

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Foles outduels Brady as Eagles win Super Bowl

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Nick Foles did his best Tom Brady impersonation, leading a late-game comeback to cap a season that began as a backup and ended as Super Bowl MVP.

Foles' journey mirrored Brady's 16 years ago and ended late Sunday night, with green-and-white confetti falling as delirious Philadelphia Eagles fans celebrated their first NFL title since 1960.

No quarterback has gone from backup to title game MVP in one season since Brady replaced



Drew Bledsoe in the 2001 season. Foles topped the 40-year-old Brady, football's greatest winner, in the most prolific offensive game in NFL history, with the Eagles defeating the favored New England Patriots 41-33.

Foles finished it off by engineering the type of game-winning drive that made Brady famous, and he watched his defense stop

Brady to seal the victory and the Eagles first Super Bowl — their earlier titles came before the Super Bowl era.

"The stage was never too big for him all year," said Zach Ertz, who caught the game-winning 11-yard touchdown pass from Foles with 2:21 remaining. "To get in a shootout with that guy on the other team is probably not ideal for anyone ever. The guy is the best quarterback to ever play the game."

But on this night Brady played second fiddle to Foles despite throwing for a playoff record 505 yards. Foles was nearly as

See FOLES/2B



Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Super Bowl 52 win against the New England Patriots on Sunday in Minneapolis.

AP Photo/Matt Slocum

BOARDMAN



Riverside's Fernando Ortega attempts to pin Nyssa's Efrain Caldera in the 106-pound championship match at the 3A district 3 tournament Saturday in Boardman. Ortega pinned Caldera in 3:04 to capture the district championship.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Locals successful at districts

Irrigon, Riverside, Echo/Stamfield combine to qualify 18 wrestlers to state

By **ALEXIS MANSANAREZ**
East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — For three seniors, a chance to wrestle in their final state championship was at stake — and each had different things on the line at Saturday's Class 3A Special District 3 district tournament.

For Echo's Logan Butler, his final postseason appearance as a high school athlete came down to a tough third place match. For Riverside's Andrew Barker, he was wrestling in his own gym for his third consecutive trip to state. For Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls, his first ever trip to state was on the horizon to cap off an impressive season.

Butler, at 182 pounds, was knocked into the consolation bracket after getting pinned by a Nyssa Bulldog in just 33 seconds. With a bye in the next round, Butler had time to recoup and went on to defeat senior Chris Ramirez of Nyssa by 7-0 decision. He was



Irrigon's Alex Miranda-Walls controls the legs on Nyssa's Adam Simpson in the 170-pound match at the 3A district 3 tournament Saturday in Boardman.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

then pitted against Irrigon's Reece Sheller, with the winner of the third place bout advancing to state.

The two scoped each other out for the first 30 seconds of the

match, and then Butler made his first move — a lunge at the feet of Sheller. No points came from those efforts, but he would later get two points for a take down and then

build his lead to 4-1 after the first round.

Through the second, Butler had a 9-2 advantage and he eventually

See DISTRICTS/3B

Saturday Prep Roundup

Rockets send seniors off in style

East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — On Saturday evening, the Pilot Rock Rockets honored their four seniors before their final home game of the season and with it defeated Weston-McEwen 62-53 to send them out with a bang.

Boys Basketball

W.-McEwen

53

Rockets

Pilot Rock

62

However, the win came with a fight — at least in the opening quarter. At one point Pilot Rock was down by 10 points, but worked its way back to finish the first eight minutes

of play up 18-15.

The Rockets (15-6 overall, 6-0 Columbia Basin Conference), led by senior Levi Thieme with 19 points, remain perfect in league play with their eighth consecutive win.

The TigerScots (7-14, 2-4) early lead was the only one they would hold for the rest of the evening. Leading their efforts was senior Brett Speed with a game-high 28 points.

For Pilot Rock, fellow seniors Bryson Pierce and Chris Weinke also put up double digits. Pierce scored 18 points on the night and Weinke pitched in 11. Both Thieme and Pierce finished with double-doubles, and rebounding as a whole was on display tonight for the Rockets. They out-rebounded the TigerScots 49-28.

HEPPNER 54, CULVER 28

— At Heppner, the Mustang boys notched their eighth win in their last nine games with a dominant win over the Culver Bulldogs on Saturday afternoon.

The Mustangs (11-7 overall, 6-1 Columbia Basin Conference) were led by Trent Smith's 13 points while Wyatt Steagall finished with eight. Weston Basl led the Bulldogs (4-19, 0-7) with a game-high 15 points.

POWDER VALLEY 57, ECHO 41

— At Echo, the Cougars took a commanding 12-6 lead after the first quarter, but the visiting Powder Valley Badgers quickly woke up and scored 22 points in the second to take a lead they would never relinquish.

See PREPS/2B

Sports shorts

Texans' Watt wins NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Houston Texans star defensive end J.J. Watt won the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award on Saturday night.

The award recognizes a player's contribution in his community and to society in general. It was given out at NFL Honors, when The Associated Press announced its individual NFL awards.

Tight ends Benjamin Watson of the Baltimore Ravens and Greg Olsen of the Carolina Panthers also were finalists.

Watt, in his seventh NFL season, had the goal of raising \$200,000 for Hurricane Harvey relief in Houston. His fundraising did a whole lot more, bringing in an incredible \$37 million in 19 days.

Watt has dedicated himself to finding organizations that will apply the funds in a fair and effective manner.



Watt

"I think it's different from every game I've ever played ... You always want to win don't think I'm going to block anything out, either. I think it's going to be a special moment for me, the first game back. I want to remember it and remember my time here."

— **Marc-Andre Fleury**

Vegas Golden Knights goaltender will play his first game back in Pittsburgh on Tuesday night since being picked by Vegas in the expansion draft last summer. Fleury is the all-time winningest goaltender in Penguins history.

Frazier switches New York City boroughs, signs with Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press learned Monday that free agent third baseman Todd Frazier and the New York Mets have agreed on a two-year contract for \$17 million.

Frazier turns 32 next week. He hit a combined 27 home runs and 76 RBIs last season for the Chicago White Sox and New York Yankees.

A two-time All-Star, Frazier hit 35 homers for Cincinnati in 2015 and 40 for the White Sox in 2016.

The Mets still have David Wright on the roster, but the third baseman's future is in doubt after injuries limited him to 75 regular-season games over the last three years. He hasn't played in MLB since May 2016. Frazier was a 1998 Little League World Series champion in nearby Toms River, New Jersey, and later starred at Rutgers, finished up last season with the New York Yankees.



Frazier

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1958 — Ted Williams signs a contract with the Boston Red Sox for \$135,000, making him the highest paid player in major league history.

1970 — The NBA expands to 18 teams with the addition of franchises in Buffalo, Cleveland, Houston and Portland.

1990 — Brett Hull of the St. Louis Blues scores his 50th goal, making him and his Hall of Famer father, Bobby Hull, the only father-son combination in NHL history to reach that milestone.

2005 — The New England Patriots win the Super Bowl 24-21 over Philadelphia. Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com