

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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NBA

Portland's road woes continue



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Utah Jazz guard Dante Exum (11) and Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) reach for a loose ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, in Salt Lake City. The Jazz won 111-88.

Trail Blazers fall to 9-20 on road following blowout from Jazz

By KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Gordon Hayward was presented with his All-Star jersey at halftime Wednesday night and will play in the game for the first time on Sunday. He had some unfinished business, though, before heading to New Orleans.

Hayward scored 22 points and George Hill added 19 as the Utah Jazz ended a three-game losing streak to the Portland Trail Blazers

with a 111-88 victory.

The Jazz also ended a three-game overall losing streak heading into the All-Star break.

"We had a bad taste in our mouth and didn't want to go into the break losing four straight," Hayward said. "This was one we needed to have and I think we played like that a little bit tonight. We need to be able to play like that more often."

Utah used a 20-4 third-quarter

Portland
88

Utah
111

run to take a 15-point lead after Hayward warmed up following a 2-for-9 first half. He scored 13 in the quarter.

Joe Ingles scored 18 for the Jazz, and Rudy Gobert had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

"I told (Hayward) don't you dare change anything you're doing after he had a really tough night against Boston," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "It's just a question of

him continuing to play his game. If the ball's not going in, he can think about other things he can do. Maybe get a more open shot, but not to ever stop attacking.

"That's who he is. That's who he's worked to become. That's the guy we have confidence in."

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum had torched Utah the six previous games against the Jazz, but were fairly contained most of the night. Lillard finished with 13

See BLAZERS/2B

Prep Swimming

Dawgs ready to finish dream season

Hermiston, Pendleton prepare for state finals

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — There were plenty of reasons the Hermiston boys swim team could have chosen to leave a district championship off their list of preseason goals.

The Bulldogs weren't considering any of them when picking out the accomplishments they hoped to achieve this season, however, because the Bulldogs didn't consider themselves a realistic contender.

That changed as soon as the team was finally able to get into a pool against some live competition, and following a tie with Pendleton for first place at mid-January meet in Madras, Hermiston realized it had better raise its expectations.

"We knew at that point that we had a competitive team this year and we had a chance to win our district," said Hermiston sophomore Ryan Barnard, who swims the individual medley as well as freestyle relays.

With its readjusted goals the Bulldogs won their next meet, then placed second to La Grande in their final tune-up for districts. Going into Hood River Aquatic Center last Friday

See SWIMMING/2B

MLB



Mariners pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma throws during spring training practice, Wednesday Peoria, Ariz.

AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Iwakuma ready to shoulder load again for M's if needed

Former All-Star posted double-digit wins in three of six seasons with M's

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Pitcher Hisashi Iwakuma was a major reason the Seattle Mariners stayed in the race for an American League wild-card playoff spot

until the second-to-last day of the 2016 season.

The big right-hander led the Mariners with 16 wins, and he got the start on Oct. 1 with Seattle in a must-win situation at home against Oakland in order to have a chance. Iwakuma faltered, however, and gave up five runs on nine hits in 3 2-3 innings.

The Mariners wound up losing 9-8 and were eliminated. But Iwakuma was their workhorse in a season that saw ace Felix

See IWAKUMA/2B

HERMISTON

Crossley fourth in barrel racing slack at The American Semi-Finals

East Oregonian



Photo by Andy Watson

Callahan Crossley, of Hermiston, competes for a fourth-place time of 13.928 during The American Semi-Finals barrel racing slack on Tuesday at Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas.

It was a very sweet Valentine's Day for Hermiston's Callahan Crossley after the barrel racer placed fourth in the slack at RFD TV's The American Semi-Finals at Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas.

Crossley's time of 13.928 seconds was just .16 off the time of leader Brianna Trepanier. For her efforts Crossley earned a check for \$7,632 and a spot in the three-day rodeo starting Wednesday evening.

Top 10 finishers in Fort Worth will advance to The American on Feb. 19 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, where top competitors from the PRCA, ERA, WPRA and PBR will compete on the same stage for \$1 million in bonus money.

Sports shorts

Lesnar calls it a career with UFC

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar has informed the mixed martial arts promotion that he is retired from competition.

The UFC confirmed the 39-year-old Lesnar's decision Wednesday.

Lesnar returned from a 4½-year MMA absence last July to beat Mark Hunt at UFC 200, but the result was overturned after Lesnar failed two doping tests. He was subsequently suspended from competition for a year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which administers the UFC's doping policy.

Lesnar's decision to retire means he has been removed from USADA's drug-testing pool, which monitors the fighters year-round.

Lesnar fought for the UFC just eight times, but he became one of the biggest pay-per-view stars in the sport's history during his brief run.



Lesnar

"You doing it for me, it's all good. You doing it against me — you speaking out against my organization — it's not good anymore? That's a slave mentality. A slave master mentality. That's ridiculous."

— Draymond Green

Golden State Warriors forward commenting on the handling of former New York Knicks star Charles Oakley by team owner James Dolan. Green made the comments during his "Dray Day" podcast on Uninterrupted.

Anthony gets 10th All-Star nod

NEW ORLEANS (AP) Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks is an All-Star again.

The NBA announced Wednesday night that Anthony has been picked to replace Cleveland forward Kevin Love on the Eastern Conference roster Sunday for the All-Star Game in New Orleans.

It's the 10th All-Star selection for Anthony, and his eighth consecutive.

Love is expected to miss six weeks after undergoing surgery on his left knee Tuesday. Injury replacements are chosen by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

Anthony entered Wednesday night's game in Oklahoma City averaging 23.2 points and 6.1 rebounds this season. Among players on this year's All-Star rosters, Anthony's 10 trips to the showcase are second-most to only Cleveland's LeBron James an All-Star for the 13th time.



Anthony

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1972 — Wilt Chamberlain of the Los Angeles Lakers becomes the first player in NBA history to reach the 30,000 point mark during a 110-109 loss to Phoenix.

1997 — Jeff Gordon, 25, becomes the youngest winner of the Daytona 500 after Dale Earnhardt crashes 12 laps from the end to prolong his Daytona 500 jinx.

2005 — The NHL cancels what was left of its schedule after last-gasp negotiations failed to resolve differences over a salary cap. It's the first time a major sports league in North America lost an entire season to a labor dispute.

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