

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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1B

Prep Swimming

Hermiston, Pendleton swimmers gear up for state

5A Championships begin Friday night

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

Carson Wrathall was looking for a winter sport to play his freshman year. His first choice, basket-

ball, didn't quite work out. With only the Hermiston swim team or wrestling team to chose from, Wrathall reluctantly chose the pool. Now this weekend, the senior will be swimming for his last chance at a state title. And of all the Bulldog swimmers making the trip to the OSAA State Championships at Mt. Hood Community

College this weekend, Wrathall has the best chance to place within the top three. Hermiston head coach Kevin Hamblin shares what put Wrathall on the path to success. "He won most improved swimmer the three previous



years," the 11th-year coach said. After Hamblin told Wrathall's parents that he has the talent and potential to be a top swimmer, he decided to start swimming all-year round — a key to competing at the high level.

After making that decision his sophomore year, the following season he earned a bid to state, and to cap off his final season as a Bulldog qualified for two individual events and is the first swimmer on both of Hermiston's relay teams competing at state. "In Carson's two individual races, he had no

competition what so ever," Hamblin said of Wrathall's performance at districts, where the boys team defended their championship. In the 100-yard freestyle, he was only one of three swimmers to clock a sub-50 second time at districts. In

See SWIMMING/2B

Men's College Basketball

Ducks lose on last-second shot



Oregon's MiKyle McIntosh (22) shoots against USC's Chimezie Metu (4) during Thursday's college basketball game in Los Angeles.

USC's Metu scores game-winning lay-in with 2.5 seconds left on clock

BY TOM CONNOLLY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When it came down to the final seconds in a tie game, USC coach Andy Enfield said he wanted his best players to handle the ball to give the Trojans a chance to snap their three-game losing streak. And USC's two best players did exactly that. Chimezie Metu's layup on an alley-oop pass from Jordan McLaughlin with 0.8 seconds remaining lifted Southern California to a 72-70 victory over Oregon on Thursday night. "You always want to put the ball in the hands of your best players at the end of a game," Enfield said. "You want to give your players the best chance to succeed and tonight we did that. On the last play, it was one heck of an option. Chim is so athletic, I thought he was going to dunk at first but he laid it in. It was good to win a game like this after we've lost two games like that in the last two weeks." Metu scored 18 points and had 10 rebounds to record his ninth double-double of the season. Jonah Mathews led USC (18-9, 9-5

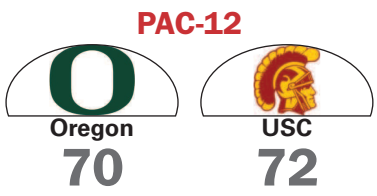


USC's Chimezie Metu (4) makes a last-second shot over Oregon's Troy Brown to put USC ahead during the second half of Thursday's college basketball game in Los Angeles.

AP Photo/Michael Owen Baker

Pac-12 Conference) with 20 points, including tying a career-high with five 3-pointers. Elijah Stewart added 12 and McLaughlin had 11 points with 11 assists. Mike McIntosh scored a season-high 23 points and Payton Pritchard added 17 for the Ducks (17-9, 7-6). With 1:24 to play and trailing 68-67, Metu pulled down an offensive rebound and passed to

Stewart who drilled a 3-pointer to give the Trojans a 70-68 lead. On the following possession, McIntosh was called for an offensive foul but Metu missed both free throws with 31 seconds to play. Troy Brown tied the game at 70 with a basket with 17 seconds remaining. After a timeout, McLaughlin took the inbounds pass, dribbled around the right wing and



threw a perfect alley-oop to Metu who laid it in for the lead. Paul White's 3-point shot at the buzzer was off the mark. "I knew they were going to double-team and trap me on the last play," said McLaughlin. "I wasn't worried about the first guy, but I was worried about the second. I was fully aware of the clock and once I was able to drag the second guy out as far as I could, I was looking for Elijah but he was covered, so I threw it up towards the rim and Chim made a play." Metu was in a perfect position to make the game-winning shot. "I waited at first but then I got a good angle at the basket and got the pass and then made the play," Metu added. The game was tied nine times in the second half. UP NEXT OREGON: The Ducks play at UCLA on Saturday.

Prep Roundup

Helix girls move on in district bracket

East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — Emma Fehrenbacher scored 13 points and grabbed five rebounds as her Helix Grizzlies defeated Cove 50-43 to advance in the Old Oregon League district tournament on Thursday afternoon. Fehrenbacher scored her points on 6-of-11 shooting for the Grizzlies (14-10 overall). Also having strong games were Sadie Wilson with 10 points and 10 rebounds and Annie Wood with 10 points. Helix plays again on Friday against Nixyaawii at 6:30 p.m.

CHS	7	13	16	7	—	43
GHS	14	13	12	11	—	50

COVE — Williams 17, Doby 8, Musick 6, Farrell 4, Pettit 4, Garinger 2, Felt 2. HELIX — E. Fehrenbacher 13, S. Wilson 10, A. Wood 10, K. Mize 9, A. Krol 5, C. Bennett 3.

JOSEPH 60, ECHO 30 — At Baker City, the Echo Cougars' season came to an end following Thursday's loss to the Joseph Eagles at the Old Oregon League district tournament. The Cougars end with a 9-16 overall record.

Men's College Basketball

UCLA topples OSU

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Senior center Thomas Welch had 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds and Aaron Holiday had 17 points and 10 assists to lead UCLA to a 75-68 victory over Oregon State on Thursday night. U C L A (18-8, 9-5 Pac-12) remained tied for second in the conference with USC with the win, despite going just 4 of 21 on its 3-point attempts (19 percent) and 23 of 37 from the free-throw line (62 percent). See BEAVERS/3B

PAC-12	Oregon St	68
UCLA Bruins	UCLA	77

Sports shorts

Pendleton's Jerome selected to play in Les Schwab Tires Bowl

PENDLETON — Shaw Jerome's senior year keeps getting better and better. The Pendleton High senior was selected this week to play in the 71st annual Les Schwab Tires Bowl football game this summer. The game, which has been played every year since 1948, features the top Class 6A and 5A football seniors from across the state, which are split into North and South teams to play for bragging rights. The game is set to kick off at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 16th, at Hillsboro Stadium. Jerome, who will play college football at Western Oregon University, was a second team all-state selection at wide receiver as a senior for the Buckaroos. He led his team with 51 catches for 636 yards and six touchdowns.



Jerome

"I didn't get a medal here, but to me that was my medal run. I got to do four runs, lift my head up at the end, hold my head high, walk off the line and wave to my family. That's something I didn't get four years ago."

— John Daly
U.S. skeleton veteran said after finishing 16th at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Mariners could go away from Felix as opening day starter

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Felix Hernandez and opening day have been a constant since 2009. That could change. Limited by injuries to a 6-5 record in 16 starts over 86 2/3 innings last year, Hernandez could lose the March 29 opening assignment to James Paxton after the left-hander went 12-5 with a 2.98 ERA in 2017. Hernandez finished with his lowest wins and innings totals since becoming a full-time major league starter in 2006. He thinks he can make more than 26 starts this year. Hernandez, who turns 32 in April, had a pair of long disabled list stints because of right shoulder inflammation and bursitis. He will be on the same schedule as the rest of the starting pitchers in camp, manager Scott Servais said, and is slated for his first session on Saturday.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS 1972 — Wilt Chamberlain of the Los Angeles Lakers becomes the first player in NBA history to reach the 30,000 point mark during a 110-109 loss to the Phoenix Suns. 1997 — Jeff Gordon, 25, becomes the youngest winner of the Daytona 500 after Dale Earnhardt crashes 12 laps from the end to prolong his Daytona 500 jinx. 2013 — American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin becomes the youngest woman in 39 years to win the slalom title at the world alpine championships held in Schladming, Austria. Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com