

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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AP Photo/Stephen Brashear

Seattle Seahawks tight end Nick Vannett (81) gets horizontal above Green Bay Packers cornerback Tramon Williams, lower-center, as Vannett carries the ball just short of the goal line against the Packers during the first half of an NFL football game on Thursday in Seattle.

Seattle rallies past Packers

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — After a shaky beginning, Russell Wilson got hot in the fourth quarter and kept the Seattle Seahawks in the middle of the NFC playoff race.

Wilson threw for 225 yards and his 15-yard touchdown pass to Ed Dickson with 5:08 left was the difference in the Seahawks' 27-24 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Thursday night.

In a key matchup in the battle for the two NFC wild-card spots, Seattle (5-5) snapped a two-game losing streak by overcoming an early 14-3 deficit. Wilson was shaky at times early game, but was outstanding in the fourth quarter, capping the winning drive by recognizing a blitz and hitting Dickson quickly for

his second TD pass of the night. Seattle still has not lost three straight games since the middle of the 2011 season.

Aaron Rodgers had a huge first half for Green Bay (4-5-1) and threw for 332 yards. But the Packers had just one scoring drive in the second half, helped by a 57-yard strike from Rodgers to Davante Adams. Rodgers threw a pair of touchdown passes in the first half, but never got the ball back after Green Bay punted with 4:20 left in the game.

Seattle ran out the clock thanks to a pair of runs from Mike Davis.

Chris Carson rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown,

overcoming the mistake of fumbling on the first play of the game and setting up Green Bay's opening score. Tyler Lockett had two key receptions late in the fourth quarter and Doug Baldwin had his first TD catch of the season for Seattle.

Rodgers was 21-of-30 passing with 10 of those going to Adams for 166 yards receiving. Backup tight end Robert Tonyan had the first catch of his career

go for a 54-yard touchdown to give Green Bay an early 14-3 lead. The Packers led 21-17 at halftime after Jones caught a 24-yard TD pass from Rodgers in the final minute of the half, but Green Bay's offense was

stymied in the second half.

The Packers gained just 114 yards in the second half, half coming on the one throw from Rodgers to Adams. That pass set up Mason Crosby's 36-yard field goal with 8:23 left, but Wilson had one more answer.

Wilson hit Lockett on consecutive plays for 18 yards — to convert a third-down — and 34 yards to the Green Bay 16. Two plays later, facing another third-and-long, Wilson recognized the blitz and hit Dickson quickly over the middle to put Seattle in front.

That proved to be enough. On Green Bay's next drive, Rodgers short-hopped a pass on third-and-2. Rather than going for it on fourth-down, Mike McCarthy opted to punt despite having just one time out. Seattle never gave the ball back.

SEAHAWK FOOTBALL



College volleyball

BMCC stays alive in NWAC tourney

By **BRETT KANE**
East Oregonian

Blue Mountain Community College opened their Northwest Athletic Conference run with a five-set loss to Chemeketa and a three-set win over Skagit Valley at Tacoma on Thursday.

The No. 3 Timberwolves dropped the first set 25-23 to the No. 2 Chemeketa Bolts.

A kill from Blue Mountain middle blocker Faith McQueen and an attack error from Bolts outside hitter Cassidy Dill put the Timberwolves ahead to start. But the Bolts quickly caught up and the two teams traded points until they were tied up 23-23. Dill and right side hitter Eleanor Belton put in two back-to-back kills to take the set.

The Timberwolves managed to build nine-point lead in the second set at 18-9, and eventually put the set away 25-16.

Middle blocker Syndey Neuman scored five kills in set three and setter Avrey Sunderberg committed an attack error to give Blue Mountain the set, 25-22.

Neuman recorded 21 kills for the match.

"She was the only reason we were in it all five sets," said coach Jessica Humphreys. "Unfortunately, you gotta have more than one person hit the ball to win."

Chemeketa stepped it up and maintained a steady 6- to 7-point lead in set four before middle blocker Delaney Smith closed it out with two consecutive kills for a 25-15 win.

Set five was close. Blue Mountain was hot on the Bolts' tail down 14-13, but Sunderberg found some redemption

See **BMCC/2B**

MLB

Boston's Betts, Milwaukee's Yelich win MVP Awards

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Boston's Mookie Betts and Milwaukee's Christian Yelich were runaway winners of the Most Valuable Player awards after the 26-year-old outfielders each led their teams to first-place finishes with dominant seasons that included batting titles.

Betts received 28 first-place votes and 410 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America in balloting announced Thursday.

Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, a two-time MVP, followed with one first-place vote and 265 points. Trout tied the record of four second-place finishes shared by Stan Musial, Ted Williams and Albert Pujols. Trout won in 2014 and 2016; finished second in '12, '13 and '15; and was fourth in 2017.

Cleveland third baseman Jose Ramirez

was third with 208 points, and Red Sox designated hitter J.D. Martinez was next with one first and 198 points.

Betts hit a major league-leading .346 with 32 homers, 80 RBIs and 30 stolen bases as the leadoff hitter for the Red Sox, who won a team-record 108 games and their fourth World Series title in 15 seasons. Votes were submitted before the postseason.

Both batting champions won MVP awards for the first time since San Francisco's Buster Posey and Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012.

Yelich got 29 first-place votes and 415 points, and the other first-place vote went to New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom, the NL Cy Young Award winner, who finished fifth. Chicago Cubs infielder Javier Baez was second with 250 points, followed by Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado with 203.

Acquired from the payroll-paring Miami Marlins about a month before spring training, the 26-year-old Yelich won the first bat-



AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File

Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts.

ting title in Brewers history with a .326 average. He set career highs with 36 homers and 110 RBIs and had a 1.000 OPS.

Yelich nearly became the NL's first Triple Crown winner since Joe Medwick in 1937, finishing two homers shy of Arenado and one RBI back of Baez. Yelich was especially impressive in the second half, hitting .367



AP Photo/Aaron Gash, File

Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich.

with 25 homers and 67 RBIs — including 11 homers in August and 10 in September.

Milwaukee reached the playoffs for the first time in seven years, swept Colorado in the Division Series then lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in a seven-game League Championship Series, falling one win short of its first World Series appearance since 2002.

Sports shorts

Baseball owners extend Manfred's contract, TV deal with Fox

ATLANTA (AP) — Baseball owners have extended the contract of Commissioner Rob Manfred and signed off a new television deal with Fox after two days of meetings in Atlanta.

The owners put off any decision Thursday on changes that might speed up games. Manfred says they prefer to reach a consensus with the players' union.

Manfred took over as commissioner from Bud Selig in 2015. His new deal runs

through the end of the 2024 regular season.

Major League Baseball's partnership with Fox, which began in 1996, will stretch an additional seven years through the 2028 season and continue to include the World Series and All-Star Game, as well as extensive playoff coverage on both the network and its all-sports cable channel, FS1.

MLB also agreed to a three-year contract with DAZN, a subscription video streaming service.



AP Photo/Paul Newberry

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1957 — Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics sets an NBA Record with 49 rebounds in a 111-89 win over the Philadelphia Warriors.

1962 — Wilt Chamberlain scores 73 points, including 45 in the first half, to lead the San Francisco Warriors to a 127-111 victory over the New York Knicks.

1976 — Rick Barry of the San Francisco Warriors ends the then-longest NBA free throw streak of 60 in a 110-102 win over the Seattle SuperSonics.

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