

BRIEFLY

Round-Up legend Larry Mahan elected to National Wrestling Hall of Fame

Pendleton Round-Up and Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer Larry Mahan will soon be adding another honor to his list of accomplishments — the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Mahan, a 1998 Round-Up honoree and Oregon native, will be inducted to the Oregon chapter on April 22 during a ceremony in Tigard.

He will be honored with the Outstanding American award, which "recognizes individuals who have used the disciplines of the sport to launch notable careers after concluding their wrestling

career," according to the Hall of Fame's website.

Mahan wrestled at North Salem High and Redmond High, where he was a two-time district champion and three-time state qualifier.

After wrestling, Mahan went on to have an incredible career as a professional cowboy, qualifying for the National Finals Rodeo a record 26 times, winning eight world championships and six All-Around championships.

Also being honored are former Oregon City coach Roger Rolen, The Dalles coach Kevin Kramer, Cottage Grove coach Bill Thompson, coach Donnie McPherson, and longtime referee Del Helzer.

—East Oregonian

MARTIN: Paid \$1.5 million for services

Continued from 1B

Martin said. Meanwhile, Martin had signed contracts obligating him to pay Hernandez 5 percent of his MLB deal and the alleged smuggling ring 35 percent. He was also given Mexican residency papers claiming he had a job as an "auto mechanic and painter" that Martin said was false.

With the Rangers agreement done and while awaiting a visa to come to the U.S., Martin said the group decided he should simply walk across the border. At the time, Cubans who reached U.S. soil were generally allowed to remain, a policy since revoked by former President Barack Obama.

Martin acknowledged giving false information in an interview with a Customs and Border

Protection officer, such as a claim that he was seeking political asylum, but he was released into the U.S. without incident.

"I was afraid and I was prepared to say what I had to say," Martin said of the interview. "We were afraid that I would be kidnapped, and that's why we decided to cross the border."

Martin also decided not to pay the full amount to the alleged smugglers or to Hernandez, leading to a lawsuit and other legal action. He paid them about \$1.5 million combined, according to court documents.

"That first year I paid them a whole lot more than what they had done for me," Martin testified.

The trial is expected to last a few more weeks. Hernandez and

Estrada's lawyers insist the men were not operating a ballplayer smuggling ring but running legitimate baseball businesses aimed at getting Cubans to the big leagues.

Two of the smugglers involved closely with Martin, Eliezer Lazo and Joel Martinez, previously pleaded guilty in a separate U.S. case and are serving prison time. Both are listed as prosecution witnesses in this trial.

Martin, 28, played for the Rangers from 2011 to 2015, when he was traded to the Mariners. A center fielder, Martin batted .247 with 15 home runs, 47 RBIs and 24 stolen bases last season. Mariners officials say Martin is being permitted to report to spring training late because of the Miami trial.

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