

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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College Football

Ducks searching for coach again after Taggart bolts



In this Oct. 21 file photo, Oregon head coach Willie Taggart looks on from the sideline during a game against UCLA in Pasadena, Calif. Taggart accepted the head coach job at Florida State on Tuesday after one season in Eugene.

Taggart takes Florida State coaching job, his third in 3 seasons

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Less than a year after Willie Taggart inspired the Ducks with his tagline "Do Something," Oregon is searching for a new head coach.

Oregon's players were summoned to a meeting at the team's football complex early Tuesday afternoon for the announcement that Taggart had accepted the head coaching job at Florida State.

Senior cornerback Ty Griffin posted to Twitter the words "He gone" with a

smoke puff emoji.

It will be Taggart's third program in three seasons. He replaces Jimbo Fisher, who took the job at Texas A&M. Taggart was officially coach of the Ducks for 363 days.

Co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Mario Cristobal was named interim head coach. The Ducks play Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 16.

"We thank Willie for his efforts at Oregon, and we wish him and his family all the best in the future," Oregon athletic director Rob Mullens said in a statement. "I am grateful to Mario Cristobal for his willingness to step up and lead our program through our upcoming bowl game. The University of Oregon is a high-caliber academic institution with one of the premier college football programs

in the country, and we are confident that we will find another outstanding coach to lead our tremendous group of student-athletes into the future."

Taggart was hired by Oregon last December to take over after the team went 4-8 under Mark Helfrich, who was fired three days after a season-ending 34-24 loss to rival Oregon State in the 2016 Civil War.

The 41-year-old Florida native had a reputation as a rebuild. He arrived in Eugene after four years at South Florida, where he guided the Bulls from a 2-10 record his first year to a 10-2 mark last year and a spot in the Birmingham Bowl.

Before that he spent three seasons as head coach at his alma mater, Western Kentucky, inheriting a winless program that he turned around with back-to-back

See TAGGART/3B

HERMISTON

Bulldogs sweep Falcons

Hermiston boys, girls both earn wins over Hanford

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — There was a warm welcome for the Hermiston boys basketball team as the Bulldogs made their season debut at the Dawg House after spending the first week of the season weekend on the road. Its 69-60 win over Hanford (WA) capped off an exciting night at the school.

To open the night, the Bulldogs' girls team faced the Falcons as well and earned their first win of the season. Hanford, a 4A school in Richland out of the Mid-Columbia Conference, will be a familiar face come next year when Hermiston joins the WIAA and the Bulldogs (1-3) gave them something to remember on Tuesday.

The 55-38 victory was Hermiston's for the taking as it got out to an early lead thanks to an 11-2 run to start the first quarter.

The Bulldogs were coming off of a tough weekend of competition were they showed their potential but just couldn't execute. This time around, head coach Juan Rodriguez was happy the outcome supported the girls' effort.

"After this weekend and the way we played — we played really well this weekend and we just couldn't pull it off," he said after the game. "I thought the girls came out with lots of energy tonight and we just got a kick start right away."

Helping with that start was senior Hannah Thompson, who returned to the court after nursing a knee injury. She notched nine points, the second

See BULLDOGS/3B



Hermiston's Jazly Romero shoots the ball over Hanford's Sarah Ellis in the Bulldogs' 55-38 win against the Falcons on Tuesday in Hermiston. The sophomore led all scorers with 15 points in the game for the Bulldogs.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pro Basketball

Wizards sink Trail Blazers

Washington's Beal scores career-high 51 points in victory

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Bradley Beal scored a career-high 51 points, and the Washington Wizards bounced back from a demoralizing loss the night before to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 106-92 on Tuesday night.

Beal made 21 field goals, also a career high, and the Wizards led by as many as 23 points. He hit five 3-pointers.

Damian Lillard finished with 30 points, eight rebounds and nine assists for the Blazers, who have lost three straight at home after returning from a 4-1 trip.

Portland was hurt midway through the final quarter when center Jusuf Nurkic limped off the court and to the locker room after appearing to injure his right ankle. He had 15 points and nine rebounds before leaving.

The Wizards were coming off a 116-69 loss Monday night at Utah, the second-largest losing margin in franchise history.

Playing without All-Star John Wall for the sixth straight game, the Wizards came out like they did not want a repeat of the night before. They went on an 11-0 run to go up 31-22 in the first half, capped by Kelly Oubre Jr.'s pull-up jumper, and went on to lead 51-37 at the break.

Beal scored 19 first-half points, and the Wizards collectively had 12 steals by the break.

See BLAZERS/3B

Girls Basketball



Hanford (WA)

38



Hermiston

55

NBA



Washington

106



Portland

92

Sports shorts

Stephen Curry to miss at least two weeks with sprained ankle

(AP) — Stephen Curry will miss a minimum of two weeks after an MRI exam on his injured right ankle Tuesday revealed a sprain. The Golden State Warriors say their leading scorer and two-time league MVP will be re-evaluated in two weeks. That means Curry is out for Wednesday night's game in his hometown of Charlotte, where the MRI took place.

Curry stepped on E'Twaun Moore's foot and landed awkwardly on the ankle while going for a late steal in a 125-115 comeback win Monday night at New Orleans and left the arena using crutches and wearing a walking boot. He scored 31 points before the injury.

The defending NBA champions said the MRI indicated Curry's ankle "is stable and structurally intact."



Curry

"We're gonna finish the season out and, you know, obviously we know the expectations of the Denver Broncos. And this has been a tough year. It's not what the Broncos are about. I'm embarrassed about it, the fact that this has happened, and will do my part to hopefully get this thing turned around next year."

— John Elway

Denver Broncos president of football operations and general manager in a radio interview talking about his team's 3-9 record and its current eight-game losing streak.

Stanford's Love, Washington's Vea get top Pac-12 honors

(AP) — Stanford running back Bryce Love has been named the Pac-12 offensive player of the year and Washington lineman Vita Vea the defensive player of the year.

Stanford's David Shaw was the coach of the year and Arizona linebacker Colin Schooler was the defensive freshman of the year in awards announced Tuesday. Arizona running back J.J. Taylor and Stanford lineman Walker Little shared offensive freshmen of the year.

Love, a junior, ran for 1,973 yards and 17 touchdowns, finishing second nationally with 164.4 yards rushing per game.

Vea, a junior, anchored a defense that was third nationally against the run at 92.3 yards allowed and was fifth in total defense at 277.4 yards allowed per game.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1992 — Jerry Rice becomes the NFL's career leader in touchdown receptions with his 101st scoring pass during the fourth quarter of the San Francisco 49ers' 27-3 victory over Miami. Rice surpassed Steve Largent's mark of 100.

2003 — Army becomes the first team to finish 0-13 in major college history after a 34-6 loss to Navy.

2009 Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre sets an NFL record by playing in his 283rd consecutive game, a 30-17 loss to Arizona. The 40-year-old Favre breaks the record of 282 held by Vikings' Jim Marshall.

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