

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B



AP Photo/Thomas Boyd, File

In this Oct. 8, 2016, file photo, Autzen Stadium is shown as Oregon plays Washington in an NCAA college football game in Eugene, Ore.

College Football

One Duck released from hospital

Strength coach suspended after workouts hospitalized three Oregon players

By KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

EUGENE — The University of Oregon suspended football strength and conditioning coach Irele Oderinde one month without pay after three players were hospitalized following a series of

intense workouts last week. The school announced the decision in a statement Tuesday evening and detailed a review of the incident. It added that all future workouts have been modified and the strength and conditioning coach will now report to director of performance and sports science Andrew Murray instead of coach Willie Taggart, who apologized in the statement. Oregon's statement detailed that players began an off-season conditioning program last Tuesday after six weeks away from "football-related activities"

and Oderinde led those workouts. Three days into the sessions one player complained of "muscle-soreness and displayed other symptoms of potential exercise-related injury." The medical staff took "appropriate action" and two other players later complained of the same symptoms.

"I have visited with the three young men involved in the incidents in the past few days and I have been in constant contact with their families, offering my sincere apologies," Taggart said

See DUCKS/2B

MISSION

Eagles soaring to best start

Nixyaawii girls last undefeated 1A team

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Nixyaawii's basketball fans have been spoiled in recent years.

Since Jeremy Maddern's first season as head coach in 2006-07, no girls' team in Umatilla County has won as often as the Golden Eagles.

Of the 279 times the Eagles have taken the court in Maddern's 11 seasons, 205 ended with wins for a .735 winning percentage.

Only Hermiston's .728 (209-78) challenges the Golden Eagles over that stretch, and only Condon/Wheeler's .758 (216-69) is better among teams in the *East Oregonian's* distribution range.

So it comes as no surprise that fast starts are nothing new to the Golden Eagles, which won their only 1A state championship in 2011.

But despite six seasons of at least 20 wins, no Maddern-coached Golden Eagles team has been able to make it this far into the season without suffering a loss.

With every win the 12-0 Golden Eagles are re-writing program history. They overtook the previous record for a season-opening win streak set by the 2007-08 team with a Jan. 5 win over Echo the took them to 9-0.

Maddern said he was a little surprised to learn eight games was the longest they'd made it before their first loss, and it's easy to see why. Last season the Golden Eagles won 17 of their first 18 games, but dropped the season opener to Country Christian. In the championship season of 2011, Nixyaawii won 12 of its first 13, but only its first four in a row. The season before the Golden Eagles won 13 of their first 14, but lost in the second game of the season. After losing their ninth game in 2008, Nixyaawii would win 24 of its first 25.

As far as their place in program history is concerned, the current convocation of Eagles aren't too impressed with themselves. At least not yet.

"Our goal is to get to state," said junior Kaitlynn Melton after practice Tuesday, then corrected herself.

"To win state."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

In this file photo from January 5, 2017, Nixyaawii's Milan Schimmel (24) dishes off a pass during a game in Mission against Echo. Nixyaawii has won its first 12 games this season for the best start in program history.

A second loss to Country Christian last season, this one in the state semifinals by a 58-37 score, has been a big motivator for the team ever since.

"We were pretty upset about it," Melton said. "I think we came into that game scared, more scared than we should have. I think we could have beat them last season if we would have put our minds to it and I

think that just motivates us even more this year."

Nixyaawii, No. 4 this week in the OSAA rankings, earned a modicum of revenge with a 54-51 win at Country Christian in the second game this season.

"That was our toughest game," said junior Mary Stewart, the returning league player of the year who led the team with 30 points that night. "We wanted

that really bad."

"I think just going through that battle and winning it, it was psychological like, 'Oh we are pretty good, we're one of the elite teams,'" Maddern said. "We did a really good job of just matching their physicality which we hadn't in years past. That was a great test for us."

Since then it's been relatively

See EAGLES/2B

Prep Swimming

Buckaroos, Bulldogs tie for win

Local swimmers open season with splash

East Oregonian

MADRAS — With canceled meets becoming the norm, the start of the 2016-17 season never seemed like it would never come for the Pendleton and Hermiston swim teams.

When they finally got the chance to compete on Saturday, 46 days after the official open of the OSAA season and more than two months after their first practice, the Buckaroos and Bulldogs took advantage of it.

The boys' teams tied to win the Madras Meet with 70 points each, and Pendleton's girls finished second with 77 points. Hood River won with 109.

Pendleton's combined team score of 147 was also first.

A total 12 local athletes reached the podium in all of their four events, and Pendleton senior Jon Jennings was top point earner among locals with wins in the 200-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly, as well as swimming legs of the 200 and 400

See SWIMMING/2B

Prep Basketball

Pirates take down Vikings

Mashos scores 16 to lead Riverside over Umatilla

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — As a senior and a team captain, Lacey Mashos is often counted on to lead her Riverside Pirates team game-in and game-out.

Tuesday night's game against league-rival Umatilla was an example of that, as Mashos tallied a team-high 16 points and also contributed six steals and four assists as Riverside downed Umatilla 40-27 in an Eastern Oregon League contest.

All in all, seven players got in the score-book for Riverside (8-4, 2-1 EOL) and the team was plus-eight in the turnover cate-

See PREPS/2B

Girls Hoops



Sports shorts

Paul injures thumb, out 6-8 weeks

LOS ANGELES (AP) Chris Paul will undergo surgery on Wednesday to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb and is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

The Clippers said Tuesday that their All-Star guard will continue to undergo treatment and evaluation by the club's medical staff.

Paul was injured on a first-half play involving Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook in Monday's victory over the Thunder. Paul didn't return in the second half.

The Clippers are 26-9 in 36 games with Paul in the lineup this season. He is averaging 17.5 points, 9.7 assists and 5.3 rebounds, and leads the NBA with 2.25 steals per game. He missed a total of seven games last month and this month with hamstring issues.

The Clippers are 7-0 in 2017, equaling their best start to a calendar year since 1974.



Paul

"Whoever is behind this should be fired, nothing to do with football. Where's NCAA?"

How about protecting athletes instead of your paychecks!"

— Joe Thomas

Cleveland Browns All-Pro offensive lineman on Twitter responding to the hospitalization of three University of Oregon football players after intense offseason workouts.

AP source: Bautista stays in Toronto on 1-year contract

TORONTO (AP) — A person with knowledge of the negotiations tells The Associated Press that free agent outfielder Jose Bautista is staying with the Toronto Blue Jays after agreeing to an \$18 million, one-year contract with mutual options for more years.

The 36-year-old Bautista hit 22 homers with 69 RBIs last year while batting .234 in an injury-plagued season.

Bautista is a fan favorite in Toronto. After the Blue Jays ended a 22-year playoff drought with their AL East title in 2015, Bautista hit a memorable three-run homer in Game 5 of the AL Division Series against Texas.

He did not accept Toronto's \$17.2 million qualifying offer this offseason, instead deciding to test the open market.



Bautista

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1996 — Baseball owners break with more than a century of tradition by unanimously approving interleague play in 1997.

2003 — Michelle Kwan wins her sixth straight title, and seventh overall, at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Michael Weiss gets his third U.S. men's title.

2015 — Russell Wilson hits Jermaine Kearse for a 35-yard touchdown 3:19 into overtime to lift the Seattle Seahawks to an improbable 28-22 victory over Green Bay in the NFC championship game.

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