

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017

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1B

Men's College Basketball

Corban corrals CCC title

KLAMATHFALLS— Chris Martin scored 30 of his game-high 34 points in the second half going 10-of-12 from long range to lead the eight-seeded Corban Warriors over fourth-seeded Oregon Tech 109-95 for the Cascade Collegiate Conference men's basketball championship on Tuesday.

Pendleton product Bryan Beard scored 16 points and had five rebounds for Oregon Tech (24-9), but couldn't bring the Hustlin' Owls back after they went into the break trailing 54-38.

Corban (18-15) became the only No. 8 seed to win the CCC Tournament title, and earned an automatic berth to the NAIA National Tournament. It was Oregon Tech's first loss at Danny Miles Court this season.

The Warriors went on a 16-2 run led by center Joel Johnston to take a 22-7 lead in the first half. They stretched the lead to its largest margin of the first half at 19 points after four three-pointers by Jake Love.

The Owls cut the lead to eight three times in the second half, but each time Martin answered with a string of three-pointers and hit three in a row to close the game after OIT had pulled within 100-92. The Warriors shot 54 percent from the floor and 60 percent from three-point range.

Joel Yellow Owl put up 25 points to lead Oregon Tech on the night, followed by Mitchell Fink with 19 points and 8 assists.



HERMISTON

Bulldogs come up short

Hermiston's Chance Flores and Parkrose's Wilfred Likayi go up for a rebound in the Bulldogs' 65-50 loss to the Broncos on Tuesday in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Hermiston's season ends in play-in round loss to Parkrose

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

It is no secret that Hermiston's boys basketball team was an undersized group this season.

With the tallest players measuring in at 6-1, the Bulldogs often times found themselves in distinct height disadvantages against teams, however the

Bulldogs had powered through it and finished the regular season nine games above the .500 mark.

However, in Tuesday's Class 5A postseason play-in game the height disadvantage caught up to them as the Parkrose Broncos used their height

and length to pull away with a 65-50 victory to end the Bulldogs' season.

All five starters for the Broncos (11-12) registered at 6-2 or taller and the team is anchored inside by 6-8 senior Wilfred Likayi and 6-3 point guard Isaac Bonton — a Division I signee with Montana State. They played a spaced-out 2-3 zone defense that limited Hermiston's (16-8) clean looks for jump shots and the length played into many tipped passes and altered shots near the basket.

"I thought the kids played hard but their length definitely bothered

See BULLDOGS/3B

Boys Hoops
Parkrose 65
Hermiston 50

NBA

Morris, Pistons outlast Trail Blazers in overtime

Portland can't hold on to 13-point lead

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Pistons rallied for another win after trailing by double digits.

"That's not a good formula," coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I applaud our resilience.

... To be good, I'd like to play a more solid game from beginning to end."

Marcus Morris scored a career-high 37 points, including Detroit's first seven in overtime, and the Pistons rallied from a 13-point, third-quarter deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 120-113 on Tuesday night.

Ish Smith had 12 points, seven assists and seven steals for the Pistons, who pulled within one game of seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Damian Lillard had 34 points and 11 rebounds for Portland while falling an assist shy of his first triple-double. He had only

one assist after the start of the fourth, however, and the Trail Blazers were eventually done in by turnovers.

"We've always been a team that takes care of the ball, but that's not happening right now," Lillard said. "We can't give the ball away all the time and expect to win games, especially on the road."

Smith was scoreless heading into the fourth quarter but gave Detroit a huge lift down the stretch. The Pistons came back from an 18-point deficit to beat Charlotte on Thursday, and they rallied from 16 down to win at Toronto on Feb. 12.

"We're playing with a lot of fight," Detroit's Andre Drummond said. "We're not out of the game, ever. When things get tough, we really come together."

C.J. McCollum scored 25 points for Portland.

The Pistons trailed 75-62 in the third before closing that quarter on a 13-4 run. It was Portland that had to rally late in the fourth, and Lillard's driving layup with 2.8

See BLAZERS/3B



AP Photo/Carlos Osorio
Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson, left, makes a layup defended by Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic (27) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Women's College Basketball

Eastern Oregon women garner All-CCC honors

Cascade Collegiate Conference names Weissenfluh top coach, Webber top defender

East Oregonian

The week continues to get better for the Eastern Oregon women's basketball program.

One day after the Mountaineers defeated Southern Oregon 74-69 to capture the fourth conference tournament championship in school history, EOU saw head coach Anji Weissenfluh and four Mountaineer players earn all-conference accolades that were handed out by the Cascade Collegiate Conference on Tuesday.

Weissenfluh led EOU's haul with the CCC Coach of the Year award, after guiding her team to a 28-4 overall record and a share of the conference's regular

See EOU/2B



Sports shorts

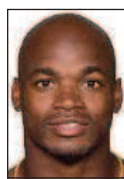
Vikings make Peterson free agent

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson, Minnesota's all-time leading rusher and a first-team All-Pro pick in four of his 10 seasons with the Vikings, will be an unrestricted free agent for the first time in his career when the market opens next week.

The Vikings as expected said Tuesday they will not exercise their option for 2017, which called for him to make \$18 million. That would have been an unwieldy hit to their salary cap and by far the highest figure in the NFL.

Pittsburgh's decision to place the franchise tag on Le'Veon Bell will likely mean a \$12 million-plus salary, but nobody else at the position in the league is close.

Peterson, who turns 32 in three weeks, is coming off a meniscus tear in his right knee that limited him to 72 yards on 37 carries over parts of three games in 2016.



Peterson

"In officiating, better is in the eye of the beholder. But what we should always try to achieve is consistency, predictability. You want coaches, fans, players, to have a clear expectation of how a call is going to be made and why."

— Rich McKay

Atlanta Falcons president and chairman of the NFL's competition committee. It was announced Tuesday the league is considering hiring up to 17 full-time referees.

OSAA expands live streaming of basketball championships

Oregon high school basketball fans can enjoy expanded live video streaming of the state championships this March as Table Rock Sports, Plays Action Sports Media and The Oregon Pulse Network team up with the NFHS Network and OSAA to produce live game action available online and on your favorite mobile devices.

The \$9.95 subscription fee allows fans one month to view games beginning with the 3A boys and girls tournaments from Marshfield and North Bend high schools March 2-4.

All 6A boys and girls championship round games, March 8-11, will stream from the Chiles Center in Portland.

Coverage also includes the semifinals and finals of the 5A boys and girls tournaments at Oregon State.

Register for a subscription and find the scheduled broadcast events at <http://www.nfhnetwork.com/associations/osaa>.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1955 — Allen Fieldhouse, home of the Kansas Jayhawks, hosts its first basketball game

1988 — Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers becomes the NHL's all-time assist leader, breaking the longtime mark of Gordie Howe. In his ninth season, Gretzky picked up assist No. 1,050, taking just 681 games to surpass the record that took Howe 1,767 games to set.

1994 — NBA referee Steve Javie ejects Portland radio analyst Mike Rice in the third quarter of the Pacers' 106-94 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

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