

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Pay college athletes? Oregon's taking up the issue again

By KEVIN HARDEN
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — New legislation that landed in late March in the Oregon Senate could allow some college student-athletes to be paid.

Senate Bill 5, introduced March 24 by Senate President Peter Courtney of Salem and Sen. James Manning Jr., a Eugene Democrat whose district includes the University of Oregon, allows student-athletes to “earn compensation for use

of their name, image or likeness.” That includes royalty payments for college merchandise sold with the athlete’s name or image.

The bill also allows Oregon student athletes to retain a professional sports agent while in college, but they wouldn’t be able to sign contracts for their images or likenesses that conflict with school or team rules.

The Senate Committee on Rules plans an online public hearing on the legislation at 1 p.m. on

Thursday, April 8.

Courtney said Oregon’s bill mirrors legislation in about three dozen states, like California’s 2019 Fair Pay to Play Act and New York’s 2020 Collegiate Athletic Participation Compensation Act. Similar legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate.

“I’ve been happy to see similar bills pass in other states,” Courtney said. “It’s time for Oregon to do the same. We’ve worked with our student-athletes and universities on

this issue. Senate Bill 5 makes sure our college athletes are treated with fairness. I hope to see it pass this session.”

California’s law put the NCAA in a bind, requiring a big change in national rules governing student-athletes. In October 2019, the NCAA Board of Governors unanimously supported changes to allow student-athletes to benefit from the use of their names and images. The board hoped to have new rules in place by early this year.

In a related legal fight, arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court were scheduled Wednesday, March 31, to decide whether NCAA rules against allowing student athletes to be compensated violated federal anti-trust laws. The case grew out of the 2015 ruling in a similar lawsuit brought by UCLA athlete Ed O’Bannon. In that case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed most of a lower court

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UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Campground reservations now offered

Reservations available through recreation.gov

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the first time, the Umatilla National Forest is offering online campsite reservations.

Individual campsites can be reserved through www.recreation.gov, a trip planning and reservation service portal. The site includes information on more than 120,000 recreation areas for 12 different government agencies. The Umatilla National Forest already uses the site to provide reservation services for cabins and this year will also be including Jubilee Lake, Bull Prairie Lake, North Fork John Day and Olive Lake campgrounds.

“We are excited to offer reservations to our communities for these popular campgrounds,” said Shane Dittlinger, recreation program manager for Umatilla National Forest. “Recreation.gov provides a seamless way for people to check the availability at one of these campgrounds and guarantee your spot before making the trip to the forest.”

Single and double campsites can be reserved up to six months in advance of a reservation date. Group sites can be reserved up to one year in advance of a reservation date. Campsites that are not reserved by midnight each day will become first-come, first-served for the day.

Reservations made through recreation.gov will include an \$8 transaction fee in addition to the campsite fee. Reservations can also be made over the phone by calling 877-444-6777 between the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Umatilla National Forest will also still offer a limited number of first-come, first-served campsites at each of these four campgrounds.

All other campgrounds on the forest remain available as first-come, first-served. Most campgrounds charge a fee ranging from \$8 to \$24 per night. Other fees may be imposed for additional vehicles parked at a single campsite.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Irrigon’s Brianna Perez kicks the ball away from goal as Irrigon goalie Anthony Standley looks on during a home game on Thursday, April 1, 2021.

FAMILY TIES

Irrigon’s Brianna Perez signs to play soccer at Blue Mountain Community College

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Soccer has been a part of Brianna Perez’s life since the day she was born.

Her mom, Gabriela Perez, was a goaltender at Hermiston High School, and played recreational soccer for years after she graduated.

Perez started playing soccer when she was 4 years old, taking a cue from her mom and playing goalie. When she got to middle school, she switched to midfielder/defender so the team could take advantage of her speed.

This season, Perez is playing defender for the Irrigon boys team, as there weren’t enough

girls for their own team.

Her talent and work ethic landed Perez a scholarship to play soccer at Blue Mountain Community College.

“I honestly never saw myself playing college soccer,” Perez said. “I never thought I was good enough. This is life changing.”

BMCC women’s soccer coach Jordan Hillmick said Perez is selling herself short.

“She is fairly adaptable when it comes to playing midfield or defender,” he said. “She has a good work ethic and she is talented. She is a diamond in the rough — I will take those players. We are getting the right players to come in.”

Irrigon had a girls team the past three years, but this year,

only four girls showed interest. They were given the opportunity to play on the boys team, which they took advantage of this season.

“A lot of girls were seniors last year,” said Perez, who also plays basketball and track. “There weren’t many girls left.”

Perez said she enjoys playing on the boys team. She’s a starting left side defender for the Knights.

“The speed of the game is faster, there are quicker touches, and the boys are more physical,” Perez said. “Some guys try to body me, but that’s where improvement comes from.”

The Knights (0-7) didn’t win a game this season, but that didn’t

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OREGON FOOTBALL

Ducks start spring camp

Oregon Ducks open spring with QB competition, ‘exciting time’ ahead, Mario Cristobal says

By JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Oregon’s off-season competition officially began on Thursday, April 1, and though the pads aren’t on yet, it’s clear all four quarterbacks are getting an earnest assessment beginning this spring.

The Ducks opened spring practice outside the Hatfield-Dowlin Complex with Anthony Brown, Ty Thompson, Jay Butterfield and Robby Ashford all getting reps.

There wasn’t an opportunity for media to view practice, but newcomers drew the attention afterward.

“We’re excited about that group,” Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. “There’s a lot of talent in that room. ... If (April 1 is) an indication of what we’re going to be like, it’s an exciting time for Oregon because these guys did a really good job today. They’re very competitive. We’re going to place them in competitive situations.”

Brown is the only returning signal caller to have played last season or even attempt a collegiate pass.

But Thompson, the highest-rated QB recruit in program history, Ashford and Butterfield aren’t going to make it easy for the senior to keep the job.

“Ty, he looks the part,” Cristobal said. “We knew he was a great talent coming in, and in the little that we’ve seen he hasn’t disappointed. As well as his competitive nature him and all those guys they attack the opportunities that we have. Whether it be a workout, whether it be a film session they attack it. They’ve got the right DNA. We expect great things from Ty, no doubt.”

Butterfield is the only quarterback to have been with the Ducks

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SPORTS SHORT

Next up: UCLA gets chance to stop undefeated Gonzaga

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Next up on the long list of wannabes eager to stop, or even slow, the undefeated Gonzaga Bulldogs is a team basketball fans might have heard of: UCLA.

In a strange twist that typifies a strange year, the legacy program with more national championships than anyone is a plucky up-and-comer this time around. The Bruins are listed as the biggest underdog at the Final Four in 25 years — 14 points — as they head into the Saturday night, April 3, game.

And tiny Gonzaga — enrollment 7,300 with a dozen or so very talented basketball players sprinkled among

them — is the behemoth nobody can seem to touch.

UCLA is the fifth 11th seed to reach the Final Four, and joins the 2011 VCU squad as the second to get this far after starting in the First Four, the preliminary round the NCAA added when it expanded the bracket to 68 teams a decade ago.

Heading into Selection Sunday, the Bruins (22-9) were viewed as slightly better than a bubble team, but the First Four placement identified them as one of the last four teams in. That placed a chip on their shoulders, but with Gonzaga (30-0) looming, this is no time for outside motivation, according to coach Mick Cronin.

“I give them pointers and try to be honest and tell them how hard it’s

going to be because of who we’re playing,” said Cronin, who has led UCLA within two wins of the program’s 12th national title. “I’m not the false-motivation guy, because none of that is going to help you when you’re trying to stop Jalen Suggs in transition.”

Suggs, a freshman who will likely go in the NBA lottery if he leaves after one season, is one cog on a team with the nation’s best offense (91.6 points per game), the nation’s best shooting percentage (54.8) and the nation’s most impressive margin of victory (23.1). The Zags have won 29 of their first 30 games by double digits.

The winner advances to the Monday, April 5, final to face the winner of the Houston-Baylor semifinal.



Darron Cummings/Associated Press

UCLA guard Tyger Campbell (10) celebrates with teammates after an Elite 8 game against Michigan in the NCAA men’s college basketball tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, in Indianapolis. UCLA won 51-49.