

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Bucks open season with home victory over Baker

By BRETT KANE  
East Oregonian

The Bucks' boys basketball team rang in the new season with an easy 63-35 nonleague victory over the visiting Baker Bulldogs on Wednesday night.

Guard Tyler Newsom led the team in scoring with 13 points. Guards Dakota Sams and Cam Sandford contributed 10 and 9 points, respectively.

"We ran our offense well," said Bucks head coach Zach Dong. "We could've cleaned up our defense more, but we're running a new system, and they're still unsure."

Pendleton was leading 4-2 with 5:36 left in the first quarter when Baker guard Kaden Sand hit back-to-back 3-pointers to pull his team ahead, 8-4. With the score later tied at 10-10, Newsom scored on a dunk that gave his team a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

### PREP BASKETBALL



Pendleton  
63



Baker  
35

But the 6-foot, 4-inch Newsom also got into foul trouble and sat out the meat of the game.

"It was tough with Tyler in trouble," Sandford said. "But we're a solid team all-around."

The Bucks scored 17 points in the second quarter, including a three-pointer from Sandford and four consecutive points from point guard Tanner Sweep. Pendleton led 33-20 at the half.

The Bucks scored 14 points in the third quarter, and only allowed 6. In the fourth quarter, Sandford opened play with another 3-pointer.

"I'm undersized, so it's hard for me to get into the paint. I rely on those 3-pointers," said the 5-foot, 8-inch Sandford, who is the Bucks' shortest player.

The Bucks scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, while Baker managed nine. Kaden Sand, a

See BUCKS/2B



Pendleton's Tyler Newsom shoots the ball over Baker's Gabe Gambleton in the Bucks' 63-35 win against the Bulldogs on Tuesday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## Lillard has record 10 3-pointers, as Blazers beat Magic

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Damian Lillard had 41 points, including a franchise-record 10 3-pointers, and the Portland Trail Blazers held off the Orlando Magic 115-112 on Wednesday night.

Jusuf Nurkic added 16 points and 13 rebounds as the Blazers stopped a season-high three-game slide. Lillard surpassed the previous Portland record of nine 3s that he shared with Nicolas Batum.

Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Magic, who have lost four of their last five games.

Portland pushed its lead to 108-98 on Evan Turner's layup with just over five minutes to go, but Evan Fournier hit a pair of 3-pointers and Jonathan Isaac added a layup to close the gap to 108-106.

Jonathan Simmons made two free throws to tie it, but CJ McCollum responded with a 3-pointer for the Blazers.

Fournier had a step-back jumper to get Orlando within a point before McCollum missed a pair of free throws with about two minutes to go. Lillard's floater with 55 seconds gave Portland a 113-110 lead.

There was some confusion at the end of the game after what was described as a game-clock malfunction prompted a video review. Officials put 0.9 seconds on the clock but Orlando's inbound was off and time ran out.

## Portland, Sporting Kansas City to meet for spot in MLS Cup

By DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Sporting Kansas City and the Portland Timbers spent 90-plus minutes last Sunday in an exhausting, mentally taxing showdown that ultimately ended in a scoreless draw.

Sporting KC captain Matt Besler expects a similar style of game Thursday night.

Two of the most successful and passionately supported teams in Major League Soccer will meet in Kansas City for the second leg of their home-and-home, aggregate-goal playoff. One will leave as Western Conference champion and head to MLS Cup while the

other will be done for the season.

"That first game was physical," Besler said. "We expected that just because it's the playoffs and both teams want to start that way, and us being away from home, we wanted to make sure we matched their intensity to start the game."

"I expected the game to settle down at some point," he continued, "but it never did. The first 15 minutes, 20 minutes of any play-off game is going to be intense. It's going to be back and forth, there are going to be fouls, but I expected somebody to have some possession. Nobody really enjoyed the ball. It was back and forth. It was frantic. It was up and down for 90 minutes."

It left both teams in a precarious position in the return leg.

The tiebreaker in MLS play-off games is away goals, and Sporting KC was unable to find the net in Portland despite a few good chances in the second half. Johnny Russell had the best of them when he sent a shot over the crossbar, and Daniel Salloi had a good attempt in stoppage time knocked away.

That means Sporting KC needs to either win the game outright Thursday or forge another scoreless draw, at which point penalty kicks would be used to determine who advances.

If the Timbers win or manage a draw with any number of goals, they would head to MLS Cup.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian via AP

Sporting Kansas City defender Seth Sinovic (15) watches as goalie Tim Melia catches the ball in the first leg of the MLS soccer Western Conference Championship at Providence Park in Portland on Sunday.

### Sports shorts



## Loyola presents Final Four ring to Sister Jean

CHICAGO (AP) — Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt now has a little bling to go along with the international attention she gained as the near-centenarian team chaplain during Loyola-Chicago's run to the NCAA Final Four.

Loyola great Jerry Harkness, who was a member of its 1963 championship team, helped present a Final Four ring Tuesday night to Schmidt before the Ram-

bler's rematch of their NCAA Tournament game against Nevada.

Schmidt, who turned 99 in August, sat in a wheelchair courtside for the presentation. She joked afterward that she felt as if the ring added five pounds to her weight.

The Catholic nun became a celebrity last March for her fandom and for praying before each game for her Ramblers — and for their opponents.

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

2003 — LeBron James, 18, becomes youngest player in NBA history to score 30 or more points in a game with his 33-point effort in the Cavaliers' 122-115 double-overtime loss to Memphis. Kobe Bryant was 19 when he reached 30 for the Lakers in 1997.

2004 — Brett Favre celebrates his 200th straight regular-season start with three touchdown passes and yet another record in the Green Bay Packers' 45-17 rout of the St. Louis Rams.

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