

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

## NFL Playoffs



Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs (14) runs in for a game-winning touchdown against the New Orleans Saints during the second half of an NFL divisional football playoff game in Minneapolis on Sunday. The Vikings defeated the Saints 29-24.

AP Photo/Jim Mone

## MINNESOTA MIRACLE DIGGS HELPS VIKINGS ERASE DECADES OF HEARTACHE

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**  
AP Pro Football Writer

An exceptional medley of great awareness, terrific balance and deft reflexes allowed Stefon Diggs to ad lib and seize both the ball and the moment in the Vikings' demon-exorcising "Minneapolis Miracle."

Diggs was supposed to go out of bounds if Case Keenum threw his way on the play dubbed "Seven Heaven," although in countless rehearsals at practice never did the pass go to the deep receiver, according to teammate Jarius Wright.

Ten seconds and no timeouts remained when Keenum dropped back from his 39 on third-and-10 in the hushed U.S. Bank Stadium, another haunting playoff heartbreak looming for Minnesota. New

Orleans had taken a 24-23 lead just 15 seconds earlier.

The Saints had three defensive backs guarding the sideline as Kyle Rudolph, Wright and Diggs all ran sideline routes from the right of their formation.

Diggs was the deepest, with his break coming at about 25 yards, and just as he swiveled his hips he noticed nothing but green grass and purple end zone behind rookie free safety Marcus Williams, who was closing fast.

Diggs turned back to see the ball heading his way.

"I was thinking, 'Catch it, get out of bounds and maybe kick a field goal,'" Diggs said. "I took a picture before I turned around to catch the ball. There was only one guy there. If he slipped, then I was

See **NFL PLAYOFFS/2B**



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Case Keenum (7) celebrates following a 29-24 win over the New Orleans Saints in an NFL divisional football playoff game in Minneapolis, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018.

AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall

## Women's College Basketball

### Ionescu is about more than just those triple-doubles

Oregon sophomore already holds NCAA career record

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**  
Associated Press

EUGENE — The video scoreboard at Matthew Knight Arena showed short vignettes featuring Oregon players musing about their possible superhero names.

Sabrina Ionescu's? "Super Sabrina." Afterward, she laughed about it. "That's what it was?" she asked incredulously.

But to some, her career with

"I just go out there and do the best I can in order for us to win. So if that's rebounding, passing, scoring, what ever it is. That's what I focus on. Just to win."

— **Sabrina Ionescu**, Oregon Ducks sophomore wing

the Ducks thus far has indeed been super. Ionescu holds the NCAA record for most career triple-doubles (with eight) and she's just a sophomore.

Humble about her record, Ionescu insists she's just focused on whatever it takes to help the Ducks.

"I just play, to be honest, I don't think about anything,"

she said. "I just go out there and play and do the best that I can in order for us to win. So if that's rebounding, passing, scoring, whatever it is. That's what I focus on. Just to win."

The Ducks are winning. They're 17-2 and 6-0 in the Pac-12, the only undefeated team left in the conference. They've won nine straight and

all 12 games at home.

Oregon is coming off a 74-64 victory at home Sunday over No. 18 Arizona State. On Monday, the Ducks moved up a spot in the AP rankings to No. 7.

Oregon made history last season, going to the Elite Eight for the first time as the surprise of the NCAA Tournament.

The Ducks finished the season 23-14 overall and 8-10 in the Pac-12 to finish sixth. Then they lost to Stanford in the Pac-12 tournament title game. But they won an at-large spot in the tournament, upsetting seventh-seeded Temple, No. 2 Duke and No. 3 Maryland. See **IONESCU/2B**



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard via AP

Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu, right, shoots over Arizona State's Sophia Elenga during the first half of Sunday's game in Eugene.

## Sports shorts

### Pirates trade OF McCutchen to Giants for two prospects

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) The Giants acquired Andrew McCutchen from the Pittsburgh Pirates for right-hander Kyle Crick, minor league outfielder Bryan Reynolds and \$500,000 in international signing bonus allocation.

McCutchen became the second star jettisoned by the Pirates in three days, following Saturday's trade that sent ace Gerrit Cole to Houston.

Earlier in the offseason, the Giants acquired third baseman Evan Longoria from Tampa Bay.

McCutchen, the 2013 NL MVP, takes over in center from Denard Span, who was traded to the Rays in the Longoria deal.

The reliable, durable 31-year-old McCutchen has played at least 153 games in each of the past three seasons for the Pirates, batting .279 with 28 home runs and 88 RBIs in 156 games in 2017.



McCutchen

"It's a tough pill to swallow, I'm not going to lie. I've played hard and I've battled. I'm a professional in that I've played a long time and I've now missed a game."

— **Andrew Cogliano**

The Anaheim Ducks forward had his streak of 830 career NHL games played in snapped after being suspended two games Sunday for a hit to the head of Los Angeles' Adrian Kempe. The streak was the longest among active players and the fourth-longest in NHL history.

### Warriors use big second half to earn season sweep of Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Stephen Curry added 23 and the Golden State Warriors extended their road winning streak to 13 games with a 118-108 Martin Luther King holiday victory Monday night over the Cleveland Cavaliers, their struggling NBA Finals foes.

Durant scored 16 in the third quarter for the defending NBA champions, who haven't lost outside Oracle Arena since Nov. 22.

LeBron James scored 32 points and Kevin Love 17 for Cleveland, which had its home winning streak stopped at 13. Isaiah Thomas, getting his first taste of the Warriors-Cavaliers rivalry, had 19 points.

It was Golden State's second straight win over the Cavs, who have dropped eight of 10 dating to a loss to the Warriors on Christmas Day.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1974** — Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Mantle is elected in his first year of eligibility and Ford in his second year.

**1993** — Michael Jordan scores 64 points, but Chicago is upended in overtime by visiting Orlando 128-124. The Magic are led by rookie center Shaquille O'Neal, who has 29 points and 24 rebounds.

**2008** — Bob Knight becomes the first men's Division I coach with 900 wins when Texas Tech beats No. 10 Texas A&M 68-53.

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