

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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BULLDOGS READY TO TAKE ON MCC



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston's Ryne Andreason shoots the ball over the top of Sunset's Colby King in the Bulldogs' 76-61 loss to the Apollos on Jan. 12, 2018 in Hermiston.

Hermiston opens league play Dec. 8 at Kennewick

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Hermiston left the Columbia River Conference last year with the league title in hand, and one win from the state tournament.

This season, the Bulldogs move into the competitive Mid-Columbia Conference, and coach Casey Arstein is happy to pack up their gear and head across the border.

"It's exciting," he said. "Every night will be competitive. We are excited to do home and away games against good athletes. It's good all the way around."

The Bulldogs will open their season Friday, hosting Lewiston in a non-league game. The game will follow the girls' matchup, which is another benefit of moving to the MCC. Hermiston will open league play Dec. 8 at Kennewick.

In the MCC, the girls and boys teams play back-to-back at the same venue, and each team will play the other eight opponents twice.

Though the league plays as one

during the season, the 3A and 4A schools split for the postseason.

Hermiston is in the 3A ranks with the three Kennewick schools — Kamiakin, Kennewick and Southridge.

"Having 16 league games, and every game is a battle, will be different," Arstein said. "Every team in the league has a kid who could play college basketball. You couldn't say that about our old league. It's nice to play good teams, and every team will have athletes. I know Earl Streufert (Richland coach) really well. I'm glad we didn't have to play them last year."

See BOYS/2B

States eye sports betting, wrestle with the details

Numerous U.S. states are considering regulations

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Numerous U.S. states are considering jumping on the legal sports betting bandwagon, even as they struggle with the details of regulating it.

How much to tax it, and how to regulate mobile betting on phones are emerging as thorny issues for states.

So far, seven states offer legal sports betting: Nevada, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. And although New Mexico has not passed a sports betting law, the Santa Ana Star Casino & Hotel started taking sports bets last month through a tribal gambling compact.

At a sports betting conference Tuesday in New York, state representatives from Minnesota, New York and Ohio discussed their states' interest in such bets. They're also interested in making sure players are protected, taxes are adequate but not punitive and that mobile gambling is widely accessible.

Patrick Garofalo, a Minnesota state representative, said the betting public knows exactly what it wants, and it's up to states and gambling companies to give it to them.

"The American sports fan has made a decision: they want to be able to bet on their favorite sports teams from their home," he said. "They want to do it from their couch."

The illegal, unregulated sports betting market is vast; Sara Slane, senior vice president of the American Gaming Association, cited estimates ranging from \$150 billion to \$500 billion.

"All we know is there is a lot of money being bet illegally," she said.

Vic Salerno, president of Nevada-based US Bookmaking, said the size of the illegal market is "unbelievable."

"I know one guy that does \$6 billion

See BETTING/2B

Column: Tiger's Tour Championship win changes conversation

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas — The first stop is Sam Snead and his 82 career PGA Tour victories.

The ultimate stop is Jack Nicklaus and his 18 majors, the gold standard in golf.

Both milestones are now in play for Tiger Woods, which is not to suggest they are within reach. That they are at least a topic of conversation is a victory in itself considering it took four back surgeries — the last one to fuse his lower spine — for Woods to even compete again.

And then he took hopes to another level by winning the Tour Championship for his 80th career tour victory.

"I know I can win tournaments again," Woods said Tuesday.

His next chance is at the Hero World Challenge this week, an unofficial event that counts only in the world ranking, his bank account and his confidence. More curious is what Woods will do in 2019 and for how much longer.

See COLUMN/2B

Sports shorts

College Football: Oklahoma ahead of Ohio State in pivotal playoff rankings

(AP) — Oklahoma was No. 5 in the pivotal second-to-last College Football Playoff rankings, ahead of Ohio State heading into championship weekend when the final four will be set.

The top three teams in the selection committee's rankings, released Tuesday, held steady for a fourth straight week. Alabama, Clemson and Notre Dame — all unbeaten — are Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Georgia moved into the fourth spot that was previously occupied by

Michigan, heading into its SEC championship game against Alabama. It's a given the SEC winner makes the playoff.

Notre Dame is already in the clubhouse at 12-0 and Clemson faces Pittsburgh in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game. That leaves one spot very much in play.

Ohio State faces Northwestern in the Big Ten championship in Indianapolis and Oklahoma rematches Texas in the Big 12 title game in Arlington, Texas.



Urban Meyer

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1929 — Ernie Nevers rushes for six touchdowns and kicks four PATs to score all his team's points, an NFL record, in the Chicago Cardinals' 40-6 rout of the Chicago Bears.

1981 — Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant becomes the winningest coach in college football history when the Tide beats Auburn 28-17 in the Iron Bowl. It's Bryant's 315th career victory, surpassing Amos Alonzo Stagg's total.

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