

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

## NFL Seahawks' next phase begins with draft

Offensive line, reloading defense two priorities for Seattle

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — General manager John Schneider and coach Pete Carroll built the Seattle Seahawks into champions in part by thoroughly dominating the NFL draft in the early years of their tenure.

It took a mere four drafts for the duo to build the foundation of a roster that was strong enough to reach back-to-back Super Bowls with only a little augmentation through trades and free agency. They were drafts filled with immediate starters, some of whom have become All-Pro-caliber players at different points in their careers.

But the draft classes that followed have not come close to giving Seattle the same depth or caliber of players. There have been more misses than hits, leaving Seattle at a crossroads entering this week's NFL draft.

"How come that doesn't happen anymore?" Schneider deadpanned earlier this week, his voice heavy with sarcasm when discussing the lack of stars from recent drafts. "What's your problem dude?"

Seattle has just seven picks, but five of those come in the first three rounds, beginning with the No. 26 overall selection. The expectation is that Schneider will likely deal one of those early-round picks to get more selections later on since Seattle has no picks in the fourth or fifth rounds.

Having more picks gives Schneider and Carroll a better chance of replenishing a team in transition. They are

See DRAFT/2B

### 2017 NFL Draft

- **First Round - Tonight**
- **When: 5 p.m.**
- **TV: ESPN, NFL Network**
- **Livestream: NFL.com**

- **Seahawks pick: No. 26 overall**

## MLB Paxton leads M's to shutout



Seattle Mariners pitcher James Paxton throws against the Detroit Tigers in the second inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

AP Photo/Paul Sancya

## Seattle pitcher throws seven scoreless : Mariners put Felix, Haniger on DL

Associated Press

By NOAH TRISTER  
Associated Press

DETROIT — James Paxton struck out nine in seven outstanding innings, and Nelson Cruz and Guillermo Heredia homered to lift the Seattle Mariners to an 8-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday night.

Paxton (3-0) allowed four hits and a walk in a dominant performance against a Detroit team that had scored 32 runs over its previous two games. It was just what the Mariners needed after losing 19-9 on Tuesday and putting right-hander Felix Hernandez on the disabled list before Wednesday's game.

Paxton has held the opposition scoreless in four of his five starts this season. He lowered his ERA to 1.39.

Daniel Norris (1-2) allowed four runs and nine hits in four-plus innings. It was his second straight game allowing at least four earned runs after he went 21 consecutive starts yielding three or fewer.

Seattle opened the scoring with three runs in the second, including a two-run homer by Heredia that made it 3-0. The Mariners chased Norris in the fifth and

scored a run when reliever Shane Greene walked Ben Gamel with the bases loaded. Cruz's two-run shot made it 6-0 in the sixth.

Paxton was in a bit of a jam in the fourth after Victor Martinez struck out but reached first base on a passed ball. After a single by Justin Upton, Detroit had two on with one out, but the Seattle left-hander struck out John Hicks and James McCann to end the threat.

Paxton fanned the first two Detroit hitters in the fifth as well.

### TRAINER'S ROOM

Tigers: Detroit had been scoring a lot of runs lately, but the Tigers have not been at full strength. Miguel Cabrera (groin), J.D. Martinez (foot), Jose Iglesias (concussion) and JaCoby Jones (lip) are on the DL.

### UP NEXT

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma (0-2, 5.31 ERA) pitches Thursday in the finale of this three-game series. He allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings in a loss to Oakland his last time out.

Tigers: RHP Justin Verlander (1-2) tries to bounce back after a couple of poor starts that pushed his ERA to 6.04.



DETROIT — The struggling Seattle Mariners will be without ace Felix Hernandez for at least a little while.

The Mariners placed Hernandez on the 10-day disabled list Wednesday with right shoulder inflammation after he lasted just two innings in his start at Detroit the previous night. Seattle also put outfielder Mitch Haniger on the DL with a strained right oblique.

Hernandez came out of the 19-9 loss to the Tigers after allowing four runs in two innings.

Haniger left the game in the third inning.

The 31-year-old Hernandez is 2-2 with a 4.73 ERA in five starts this season. Seattle entered Wednesday night's game at Detroit in last place in the AL West.

Hernandez threw only 48 pitches Tuesday before Servais pulled him.



Hernandez



Haniger

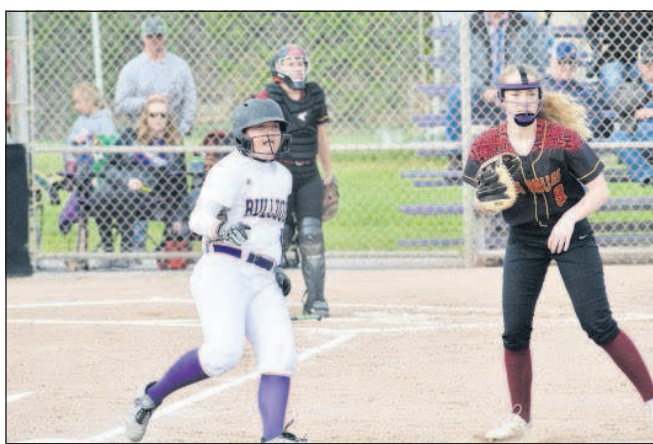
## From Tuesday Bulldogs pick up first league win

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — After a tough two weeks, the Hermiston softball team finally earned its way back into the win column.

The Bulldogs snapped a seven game losing streak with an 8-3 win over The Dalles on Tuesday afternoon. It was the first league win for the Bulldogs (7-12, 1-5 CRC), beating the same Riverhawks team that swept them on Saturday 8-1 and 9-8.

Julissa Almaguer pitched a dandy for Hermiston, giving up eight hits, one walk and three runs with five strikeouts in seven innings. She was backed up on offense led by



Hermiston's Ellery Jones rounds first base in the Bulldogs' 8-3 win against The Dalles on Tuesday.

Sam Atilano (2 for 3, RBI), Sydney Stefani (2 for 4, 2 runs), Bailee Noland (2 for 2, 2 runs, RBI).

UP NEXT  
Hermiston hosts Pendleton for a doubleheader on See PREPS/2B

## NFL It's official: Beastmode is back

Marshawn Lynch agrees to deal with Oakland Raiders

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press



Lynch

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Marshawn Lynch is coming out of retirement after agreeing on a two-year deal with the Raiders that paved the way for a trade to his hometown team in Oakland.

Lynch passed a physical Wednesday and agreed to a restructured two-year contract. Those were the final steps needed before

Seattle could trade his rights along with a 2018 sixth-round pick to the Raiders for a 2018 fifth-

rounder. NFL Network said Lynch would get a \$3 million base deal this season, with a chance to make an additional \$2 million if he rushes for at least 1,000 yards.

Lynch had been slated to make \$9 million this season if he came out of retirement. With Seattle unwilling to pay that amount and Lynch

only wanting to play for the Raiders, finalizing a trade was simple once Oakland was able to re-do Lynch's contract.

Lynch also must apply to the NFL for reinstatement from the retired list before he can play with the Raiders.

Lynch retired following the 2015 season but decided he wanted to come back and play with his hometown team. The Raiders met with him early this month to gauge his interest and wanted to get a deal done before the draft.

The Raiders have a need for a power running back

See LYNCH/2B

### Sports shorts

#### Canucks hire 3rd coach in 3 years

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The Vancouver Canucks have named Travis Green their new coach.

The team announced Green's hiring in a statement. He is scheduled to be introduced at a news conference later Wednesday at Rogers Arena.

Green spent the last four seasons coaching the Canucks' top farm team, the Utica Comets of the American Hockey League.

Before that, he coached the Portland Winterhawks to a 2012-13 Western Hockey League title and an appearance in the 2013 Memorial Cup final.

He replaces Willie Desjardins, who spent the last three seasons in Vancouver.

Desjardins was fired this month less than 24 hours after the Canucks finished the season 29th in the overall standings.



Green

"It's a dream come true for me because it's been my dream since I was a 10-year-old boy, but it also means so much to the people of South Africa. Baseball is still very much in the development stages [in Africa], and hopefully this gets more people interested."

— Gift Ngoepe

The Pittsburgh Pirates rookie became the first player from Africa to play in MLB on Wednesday. The 27-year-old South Africa native singled up the middle in his first career at-bat against the Cubs.

#### Gavin Burt resigns as BMCC men's basketball head coach

PENDLETON — After just one season as head coach of the Blue Mountain men's basketball program, Gavin Burt has resigned due to personal reasons the school announced in a press release on Wednesday.

Burt has spent the past four seasons on the coaching staff at BMCC, three as an assistant under Adam Ellis and then last season as head coach. He led the Timberwolves to a 5-21 overall record and a 3-13 mark in NWAC East region play.

The Washington native also played two seasons at BMCC from 2010-2012 and stayed on as a coach after his playing days were done. Burt was tabbed as the interim coach when Ellis departed in July, and had the interim tag removed in September.



Burt

#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1956 — Rocky Marciano retires as the undefeated heavyweight boxing champion. He finished with a 49-0 record, including six title defenses and 43 knockouts.

1960 — The Minneapolis Lakers announce that they will relocate to Los Angeles.

2008 — Ashley Force becomes the first woman to win a national Funny Car race. The 25-year-old beats her father, drag racing icon John Force, in the final round of the 28th annual Summit Racing Equipment Southern Nationals to deny him his 1,000th NHRA tour event.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com