

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

NBA

Trail Blazers control Lakers



Portland Trail Blazers guard C.J. McCollum, right, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Nick Young defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Trail Blazers won 108-87.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

OSAA in need of another revamp?

Some proposed changes could negatively affect smaller local teams

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

From its founding in a one-class system under the Oregon State High School Athletic Association title in 1918 to the present day stance as a six-class system as the Oregon School Activities Association, the prep sports landscape has had many different appearances.

Another change is coming soon to the OSAA that could have a large impact on several local schools.

Beginning in October, the OSAA's reclassification committee started re-evaluating member schools and drafting proposals for the 2018-2022 time block and an updated six-class proposal and a new five-class proposal are both on the table. According to a report by *The Oregonian/OregonLive*, several larger school representatives are in favor of the five-class model, while the majority of smaller schools are in favor of staying the course with the six-class system.

Weston-McEwen athletic director Shawn White spoke at the reclassification committee's previous meeting in mid-December as a representative of all 2A schools in Eastern Oregon in opposition of the five class model. White said that he and the other athletic directors in the area were in unanimous agreement that the five class model would create some conflict.

"Our current system works well, it's not broken so no need to fix it," White said on Tuesday. "Our real complaint for the five classes is it doesn't really change the larger school divisions, just moves a few around for some more desirable leagues, and instead adds roughly 20 of the 3A schools into the 2A, which brings up a lot of fairness and imbalance concerns."

Also on the table for committee discussion is a football-only classification separate from either proposal. It's an idea that's been widely supported by athletic directors and school officials from across the state, including White.

See OSAA/2B



Portland gets 10th straight win over Los Angeles

By STEVE DILBECK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If there's a mystery to it, the Los Angeles Lakers can't solve it. They can only seem to repeat the same story over and over.

Play the Portland Trail Blazers, lose to the Portland Trail Blazers.

It happened yet again, with the Blazers using a dominant third quarter to defeat the Lakers for the 10th consecutive time, 108-87 on Tuesday night.

The Blazers trailed by two to start the second half, but held the Lakers to 21.7 percent shooting (5 of 23) and blocked four shots in the third quarter, outscoring Los Angeles 23-12.

"I'm still trying to figure out exactly what happened in the second half," Lakers coach Luke Walton said. "I was shocked."

C.J. McCollum led the Blazers with 25 points, but Damian Lillard sparked the third-quarter rally. After starting the game 0 for 8 from the field, Lillard scored 11 points in the third, perhaps inspired by a double technical on him and Lakers guard D'Angelo Russell when they exchanged brief but heated words.

"Don't poke the bear," said Portland forward Maurice Harkless, who had 14 points. "Let him sleep."

After scoring 31 points in the second quarter, the Lakers managed only 30 more in the second half.

"I really didn't recognize that team," Walton said.

See BLAZERS/2B



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers guard Marcelo Huertas, right, defends and forward Julius Randle watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Trail Blazers won 108-87.

AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

NFL

Seahawks headed back to Atlanta where loss still lingers

Prose returns to practice

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Four years ago, the Seattle Seahawks walked out of Atlanta after a defining moment that shaped what has taken place since.

A 30-28 loss to the Falcons in the divisional round of the NFC playoffs stung and lingered.

To this day it's still a touchy subject after Seattle

was unable to hold on to the lead in the final 30 seconds.

But that loss also became the foundation for two NFC championships, a Super Bowl title and two more playoff appearances.

And while the people involved have changed significantly since that game, the circumstances are just as meaningful for Seattle when it travels to Atlanta for a divisional round playoff game on Saturday.

Except instead of trying to create the foundation of being among the elite, Seattle is trying to prove it still is among the elite in the NFC.

NFC Divisional Playoffs



Seattle Seahawks (10-5-1)



Atlanta Falcons (11-5)

• Saturday, 1:35 p.m.
• at Georgia Dome, Atlanta
• TV: FOX

"It's one of those games," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Tuesday of the loss in January 2013. "It's one of those games you store away, but it doesn't have anything to do with what's going on now."

Seattle was an upstart

during the 2012 season. Led by then-rookie quarterback Russell Wilson, the Seahawks earned a wild-card spot in the NFC and knocked off Washington in the opening round.

Against Atlanta, the No. 1 seed in the NFC that season, Seattle appeared outclassed, falling behind 20-0 at half-time and 27-7 entering the fourth quarter.

That's when Wilson pulled off one of his greatest rallies to date, leading Seattle on three fourth-quarter touchdown drives to take a 28-27 lead with 31 seconds

See SEAHAWKS/2B



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson stretches at the start of practice Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, in Renton, Wash. The Seahawks are scheduled to play the Atlanta Falcons in an NFL football NFC playoff game Saturday in Atlanta.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Sports shorts

Bull riding star found dead at 25

The world of professional rodeo is mourning the loss of one of its brightest young stars with the unexpected passing of bull rider Ty Pozzobon at age 25 on Monday.

A report from the *Calgary Herald* said Pozzobon, the 2016 Professional Bull Riders Canada champion and four-time PBR world finalist, was back home visiting family in Merritt, British Columbia, and working cattle while recovering from a hand injury.

No cause of death has been released, but the Herald report said foul play is not suspected and the coroner is investigating.

Pozzobon competed in Pendleton and scored 87 points to finish second in the first round at the Pendleton PBR Classic this past Round-Up, and had a career earnings of more than \$250,000 during his eight-year career.



Pozzobon

"I think I'm changing the game. In that sense, I'm what Steph Curry is to basketball. Don't get me wrong, I don't necessarily think Steph Curry is the best player, but he changed the game so he's going to always go down as being remembered."

— Le'Veon Bell

The Pittsburgh Steelers running back that believes he is leading a position revolution with his patience, similar to the way Curry changed the NBA with the 3-point emphasis.

EOU men leap into NAIA Top 5

LA GRANDE — For the first time in nearly three years, the Eastern Oregon men's basketball team has a top five ranking beside its name.

The NAIA Coaches' Top 25 poll released on Tuesday afternoon slotted the Mountaineers in the No. 5 spot, up 11 spots from the last ranking in December. EOU now sits at 15-2 overall this season and are riding a 10-game win streak overall and has won each of its first eight games in Cascade Collegiate Conference play.

Most recently, EOU defeated Warner Pacific (99-79) and Multnomah (91-71) at home over the weekend.

The Mountaineers are the only CCC team in the Top 25, though Northwest and Oregon Tech each received votes. Sitting ahead of EOU are No. 1 Cornerstone, No. 2 Union, No. 3 Saint Francis, and No. 4 Northwestern.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1973 — The American League adopts the designated hitter rule.

1987 — Denver's John Elway leads the Broncos to a 23-20 overtime victory over the Cleveland Browns to win the AFC title. Elway caps a 15-play, 98-yard march with a 5-yard TD pass to tie the game with 37 seconds remaining. Denver would win in overtime.

2009 — Philadelphia eliminates the New York Giants 23-11 to reach the NFC title game for the fifth time in eight seasons. This is the first game in NFL history to finish 23-11.

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