

**BRIEFLY**

**MMA returns to Wildhorse**

MISSION — Mixed martial arts is returning to Wildhorse Resort & Casino on May 29 with Mission Mayhem III. Tickets go on sale April 7 at 10 a.m. at the Wildhorse gift shop or online at Wildhorseresort.com. Tickets are \$79 for premium seats, \$69 for general admission, and \$400 for a table of four with beverage service. It's the third MMA fight hosted at Wildhorse in conjunction with ExciteFight. ExciteFight SikJitsu is the premier MMA gym in the Inland Northwest and is the home gym of UFC Fighter Julianna Pena as well as many others. There will be a minimum of 10 fights at Mission Mayhem III. The feature fight is Sarah Howell vs. Anjela Pink.

— East Oregonian

**Oregon softball improves to 30-0**

EUGENE — It was a pitcher's duel on Thursday at Jane Sanders Stadium, but the No. 3 ranked Ducks came out on top, 1-0, over No. 25 ranked BYU. Oregon is now a perfect 30-0 on the season. The longest winning streak to open a season in NCAA history is 35, set by UCLA in 1999. Offense was in a short supply on Thursday. Oregon did not get a hit until the fourth inning, when Danica Mercado doubled on a bloop to left. The Ducks finally broke through in the sixth. Alexis Mack reached on a one-out error and moved to second when Mercado dropped down a bunt single. After a strikeout, Nikki Udria came up and lined a full-count single to right to score Mack from second.

**James to 7th all-time in loss to Bulls**

CHICAGO (AP) — LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers just might be at their lowest point since the King came home three years ago. Either way, they'll have to do better than this if they're going to be crowned again. Nikola Mirotic tied season highs with 28 points and six 3-pointers, Jimmy Butler scored 25, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Cavaliers 99-93 Thursday on a night when James moved into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list. James passed Shaquille O'Neal, finishing with 26 points. That gave him 28,599 for his career — three more than O'Neal. But the big night by the four-time MVP couldn't prevent the Cavaliers from matching a season high with their third straight loss.

**Men's College Basketball**

**Mathews making most of opportunity at Gonzaga**

By JOHN MARSHALL  
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Jordan Mathews did not take his decision to leave California lightly. He enjoyed playing there, liked the area, had fun with his teammates.

Mathews just wondered if there was something more out there for him.

He found it in eastern Washington, where he joined Gonzaga's tight-knit group and helped lead them to the Final Four for the first time.

"It was a tough decision because I loved Cal," Mathews said Thursday, two days before the Zags face South Carolina in the Final Four. "But it couldn't have worked out better. It was worth it."

Mathews arrived in Spokane before this season as a graduate transfer, meaning he could play for the Zags right away.

Washington transfer Nigel Williams-Goss was eligible to play after sitting out a season, as was Johnathan Williams after his transfer from Missouri, giving Gonzaga an infusion of skill and experience.

Williams-Goss got most of the attention and lived up to it. The tenacious point guard was a first team AP All-American, the West Coast Conference player of the year and led the Zags in both scoring and assists.



**Gonzaga's Jordan Mathews listens to a question after a practice session for their NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball semifinal game Thursday, March 30, 2017, in Glendale, Ariz.**

AP Photo/Matt York

The soft-spoken Williams gave Gonzaga a lift at both ends of the floor, a 6-foot-9 forward who can score around the rim, rebound and shut down the opposing team's best big man.

Mathews has done a little of everything during his short time in the Inland Northwest. Need scoring, he can do that. Need to shut someone down, he's got that, too. A big shot, he relishes the chance.

Mathews also has bought into the team-first mentality that makes the Zags go, a transition from his shooter's mentality days in Berkeley. "He's made so many

sacrifices to give up what he had to come to a team," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "He's given up minutes. He's given up shots. He's given up probably a little bit less of a role than what he had. But he wanted to win. He wanted to win at the highest level and be a part of a real team. And we both delivered on what we were supposed to. So pretty cool."

Mathews grew up around basketball. His father, Phil, coached for 23 years in Southern California before becoming the head coach at San Francisco from 1995-2004. Jordan also was once on the Teletubbies with his

father, an appearance he still hears about.

"My mom watches it all the time," said Mathews, who's younger brother, Jonah, plays at Southern Cal.

A top recruit out of high school, he decided to play for Mike Montgomery at Cal. Mathews had a solid freshman season, highlighted by a 32-point night against Oregon, but Montgomery retired at the end of the season.

Mathews averaged 13.6 and 13.5 points in two seasons under new coach Cuonzo Martin, but decided after his junior year that he needed a change. Mathews

did not want to sit out a season as a transfer, so he would have to graduate from Cal to play right away. That meant taking six classes in 12 weeks to get done in time.

"That was not fun," said Mathews, who is working on his master's in organizational leadership. "I'll never do anything like that again."

The three-month cram session paid off.

With Mathews providing the intangibles, Gonzaga (36-1) came within a few minutes of an undefeated regular season and went to the NCAA Tournament for the 19th straight season after winning its fifth straight WCC Tournament.

The Zags reached the NCAA Tournament with the usual questions about how good they really are, but quieted doubters by reaching the Final Four for the first time. Mathews has been a big part of it.

He leads Gonzaga in the tournament with 14.3 points per game and has made 11 3-pointers in four games. He hit the Zags' biggest shot of the tournament so far, a 3-pointer with less than a minute left in their hard-fought three-point win over West Virginia in the Sweet 16.

"It's about getting to a Final Four," he said. "It's what you dream of, what you grew up watching, so getting to the Final Four is icing on the cake."

**Athlete of the Week**

**Twenty questions with WMHS's Jacob Speed**

East Oregonian

ATHENA — Weston-McEwen junior Jacob Speed opened his track and field season with a dominant day at the Buck Track Classic on March 23. Competing against several larger schools Speed won the 200-meter dash in 23.45 seconds (a personal record) and the 400 in 52.95. He also was fifth in the 100 in 11.71 (PR) and ran the anchor leg for the fourth-place 4x400 relay team. He is the East Oregonian Athlete of the Week for the week of March 19-25.

- EO: What is your best memory as a TigerScot?**  
JS: Just the feeling after winning a football game on Friday night. Just being out there on the field with all your friends.
- What age were you when you first played a sport and what sport was it?**  
That would have to be soccer, and I was probably in the first grade.
- How many sports do you play now?**  
Three — football, basketball and track.

- What is your favorite sport to play?**  
Football
- Who has had the largest impact on you as an athlete?**  
My mom, Carol Speed.
- Do you have a favorite team/athlete?**  
Pittsburgh Steelers/wide receiver Antonio Brown
- If you could attend any sporting event in the world, what would you choose?**  
Super Bowl
- Do you have any hobbies outside of sports?**  
I like to hunt and fish and just go camping and all the outdoors stuff, and hang out with friends.
- What's your favorite part about growing up in Eastern Oregon?**  
This is a good thing and a bad thing, but since I'm from such a small town everybody knows everybody.
- Where's your favorite place in the Pacific Northwest?**  
The mountains around here.
- What's your favorite food?**  
Some kind of pasta.

- What is your favorite class in school?**  
U.S. History
- Who's your favorite teacher you've ever had?**  
John Bartron (middle school P.E. and math)
- What is the best food served at the school cafeteria?**  
I don't know. We have an open campus so I don't really eat there much.
- What is the last book you read?**  
I'm reading "Lone Survivor" (Marcus Luttrell) right now.
- What is your favorite snack on at the movies?**  
Buttery popcorn.
- What's your favorite music genre/band?**  
Country/I don't have one
- Where's someplace you've always wanted to visit?**  
I've always wanted to go to Hawaii.
- What is the first job you had?**  
Pulling rye for a local farmer.
- What's the worst food you've ever eaten?**  
I think I'm going to have to go with squid, calamari.

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Jacob Speed**  
Weston/McEwen  
Junior Track and Field

Speed won the 200- and 400-meter dash at the season-opening Buck Track Classic on March 23. He also placed fifth in the 100 and was the anchor leg for the fourth-place boys 4x400 relay team.

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