

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Mariners drop into wild-card standoff

By TIM BOOTH  
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — When the Seattle Mariners were rolling in the middle of June, it appeared unlikely anyone in their own division would be contending with them for one of the wild card spots in the American League.

On Wednesday, the Mariners were knocked from the lead for the second wild-card in the AL, caught by division rival Oakland.

Marwin Gonzalez hit two of Houston's four home runs, and the Astros beat the Mariners 8-3, dropping Seattle into a tie with the Athletics in the wild-card race. Seattle led the A's by 11 games in the middle of June, but has seen the entire lead disappear over the past six weeks.

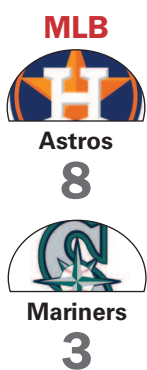
"I'm not worried really about anybody else right now. We need to get back to playing like we're capable of playing. It just hasn't happened here recently," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "We'll have a good game here or there. But like I said, start putting together some streaks together, just quality game after game, good pitching, more importantly on offense, we've got to do more offensively."

The Mariners were 21 games over .500 at 46-25 after a 1-0 win on June 16, while Oakland was just below .500 at 35-36. Seattle hasn't played terribly in the following six weeks, but its 17-20 record is pedestrian compared to Oakland's 29-10 mark and why the A's have caught up so quickly.

"We have to get back to playing really good baseball and then we'll worry about the other guys," Servais said.

Both the Mariners and A's are still

See MARINERS/2B



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2018



In this Nov. 5, 2016, file photo, Oregon State quarterback Marcus McMaryion throws from the end zone under pressure from Stanford defensive tackle Harrison Phillips during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Stanford, Calif. Stanford coach David Shaw said in 2014 the coaches had decided to redshirt Phillips, who turned into one of the most productive defensive linemen in school history. Injuries forced them to reconsider. The injured veterans returned after two games, but Phillips kept playing rather than returning to the practice squad.

## New redshirt rule is a game-changer

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Football Writer

For years college football coaches have labored, even agonized, over whether to play a freshman who might be able to contribute immediately or hold him out of games to preserve a year of eligibility and hopefully cash in greater rewards down the road.

Those decisions are about to get a whole lot easier.

Rarely does the NCAA pass legislation that is both wholeheartedly endorsed by coaches and beneficial to players, but the

new redshirt rule appears to be that kind of smash hit. Players will now be allowed to play in up to four games and still qualify for a redshirt season, maintaining four years of eligibility. In the past, playing just one game could cost a player an entire season of eligibility. Coaches say the change will provide needed roster depth, improve player development and avoid many of those damned-if-you-do-damned-if-you-don't situations where the choice becomes: Short-term need or long-term goals?

"Brilliant. Love it. Greatest rule the NCAA has ever put in in the last 20 years," Minnesota coach PJ Fleck said.

It's a game-changer. But how, exactly? "I don't know if people on the outside or even maybe us on the inside understand how different that rule is. How much the game is going to be different, the strategy behind it," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "I think it's going to be fun."

All players, no matter their class year, can be redshirted. Medical redshirts are common in college football, giving a player back a season of eligibility that was mostly lost to injury.

But it is with the freshman class that

See REDSHIRT/2B

## Bookies go from pariahs to partners in NBA deal

By TIM DAHLBERG  
AP Sports Columnist

LAS VEGAS — As revenue goes it barely registers on the books. The NBA probably gets more from the contract with its frozen daiquiri vendor than it does the new deal it inked with casino giant MGM Resorts International.

With good reason. The deal announced with such fanfare Tuesday is arguably little more than a branding exercise — at least for now — and a chance to take baby steps into a sports betting partnership that would have been almost scandalous only a few years ago.

Still, the NBA is now officially all in on sports betting. Other leagues will soon, undoubtedly, follow.

And sports may never be the same again.

Forget the image of a shadowy figure in a back room somewhere taking bets over the phone. Indeed, if the bookie you've used to make illegal bets over the years



Frank Sinatra impersonator Brian Duprey, left, and Elvis Presley impersonator Kevin Mills, right, show off a ticket for a bet they placed on the New York Yankees moments after Harrah's casino in Atlantic City N.J. began accepting sports bets on Wednesday.

hasn't made plans yet to get into another profession, you might suggest that it's time.

Things figure to change in Las Vegas, too, if not all that much. Books in this gambling city have already expanded their offerings in recent years

to include the in-game betting that the NBA believes will prove the need for its official data.

But the official seal of approval apparently means something, at least to MGM. So, too, might the official data

the league provides at some point in the future.

And now that MGM has a deal with the NBA, surely the NFL and Major League Baseball are going to want in on the action.

Credit NBA commissioner Adam Silver for inking a deal he called "a leap of faith on both sides." Silver realized early on that legalized sports betting was an opportunity for the league, not something to fear.

And when his idea of an "integrity fee" paid to the leagues out of sports betting revenue failed to gain traction in the early adopting states, Silver pivoted to find another way to get a piece of what figures to be a huge revenue stream.

He quickly found the perfect partner in MGM, which might have some ulterior motives of its own. The company wants an NBA team for its new arena on the Las Vegas Strip, and there's no

See NBA/2B

## Oregon Senior Open

### Hanson grabs lead with 7-birdie round at Wildhorse Resort

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Erik Hanson shot 7-under-par on the second day of the Oregon Senior Open Invitational at Wildhorse Resort on Wednesday, moving into first place with a cumulative 12-under on two rounds.

Hanson, an amateur from the Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington, has a three stroke lead over Jeff Coston of Blaine, Washington and Mike Kerns of Kent, Washington. Coston is a professional and Kerns is an amateur.

The championship round tees off Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Kerns was also part of the winning foursome in the team portion of the invite, which concluded Wednesday. The team included professional Billy Bomar and amateurs Dave Steinbach and Lloyd Dresser, and ended two rounds at 44-under-par.

Hanson's team, which included Jim Pike, Greg Steed and Paul Cooke, finished second in the team competition with a 38-under-par.

For more results from the invitational, see the Scoreboard on Page 2B.

## Sports shorts

### Manziel to make CFL debut against Hamilton

(AP) — Johnny Manziel will make his CFL debut against his former team on Friday night.

The Montreal Alouettes announced that Manziel will be their starter when they host the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner began the season with Hamilton and was dealt to Montreal on July 22 in a five-player deal that also included two first-round draft picks.

### Ohio State's Meyer put on paid leave

(AP) — Ohio State has placed coach Urban Meyer on paid administrative leave while it investigates claims that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before he was fired last week.

Courtney Smith gave an interview to Stadium and provided text messages to former ESPN reporter Brett McMurphy between her and Shelley Meyer in 2015 and with the wives of other Buckeyes

coaches. Courtney Smith also provided threatening texts she said came from her ex-husband, former assistant Zach Smith.

"Shelley said she was going to have to tell Urban," Courtney Smith told Stadium. "I said: 'That's fine, you should tell Urban.'"

Zach Smith was fired last week.



## THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1967 — The New Orleans Saints play their first preseason game and lose to the Los Angeles Rams, 77-16.

1979 — New York Yankees catcher Thurman Munson is killed in a plane crash practicing takeoffs and landings near his Ohio home.

2012 — Gabby Douglas becomes the third straight American to win gymnastics' biggest prize when she wins the all-around Olympic title.

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