

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Men's College Basketball

Brackets create gambling madness

About \$2 billion at stake in offices around country

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
Associated Press

Here's one thing millions of Americans can agree on: March Madness is fun, especially when there's a little money on the line.

So fun, in fact, that more people will fill out NCAA Tournament brackets this week than voted for either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton in last year's presidential election.

Combining all those \$10 and \$20 entry fees that go along with most of the 70 million-plus office pools being filled out as we speak, Americans will put in the neighborhood of \$2 billion at stake when the tournament kicks off later this week.

But though the brackets and the money spent on them have driven the tournament's popularity upward — the 2015 tournament was the most-viewed in more than two decades, while last year's took a hit because the Final Four was televised exclusively on cable — the NCAA itself does not condone gambling or filling out brackets for anything more than fun.

Adding to the outlandishness of it all — CBS, which combines with Turner Sports to pay more than \$1 billion a year to televise every game of the tournament through 2032, runs one of the country's biggest bracket contests, offering players a chance to form their own private pools (for fun, of course) or to compete for prizes, including a trip to the 2018 Final Four (no purchase necessary).

The NCAA also runs a bracket contest on its own website. But in a statement on gambling, it reminds players that while entering a bracket contest that doesn't require an entry fee is not banned by the NCAA (but may be barred by individual schools), that "we have learned that these types of pools are often the entry for youth to begin betting."

"While the bracket is an important part of the excitement around the tournament, money does not have to be involved to enjoy March Madness," NCAA director of public and media relations Stacey Osburn says.

It certainly can make things more interesting, though.

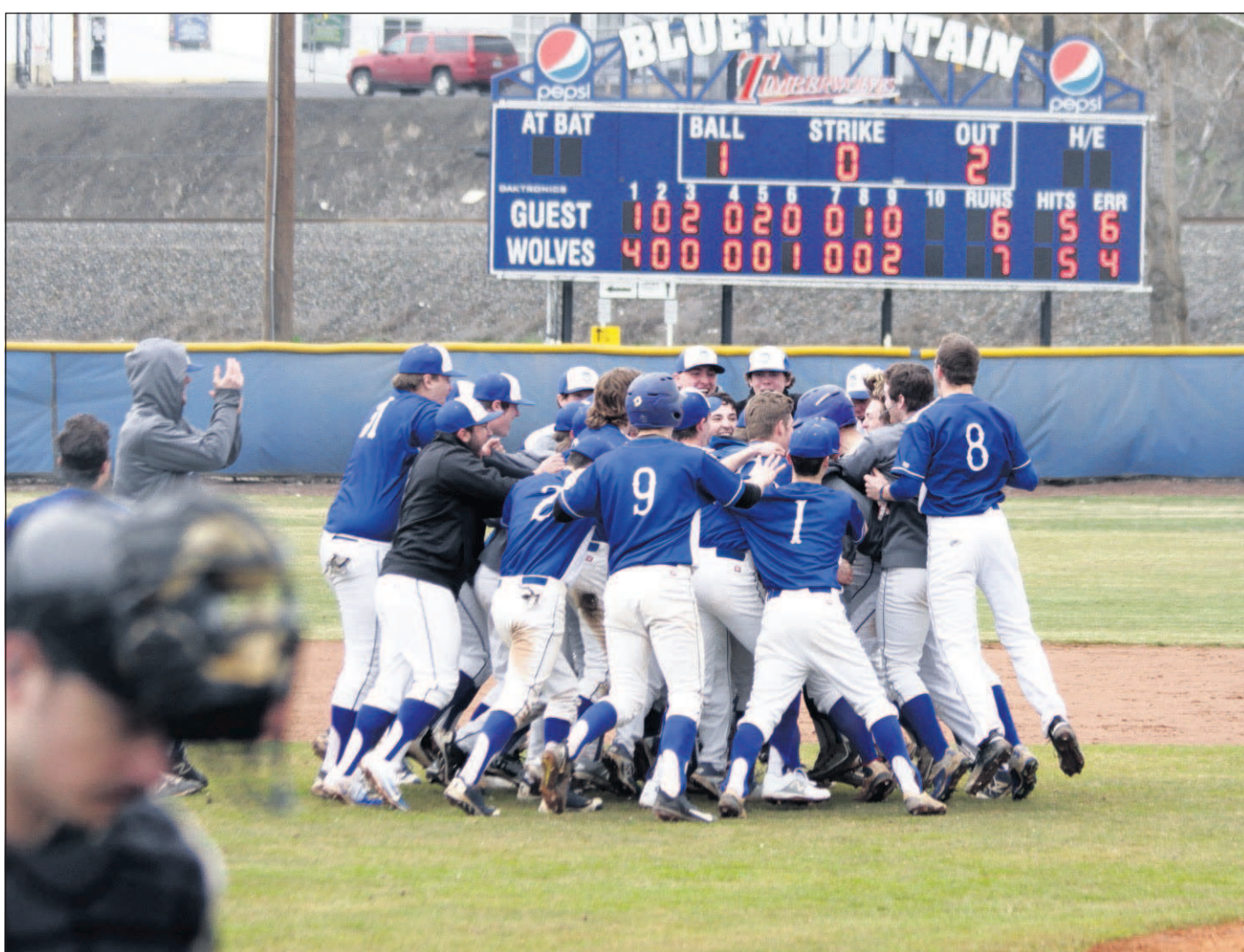
The American Gaming Association estimates that, in total, around \$10.4 billion will be wagered on the three-week hoops extravaganza that starts Tuesday with opening-round games and ends April 1 and 3 at the Final Four in Phoenix. That's \$1.2 billion more than last year. Only \$295 million of that will be bet legally — mainly at sports books in Nevada.

Geoff Freeman of the AGA, which seeks to destigmatize gambling while making it legal

See **GAMBLING/2B**

PENDLETON

T-Wolves win the weekend



The Blue Mountain Timberwolves celebrate around teammate Tate Spivey after Spivey's walk-off single during Game 1 of Saturday's doubleheader with Shoreline in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Eric Singer

BMCC baseball stops skid against Shoreline, sweeps Clackamas

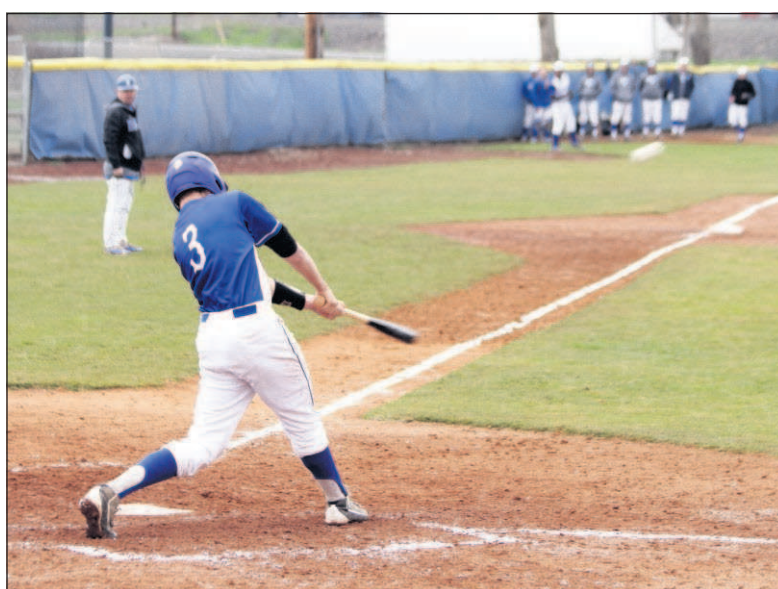
By **ERIC SINGER**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Offense has been a struggle for the Blue Mountain baseball team in 2017, as the Timberwolves came into Saturday's doubleheader against Shoreline averaging just 2.8 runs per game and a four-game losing streak.

But the bats finally woke up on Saturday and piled up 16 runs combined in the two games against the Dolphins, with Blue Mountain winning Game 1 7-6 and then dropping Game 2 10-9. Blue Mountain (2-7) sophomore Tate Spivey said that picking up the win to start the day was a big relief for the team.

"Going into this weekend, we were kind of down with the losses we've had," he said, "but we know the type of team that we are and the type of brothers we are so it was really good to get this win."

Spivey was the hero for Blue Mountain in Game 1, smacking a walk-off single into the left-center field gap in the bottom of the ninth inning. With two outs and runners



Staff photo by Eric Singer

Blue Mountain's Tate Spivey launches his game-winning single into left field, giving his Timberwolves a 7-6 win over Shoreline in Game 1 of Saturday's doubleheader in Pendleton.

at second and third and the scored tied at 6-6, Spivey came to the plate just wanting to put the ball in play. He said he was looking for a fastball to drive in the at-bat, so

when Shoreline (5-1) pitcher Tyler Wingert gave him the fastball on the very first pitch, Spivey did not waste his chance.

"He (the pitcher) just left it

there hanging up a bit and I just took a hack at it," said Spivey, who finished the day 2 for 10 with two runs scored and two RBIs. "As soon as it hit the bat, I knew it was going to be in the gap and it was going to be down and score Austin (Florez) ... man it was a good feeling."

The Timberwolves went into the ninth inning down 6-5 and in need of something to wake up their bats. Blue Mountain scored four runs and tallied three of their six total hits in the first inning, and then went quiet.

"We were talking amongst ourselves beforehand," Spivey said, "the bats kind of went in a lull after the first inning and we knew that something would have to happen to wake up the bats and get back in it."

Nate Cantonwine got the Timberwolves started with a walk and then a perfect sacrifice bunt from Jared Rogers put the tying run at second with just one out. Then Shoreline's shortstop helped the T-Wolves out with two fielding errors — the second of which allowed Andrew Hively to score

See **BMCC/2B**

Women's College Basketball

Eastern Oregon knocked from NAIA bracket

Three-pointer at buzzer won't fall for Mountaineers

By **NIKKI SHERRILL**
NAIA Media

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Maya Ah You's step-back prayer could not fall at the buzzer for Eastern Oregon, sending No. 1 overall St. Francis (Ill.) into the national semifinals.

The Fighting Saints defeated the Mountaineers in their first-ever

appearance in a national quarter-final, 51-48 on Saturday.

Despite out-scoring overall No. 1 seed St. Francis (34-1) 34-26 in the paint and getting 26 points from its bench, Eastern Oregon (30-5) could not overcome a cold-shooting night from beyond the arc.

On the night, the Mountaineers connected on only 2-of-19 from three-point range, a frigid 10 percent.

St. Francis did not break too far

EOU
48

FIGHTING SAINTS
51

ahead, though, as it only jumped out a five-point lead at the 8:29 mark in the fourth quarter — its largest of the contest.

Ah You led her Mountaineers back within three, but could not connect at the buzzer to send the game into overtime, ending their season.

Charnelle Reed led St. Francis with a team-high 16 points and eight rebounds.

The Fighting Saints out-shot the Mountaineers only from the 3-point line, going for 37.5 percent.

Sports shorts

Centennial senior starts for Timbers

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Centennial High School senior Marco Farfan made his first professional start on Sunday as the Portland Timbers beat the L.A. Galaxy 1-0 on Sunday.

Farfan, 18, became the team's youngest-ever player when he was signed as a 17-year-old in October, 2016, and was making his first appearance with the team this season. The defender played all 90 minutes.

Diego Chara scored in the eighth minute for his seventh career goal in seven MLS seasons to help the Timbers (2-0-0), which went winless on the road last season, win for the first time away from home since beating the Galaxy on Oct. 8, 2015. The Galaxy (0-2-0) have lost three of their last four regular-season home games after a 15-match home unbeaten stretch.

The Galaxy, already without several key players, were reduced to 10-men in the 34th minute after Jelle Van Damme received two yellow cards within a three-minute span.



Farfan

"A billion dollars, it has to be there. That's our number, a billion, straight out of the gate."

— LaVar Ball

Father of UCLA freshman Lonzo Ball telling *USA Today* of his plan to package Lonzo with his two younger brothers LiAngelo and LaMelo, who both are committed to UCLA, for a mega shoe endorsement deal. He plans to create an apparel label for his sons should none of the major basketball shoe companies meet his price.

Phillies trade Mariners for switch-pitcher Venditte

SEATTLE (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies have acquired switch-pitcher Pat Venditte from the Seattle Mariners for minor league outfielder Joey Curletta.

The trade was announced Sunday.

The 31-year-old Venditte had pitched three times in spring training for Seattle this year and twice for Italy in the World Baseball Classic.

Venditte was 0-0 with a 5.73 ERA in 15 games for Toronto and the Mariners last year. Able to throw with both arms, he's 2-2 with a 4.97 ERA in 41 games in the majors.

The 23-year-old Curletta hit a combined .251 with 17 homers and 67 RBIs in Double-A and Class A in the Dodgers' system last season. He sent from Los Angeles to the Phillies in the trade for Carlos Ruiz.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1933 — The Chicago Blackhawks forfeit a game when players refuse to return to the ice after their coach, Tom Gorman, is ejected. Boston, ahead 3-2 at the time, is given a 1-0 victory.

1962 — Detroit's Gordie Howe becomes the second player in NHL history to score 500 career goals during the Red Wings' 3-2 loss to the New York Rangers.

2004 — Hermann Maier, racing in his first full season since nearly losing his right leg in a motorcycle accident, wins his fourth overall World Cup title. Maier also clinches the World Cup super-G title.

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