

# EAST OREGONIAN

# SPORTS

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## ROCKETS RAINED OUT



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Pilot Rock pitcher Ayana Aguilar winds up to throw in a driving rain in the Rockets' game against Riverside moments before the match was called due to weather Thursday in Pilot Rock. The game was suspended in the top of the third inning with Pilot Rock holding a 6-0 lead, and the two teams will meet back in Pilot Rock on May 15 to finish the game.

## Furious comeback falls short for Blazers

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Chris Paul hit an off-balance layup with 0.8 seconds left to lift the Houston Rockets to a 96-94 win Thursday night over the Portland Trail Blazers, who were without start Damian Lillard.

Paul scored 27 points to help Houston get its second straight victory since a loss to San Antonio. The Rockets swept their four-game season series with Portland.

The Rockets led by 24 in the second quarter and still had a big lead with about five minutes left before the Trail Blazers went on a 19-2 run to tie it at 94-all with 6.1 seconds left. James Harden, who finished with 24 points, missed two free throws with 13.3 seconds left before Pat Connaughton tied it with a short basket.

Paul made the winner before crashing to the court. It gave Houston its first points since Harden made a basket with just less than four minutes left. Portland had a chance to win it at the buzzer, but C.J. McCollum's 3-point attempt was off.

Lillard sat out after spraining his left ankle Tuesday against Dallas. Portland coach Terry Stotts didn't set a return date but did say he expects to see him in a game before the playoffs begin.

See BLAZERS/3B



AP Photo/Michael Wyke

Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) collides with Portland Trail Blazers guard Shabazz Napier (6) on a shot-attempt during the first half of Thursday's game in Houston.

## Forty-two locals on college rosters this spring

By ERIC SINGER  
East Oregonian

By my count there are 42 former prep athletes from our region of Oregon sitting on a college roster for baseball, softball, golf and track and field this spring at 17 different colleges and universities.

I took a dive into the stat sheets

for each athlete to update readers on what the local kids are up to these days.

### Softball

The bulk of the spring athletes play softball, as 20 local players made it to the next level. Pendleton has the most with seven players in college, while Mac-Hi and Weston-

McEwen each have three and Hermiston and Pilot Rock have two.

- Darian Lindsey (Pendleton), Portland State, soph. — After transferring from Mt. Hood Community College, Lindsey has been one of the best hitters for PSU this spring. In 33 games, Lindsey has a .302 average with three home runs, six doubles, 18 RBI, 23 runs scored and

seven stolen bases.

- Alexis Morrison (Pendleton), Portland State, soph. — Morrison has a .239 batting average with one home run, nine RBI, nine runs scored and two stolen bases in 26 games for the Vikings.

- Ellie Richards (Pendleton), Notre Dame, soph. — Richards has seen limited action this season for

the Fighting Irish, appearing in 11 of the team's 35 games so far. In that time, she is hitless in two at-bats, but has five runs scored.

- Payton Hergert (Pendleton), Weber State, fr. — Has not seen the field this season, most likely resulting in a redshirt for Hergert.

See LOCALS/3B

### Sports shorts

#### McGregor involved in backstage melee ahead of UFC 223

NEW YORK (AP) — Conor McGregor was involved in a backstage melee after a news conference for UFC223, and video footage appears to show the promotion's biggest star throwing a hand truck at a bus full of fighters, injuring at least one scheduled to compete Saturday.

Video showed McGregor with a group of people causing chaos Thursday as they took an elevator to the loading dock at Barclays Center. He can be seen tossing trash cans and being prevented from throwing a barricade at a bus during his unannounced appearance in New York.

#### The eagle has landed ... on Paxton's shoulder

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Seattle left-hander James Paxton was standing alone in left field at Target Field, taking a break from his warmup throws for the pregame ceremony Thursday. That's when a bald eagle brought in for a flight over the playing field prior to the national anthem apparently became confused. Then the eagle, named Challenger, landed in the grass before circling back to find a perch on Paxton's right shoulder. One of the trainers hustled out to lure the bird safely away. Paxton, coincidentally, is Canadian.



#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1896 — The first modern Olympic Games begin in Athens, Greece. James B. Connelly wins the first event — the hop, step and jump.

1992 — Duke becomes the first team in 19 years to repeat as NCAA champion with a 71-51 victory over Michigan's Fab Five freshmen, the youngest team to vie for the title.

2009 — Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson and North Carolina win a national championship, ending Michigan State's inspirational run with a 89-72 rout.

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