a tie ballgame sent a River View player to the free throw line for what would be the game-winning basket in a non-league boys basketball game at Umatilla on Friday afternoon.

The first shot of the one-and-one opportunity was good to lift the Panthers out of Kennewick, Wash., to a 49-48 win.

"I wasn't very happy," said Umatilla coach Derrek Lete, "but I didn't at all blame it on that call right there."

Despite a strong second-half performance to erase their nine-point halftime deficit, Lete said Umatilla (6-3) didn't put in a complete enough effort to reasonably expect their fourth win in a row.

"We didn't play very good basketball tonight," he said. "I don't know if it was due to playing three games this week, according to the kids it wasn't, but we just didn't play very good basketball tonight all around."

Lete said the Vikings, who

See VIKINGS/4B



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez, File

No. 7 Denver Broncos' Von Miller's (58) strip of Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton (1) in Super Bowl 50.



AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File

No. 4 Miami Marlins' Dee Gordon, right, homers to lead off tribute game to Jose Fernandez.



AP Photo/Andre Penner, File

No. 3 Brazil's Neymar scores shootout goal to give host nation Olympic gold.

NBA

Westbrook notches 14th triple-double

Associated Press

BOSTON — Russell Westbrook had his 14th triple-double of the season and his third straight 40-point game, scoring 45 points with 11 assists and 11 rebounds on Friday night to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-112 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Westbrook missed his first five shots but scored the last seven points of the first half as the Thunder turned a three-point deficit into a four-point lead. He scored 18 in the fourth quarter, including eight straight during a 10-0 run that flipped a 104-100 deficit into a six-point lead.

Rookie Domantas Sabonis topped his career high by half-

time and finished with 20 points for Oklahoma City, which had lost three of its previous five games. Enes Kanter had 20 points off the bench.

Westbrook didn't make his first basket until 4 minutes into the second quarter. But he soon hit another layup, made a 3-pointer a few minutes later and really turned it on in the final minute of the half.



San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge drives to the basket against Portland Trail Blazers forward Al-Farouq Aminu during the first half of an NBA game in Portland on Friday. San Antonio led 57-45 at halftime of a game that finished after the East Oregonian's press deadline. The full game story can be read online at www.eastoregonian.com.

AP Photo/Steve Dykes

Sports shorts

Jets head coach hospitalized

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Jets coach Todd Bowles was hospitalized Friday with what the team called an "undisclosed illness," and he did not travel for the game at New England on Saturday.

In a statement posted on the team's website, the Jets said Bowles was in stable condition, but it was uncertain if he would eventually join the team in time for the game.

The 53-year-old Bowles fell ill early Friday afternoon and was taken to the hospital, where general manager Mike Maccagnan visited him. Maccagnan has remained in constant contact with Bowles, who wants to coach the game but will need to be cleared by doctors.

If Bowles is unavailable to coach, assistant head coach Mike Caldwell will fill in against the Patriots.



Bowles

"Yesterday morning during a session (with) the doctor, I was able to move the fingers on my left hand which I think ... was the greatest Christmas present I could have wished for."

— Petra Kvitova

Two-time Wimbledon champion upon her release from the hospital on Friday, three days after she was operated on following injuries suffered after a knife-wielding intruder attacked her inside her home and injured her playing hand. Kvitova says she's determined to play tennis again no matter what that involves.

IOC opens 28 new doping cases for Russian Olympians

GENEVA (AP) — On yet another doping-tainted day for Russian sport, 28 athletes now face IOC cases linked to cheating at the Sochi Winter Olympics and a major cross-country skiing event was removed from the country.

The IOC said Friday it has opened 28 disciplinary proceedings against Russian athletes whose urine samples were likely tampered with at the 2014 Olympics.

Six cases involve cross-country skiers who are now provisionally suspended by the International Ski Federation (FIS), which did not identify them. Six Russian men won five medals, including one gold, in cross-country skiing on home snow at Sochi.

The cases are based on evidence provided this month by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1950 — Cleveland's Otto Graham throws four touchdown passes despite icy footing in Municipal Stadium, and Lou Groza kicks a 16-yard field goal with 28 seconds left to give the Browns a 30-28 victory over the Los Angeles Rams and the NFL title in their first year in the league.

1997 — In one of the biggest upsets in college basketball, Division II Puerto Rico-American University defeats No. 12 Arkansas 64-59 in the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

2003 — Steven Jackson ties a bowl game record with five touchdowns, and Oregon State's defense overwhelms mistake-plagued New Mexico in a 55-14 win at the Las Vegas Bowl.

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