

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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2018 Olympics

US team still plans to compete despite confusion

Trump administration calls US participation "an open question"

By EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

Members of the Trump administration surprised the U.S. Olympic Committee by suggesting the nation's participation at the upcoming Pyeongchang Games in South Korea was "an open question," and the USOC responded by saying it has no plans on pulling out.



The confusion began when U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, in response to a question in a Fox News interview, said "There's an open question" about whether the U.S. team would travel to South Korea, where tensions have grown high after a series of missile tests in North Korea and inflammatory rhetoric between its leader, Kim Jong-un, and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The USOC responded with a statement Thursday saying plans to compete in the Olympics, which run Feb. 9-25, hadn't changed. Shortly after that, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters "no official decision has been made."

She later clarified in a tweet, saying: "The U.S. looks forward to participating in the Winter Olympics in South Korea. The protection of Americans is our top priority and we are engaged with the South Koreans and other partner nations to secure the venues."

The USOC doesn't receive federal funding, and technically, the official decision on participating belongs to the committee and the athletes themselves, all of whom would be guided by directives

See OLYMPICS/3B

Prep Basketball

Tigers grind out win over Honkers



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Stanfield head coach Devin Bailey watches the action during the Tigers' 61-58 win against Arlington at the Columbia River Clash on Thursday in Umatilla.

Inexperienced Stanfield team learning what it takes to win at varsity level

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

UMATILLA — The Stanfield Tigers held off Arlington 61-58 Thursday night, led by their Christmas sweater-wearing first year coach.

The defending runner-up boys basketball team jumped out to an early five-point lead in the game, which took place during the first day of the Columbia River Clash in Umatilla.

Trying to protect that lead, junior Eddie Nunez charged toward the basket and was fouled.

On the opposite end of the court, as soon as Nunez's free throw attempt caught the net, a man with a grizzly beard — in a outfit you would peg for an ugly sweater party — threw his hands up and cheered with a big smile on his face.

It wasn't a parent, or even a fellow high schooler — although he's not far removed from his Tiger days. It was first-year head coach Devin Bailey, 23, who was put in charge after Jason Sperr left and



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Stanfield head coach Devin Bailey draws up a play during a time out during the Tigers' 61-58 win against Arlington at the Columbia River Clash on Thursday in Umatilla.

took with him practically the entire roster. "We're shooting about 30-percent from free throws right now and Eddie himself is shooting about 20-percent from free

throws right now, so we've been really stressing free throws," Bailey said. "And he finally made one so I figured I'd give him a good, 'Heck yeah.'" Nunez's free throw capped off an

Boys Basketball

Arlington	Stanfield
58	61

11-8 run by Stanfield and started an exciting last six minutes of the first half, during which the lead changed three times.

After a tough 32 minutes of play, the Tigers (2-4) needed a few more 'heck yeah' moments to hold off the Honkers for the 61-58 victory. The only varsity returner, senior Brody Woods, led the way.

To Bailey, the effort hinted at improvement. After a second place finish in Class 2A last season with an impressive 22-2 record, Stanfield graduated 10 of the 11 regulars on the varsity roster — one of whom was Bailey's younger brother, Ryan.

"We've just got to keep getting better as a team, that was a close

See TIGERS/3B



Dee Gordon has been traded from the Miami Marlins to the Seattle Mariners for three prospects in a deal that marks the start of the Marlins' latest payroll purge, this time under new CEO Derek Jeter.

MLB

Mariners acquire Dee Gordon from Marlins

Move could also boost odds for signing Japanese phenom Shohei Ohtani

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Landing Dee Gordon via trade is an immediate upgrade for the Seattle Mariners.

Getting Gordon may ultimately help the Mariners land the most coveted prize of the offseason: Shohei Ohtani.

Seattle pulled off one of the biggest

Trade Details

- **Mariners receive:** INF/OF Dee Gordon, \$1 million in international bonus pool allotment.
- **Marlins receive:** RHP Nick Neider, INF Chris Torres, RHP Robert Dugger.

moves of the offseason to date by acquiring Gordon from the Miami Marlins for three minor leaguers on Thursday. While the addition of Gordon is a major boost for Seattle, the other item that came from the Marlins could prove more important.

The Mariners also received \$1 million in international bonus pool allocation. Seattle now has the most available money in the bonus pool of any major league team, inching ahead of the Texas Rangers by \$22,500. Seattle has \$3,557,500 available to the Rangers' \$3,535,000.

"It's nice to have," Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said.

Dipoto hasn't been shy in saying Ohtani is Seattle's top offseason priority, and the Mariners have made aggressive moves in the past two days to help bolster their chances to sign the star Japanese pitcher and outfielder. They

See GORDON/2B

Sports shorts

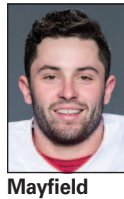
Oklahoma's Mayfield takes home AP Player of the Year honors

NEW YORK (AP) — Baker Mayfield is the Associated Press college football Player of the Year, becoming the fourth Oklahoma quarterback to win the award since it was established in 1998.

Mayfield, the Heisman Trophy favorite, easily outpointed Stanford running back Bryce Love, who came in second. Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson, the other finalist and last season's Heisman winner, was third.

Mayfield received 51 first-place votes from the 56 AP college football poll voters who submitted the year ballots, and a total of 157 points.

Love (83 points) and Jackson (39 points) each received two first-place votes and Penn State running Saquon Barkley received a first-place vote and came in fourth.



Mayfield

"Getting to hear [Coach Mike] Yeo's pregame speech was something ... It's something I'll never forget. This was my Christmas present."

— Tyler Stewart

A 25-year-old vending machine worker and St. Louis Blues season ticket holder that dressed as the Blues' emergency goalie for the Thursday's game against Dallas. Stewart was signed after the backup was injured at the morning skate and the minor leagues couldn't make it by game time.

NHL will consider expansion application from Seattle

MANALAPAN, Fla. (AP) — NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman says the league's board of governors has agreed to consider an expansion application from Seattle.

Bettman said the expansion fee has been set at \$650 million for Seattle, which would become the league's 32nd team, if approved. He made the announcement Thursday after the first day of the board of governors meeting.

Bill Foley paid a \$500 million expansion fee for the Vegas Golden Knights. They began play this season.

Seattle plans to have a new arena ready by 2020 with the intent of luring an NHL and an NBA team as anchor tenants.

Bettman says Seattle is the only city being considered for expansion at the moment.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1940 — The Chicago Bears beat the Washington Redskins 73-0 for the most one-sided victory in NFL Championship play.

2000 — Shaquille O'Neal sets an NBA record by going 0-for-11 from the free-throw line as the SuperSonics beat the Lakers 103-95. He broke Wilt Chamberlain's record, who went 0-for-10 for Philadelphia against Detroit on Nov. 4, 1960. O'Neal had 26 points and 16 rebounds.

2013 Zach Johnson rallies from four shots behind with eight holes to play and beats Tiger Woods, the No. 1 player in golf, at the World Challenge.

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