

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## HERMISTON

# Rambo's Rise

**Hermiston senior showing off big-time talent after transfer from small-school Irrigon**

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

As a wide-eyed, skinny sophomore, Xavier Rambo did something that only a few dozen high school athletes are able to do each year in Oregon — win a basketball state championship.

Though Rambo wasn't a major player for that Irrigon Knights squad that went 27-1 and won its second straight Class 2A championship, he was able to gain valuable experience as well as the chance to learn from all-state players such as Adrian Romero, Anthony Landeros and Fredy Vera — all three of whom now play basketball collegiately.

"I learned so much, they taught me so much of my game," Rambo said after practice Thursday. "Fredy Vera, he's my favorite player to ever play with, he's a great point guard and a great role model and still my role model to this day. And guys like Adrian and Anthony, they all taught me a lot as a young guard and made me a better player."

As a more-developed junior, Rambo took on a larger role with Irrigon last season and helped his Knights get back to the 2A playoffs, while also earning All-Columbia Basin Conference honorable mention honors as well. But at the conclusion of that season, Rambo decided he wanted a change. He decided to transfer to

See RAMBO/2B

**MAIN:** Hermiston senior Xavier Rambo shoots the ball over Dallas players during a game this season in Hermiston.

**INSET:** Rambo shoots the ball over Kennedy's Bishop Mitchell as a junior at 2A Irrigon during the 2015-16 season.

EO file photos/  
E.J. Harris



## Men's College Basketball

# Ducks dunk Bears



Oregon forward Chris Boucher (25), dunks on California in an NCAA college basketball game Thursday in Eugene.

# No. 11 Oregon loses Brooks in win over California

By RON RICHMOND  
Associated Press

EUGENE — Losing its best player to injury left No. 11 Oregon more somber than celebratory after it rewrote some school history with its 15th consecutive victory.

"It takes a little wind out of your sails," coach Dana Altman said of the Ducks' reaction when Dillon Brooks didn't join them for the second half.

Jordan Bell scored a career-high 26 points, Casey Benson had 15 on five 3-pointers and Oregon rolled to an 86-63 victory over California on Thursday night.

The Ducks (17-2, 6-0 Pac-12) hadn't won 15 straight games in 104 years, but they lost their preseason All-America to a lower leg injury late in the first half.

Brooks, who had offseason surgery on his left foot, limped off the court as Oregon was building a 44-30 halftime lead. Oregon officials tweeted that Brooks had injured his lower left leg after he did not appear with his teammates for the second half.

"He'll be evaluated the next couple of days and we'll see where we're at," said Altman, who spoke with Brooks but wouldn't confirm if he had re-injured his left foot.

In his absence, Bell took up

the scoring slack by shooting 11 of 12 from the field to go with six rebounds and four blocked shots. He was 7 of 7 in the second half and 4 of 5 at the free throw line for 18 points.

"That's just a great line," Altman said, looking at the stat sheet. "A few more rebounds and that would have been a spectacular line."

Bell's only miss was a desperation 3-pointer early in the game to avoid a shot-clock violation.

"When we got it down low to him, he scored every time," Tyler Dorsey said. "He finishes and he's very athletic."

Jabari Bird had 21 points to lead the Golden Bears (13-6, 4-3), who had won three straight and eight of their last 10 meetings with the Ducks.

After two quick fouls on starter Payton Pritchard, Benson came off the bench to hit four straight 3-pointers as Oregon connected on 9 of 15 beyond the arc in the first half.

Dorsey, the Ducks' best long-range shooter, turned playmaker in the first half with five of his six assists.

"I was looking for him," Dorsey said of Benson. "I knew he was going to make it and I was going to get an assist."

Dorsey scored 13 points in the second half to finish with 16.



## Men's College Basketball

# Humphrey leads Stanford past Oregon State

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Michael Humphrey had 21 points and Marcus Allen added a career-high 12 to lead Stanford to a 62-46 victory Thursday night over Oregon State, keeping the Beavers winless in Pac-12 conference play.

It was the third straight win for the Cardinal (11-8, 3-4 Pac-12), coming off a pair of victories at home last week against the league's Washington schools.

Stephen Thompson Jr. led the Beavers (4-15, 0-6) with 15 points. Oregon State, which trailed by as many as 17 points late after jumping out to an early nine-point lead, has lost six straight games.

The Cardinal were without Reid Travis, the team's top scorer and rebounder with averages of 16.6 points and 8.9 rebounds per

game. Reid injured his right shoulder in Stanford's 76-69 victory over Washington last Saturday. He had missed the previous two games with a similar injury.

The Beavers have struggled without top scorer Tres Tinkle, who was averaging 20.2 points a game before he broke his right wrist on Nov. 25 against Fresno State. Tinkle has missed 13 games.

But Oregon State did have forward Drew Eubanks, who was a game-time decision because of a high injury. Eubanks was averaging 14.6 points going in. He finished with eight points against Stanford.

Beavers coach Wayne Tinkle tweaked his starting lineup, giving sophomore Gligorije Ravocevic his first career start. Ravocevic replaced Matt Dahlen, who had started the



last 10 games.

At least at the start, the Beavers had spark, going up 16-7 on three consecutive 3-pointers — two by Thompson and a third

by JaQuori McLaughlin. Thompson hit another 3 to give Oregon State a 19-11 lead.

But Stanford closed the gap, pulling within 20-17 on Marcus Sheffield's jumper with a little more than five minutes left before the break.

Humphrey's dunk got Stanford within 25-23, and Allen's layup tied it. Humphrey made two free throws to give the Cardinal a 27-25 halftime lead.

Sheffield's 3-pointer made it 37-32 with 12:35 left as the Cardinal began to pull away. Humphrey's layup stretched the lead to 45-36 with 8:20 left.



Oregon State's Drew Eubanks (12) jumps past Stanford's Grant Verhoeven (30) during first half of an NCAA college basketball game Thursday in Corvallis.

## Sports shorts

### Reds trade Dan Straily to Miami

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Marlins traded two of their top pitching prospects Thursday to acquire immediate rotation help.

Miami obtained 14-game winner Dan Straily from the Cincinnati Reds for three minor leaguers, including right-handers Luis Castillo and Austin Brice, both highly regarded prospects in the Marlins' thin system.

Straily, 28, has a career record of 27-21 with a 4.24 ERA. The right-hander tied for the most homers allowed in the NL last year with 31, but as a flyball pitcher he's a good fit for spacious Marlins Park.

Miami will be Straily's fifth team since he broke into the majors in 2012. He has also pitched for Oakland, the Cubs and Houston.

Straily went 14-8 for the last-place Reds with a 3.76 ERA and 162 strikeouts in 34 games, leading the staff in wins, innings and strikeouts.



Straily

"It made me think a little more differently (about him). But LeGarrette's doing his thing."

— Le'Veon Bell

Pittsburgh Steelers running back on the time then-teammate LaGarrette Blount left the field before the end of a win over Tennessee on a Monday night in 2014.

Blount was cut on Wednesday, signed by the New England Patriots and won a Super Bowl at the end of the season. The Steeler play at the Patriots Sunday in the AFC Championship.

### Raiders prep for Vegas move, file paperwork with county

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Oakland Raiders have filed paperwork to move to Las Vegas.

Clark County Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak told *The Associated Press* on Thursday that he spoke with the Raiders. Sisolak is part of an 11-member panel that was appointed by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval to study plans for a proposal backed by billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson's company, Las Vegas Sands Corp., to build a domed stadium to lure the Raiders to town.

The proposed 65,000-seat domed stadium is expected to cost \$1.9 billion, including \$750 million in hotel tax revenue, \$650 million from Adelson, and \$500 million from the Raiders and the NFL. Any relocation to Las Vegas must be approved by three-fourths of NFL team owners.



### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1891** — The International YMCA in Springfield, Mass. is the site of the first official basketball game. Peach baskets were used, but it wasn't until 1905 that someone removed the baskets' bottoms.

**1980** — President Carter announces the U.S. Olympic team will not participate in the Summer Olympics in Moscow to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the previous month.

**2002** — Steve Yzerman becomes the ninth player in NHL history to notch 1,000 assists as his Detroit Red Wings beat Ottawa 3-2 in overtime.

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