

NBA

Trail Blazers bow out early

Durant returns as Golden State eliminates Portland

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Stephen Curry had 37 points before sitting out the final quarter and the Golden State Warriors welcomed back teammate Kevin Durant with a 128-103

victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday night to sweep their first-round playoff series. The Warriors advanced to the conference semifinals, where they'll face the winner of the series between the Utah Jazz and the Los Angeles Clippers,

Game 4

Golden State 128

Portland 103

• Golden State wins 4-0

which is tied at 2. Golden State played for the second straight game without coach Steve Kerr, who has been experiencing a flare-up of symptoms stemming from back surgery a couple of years ago. Assistant Mike Brown has served as head coach in Kerr's

absence. Durant hadn't played since Game 1 because of a strained left calf. He started and the Warriors built a 72-48 lead by the end of the opening half. Golden State pushed the margin to 33 points in the second half. Curry swished a 31-foot 3-pointer that made it 104-77 late in the third quarter and the Blazers couldn't catch up. See BLAZERS/2B



AP Photo/Craig Mitchell/Idyer
Portland Trail Blazers from left, forward Noah Vonleh, guard CJ McCollum, guard Damian Lillard, guard Evan Turner, and forward Al-Farouq Aminu react after the Golden State Warriors score during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Monday, April 24, 2017, in Portland.

PENDLETON

Hergert punctuates Pendleton split

Pendleton's Payton Hergert smiles as she rounds third after hitting a home run Saturday against Hood River in a softball game at Steve Cary Field in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Buckaroos remain locked in tie with Hood River atop CRC standings

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Softball

Hood River 2-9

Pendleton 12-8

When Pendleton's Payton Hergert went down with a knee injury in April 2016, it left a big void in the Buckaroos' offensive and defensive lineups for the remainder of the season. Though she's admittedly not quite 100 percent in her return from knee ligament surgery, Hergert showed in Saturday's doubleheader against Hood River just how important she is to the Buckaroos again this season. Hergert went a combined 6 for 8 at the plate with three home runs on the day, while also turning in a double and eight RBIs to help the Buckaroos manage a split with the Eagles. Pendleton won the first game 12-2 in five innings, but made too many defensive miscues and put themselves in too big of a hole in Game 2 and fell 9-8. The split means that the Buckaroos (16-3, 4-1) and the Eagles (10-8, 4-1) stay tied atop the Columbia River Conference standings. While Pendleton's pitching duo of Lauren Richards and Alexis Brehaut were not at their best Saturday, Pendleton's offense was. Between the two games the Buckaroos cranked out 28 hits to go with their 20 runs, which was a pleasant sight for coach Tim Cary. "We did a real nice job of hitting today, everybody one through nine contributed in some way," Cary

said. "That's the whole name of the game is to hit up-and-down the lineup." In Game 1, Pendleton got a two-out rally going and jumped on the Eagles with a five-run first inning. Hergert started the rally with a double and then was brought in by Kalan McGlothlin with an RBI single for a 1-0 lead. Later, Rylee Gentner had an RBI single of her own, and then a fielding error on a pop fly from Aspen Garton sent two more runs in for a 4-0 lead. Garton then scored from third on another error for the 5-0 lead. "To put something together with two outs and nobody on is outstanding," Cary said. "Anything can happen when you put the ball in play, try to force the other team to make plays and we forced them into a few mistakes and took advantage of it." The Bucks piled on more in the fifth inning to end the game early. After a leadoff double by Richards, Hergert smacked a two-run home run up into the wind and over the right field fence. Then a double by Brehaut and a single by Gentner set up the game-ending See SOFTBALL SPLIT/2B

PENDLETON

Buckaroos fall short in twin bill with Eagles

Pendleton baseball falls behind in league title hunt

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Saturday presented a big opportunity for the Pendleton baseball team. Going into the double-header with Hood River, the Buckaroos and Eagles were tied atop the Columbia River Conference standings after the first weekend of league play. The Buckaroos have a

goal of winning the league this season and Saturday was a chance for the team to take advantage. Instead, Saturday showed that Hood River is still the team to beat in the CRC, as the Eagles put away the Buckaroos twice 12-9 and 4-2 at Bob White Park. Pendleton coach T.J. Haguewood said he thought his team let one, if not both, games slip away from them. "It's tough getting swept on home field for sure," Pendleton

Baseball

Hood River 12-4

Pendleton 9-2

coach T.J. Haguewood said after the games. "But now there's no reason why we can't go back down to Hood River and take two from them now. I think that as far as league goes, we're still in the mix if we continue to put runs across and play defense. Our league is notorious for having good baseball teams and you have to bring it every day." In the first game of the day, Pendleton (6-12, 2-3 CRC)

had just scored a pair of runs in the fifth to cut Hood River's lead to 4-2 until the Eagles (12-6, 4-1) exploded for eight runs in the sixth and seventh innings to take a commanding 12-2 lead. But the Buckaroos did not quit when they came to bat in the bottom half of the seventh. Daniel Naughton led off the inning with a single which started a run of seven hits and seven runs for the Buckaroos to get within 12-9 with two outs and a runner on third base. But the rally would end there as Ryan Russell struck See BASEBALL SWEPT/2B



Pendleton's Ryan Russell gets ready to launch a pitch during the second of two games against Hood River in a baseball game on Saturday at Bob White Field in Pendleton.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Sports shorts

Johnson grabs rare Bristol win

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) Jimmie Johnson has won consecutive races for the 11th time in his career with a rare victory at Bristol Motor Speedway. The seven-time NASCAR champion doesn't consider Bristol to be his best track, and Monday's victory was only the second at Thunder Valley in his career. But Johnson's Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports was strong enough to contend with Kyle Larson, the points leader and most dominant driver of the day. A speeding penalty on Larson late in the race allowed Johnson to make it look easy in the end. Clint Bowyer finished second and Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Kevin Harvick was third in the race postponed a day by rain. Matt Kenseth was the highest finishing Toyota driver with a very quiet fourth. Joey



Johnson

"I really didn't know how to feel. I was like numb. I felt like something was taken away from me before I had a chance to experience it."

— D'Onta Foreman
NFL draft prospect from Texas during an interview with NFL Network in which he revealed that while he was leading the nation with 2,028 rushing yards in 2016 he was playing through the pain of losing his infant son, who was born prematurely and died at seven weeks old on the same day Foreman rushed for 341 yards and three touchdowns in a win over Texas Tech.

Seahawks GM downplays chances of trading CB Sherman

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — Seattle Seahawks general manager John Schneider said Monday that a trade involving star cornerback Richard Sherman is unlikely and that any offer at this point would have to go beyond anything the team has heard so far. Schneider is not closing the door on a deal involving Sherman but sounded pessimistic something will happen. Schneider said the team has mostly moved past the conversations regarding Sherman. "If somebody calls and goes crazy with something then we'll discuss it again," Schneider said. Schneider said Sherman, Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor were all on site Monday as the Seahawks began the second week of their offseason condition program.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS
1950 — Charles Cooper, an All-American from Duquesne playing with the Harlem Globetrotters, becomes the first black player chosen in the NBA draft when he's taken by the Boston Celtics.
1974 — The NFL adopts the 15-minute, sudden-death overtime to avoid ties. The league also moves the goal posts to the back of the end zones.
1995 — Major league baseball returns after a 257-day players' strike as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Florida Marlins 8-7.
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