

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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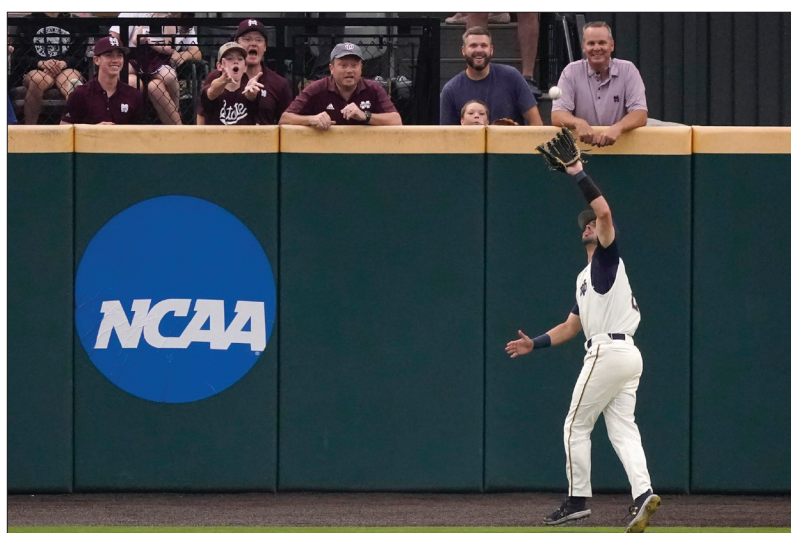
NCAA moving toward temporary NIL solution

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Sports Writer

The NCAA is lurching toward a temporary, patchwork solution in addressing name, image and likeness compensation for athletes, a hyperlocal approach to allow everyone to earn money off their fame starting July 1 without uniform national rules.

The latest strategy to provide clarity to a dramatic change in NCAA policy comes days after the Supreme Court handed down a ruling that left the association exposed to future legal attacks.

The NCAA Board of Governors met with the Division I Board of Directors on Thursday, June 24, to discuss the next step for sorting out NIL. The Board of Governors, the NCAA's highest governing body, put



Rogelio V. Solis/Associated Press

Mississippi State fans react as Notre Dame infielder Spencer Myers (2) catches a Mississippi State fly ball in the first inning of an NCAA college baseball super regional game Sunday, June 13, 2021, in Starkville, Mississippi. Notre Dame won 9-1.

forth no public recommendations following the meeting.

The Division I Council discussed possible next moves to NIL earlier this week and is scheduled to convene again June 28. A final decision could be made by the D-I Board of Directors on June 30 — one day before NIL laws go into effect in at least seven states.

A solution being considered involves the NCAA waiving its rules banning athletes from being paid for use of their name, image and likeness while still keeping bylaws that make pay-for-play and recruiting inducements impermissible, a person involved in the process told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because NCAA discussions about NIL were not yet finalized.

In Alabama, Florida, Georgia,

Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas, laws go into effect July 1 that make it impermissible for the NCAA and members schools to prevent athletes from being paid by third parties for things like sponsorship deals, online endorsements and personal appearances.

Kentucky on June 24 became the seventh state with a law that has a July 1 effective date when Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order.

The NCAA had hoped for a national law from Congress that has not come and its own rulemaking has been bogged down for months. College sports leaders are instead moving toward the type of patchwork regulation they have been warning against for months.

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GOLDEN FINISH

Nixyaawii tops Damascus Christian 50-29 for 1A title

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — There was no doubt from the start of the game that Nixyaawii Community School was going home with the 1A state basketball title.

Tyasin Burns scored 16 points to lead the Golden Eagles to a 50-29 victory over Damascus Christian Thursday, June 24, and pick up the coveted championship trophy.

"They are a special group of kids," Nixyaawii coach Ryan Sams said. "From the first day of practice we knew we could win a state championship. Baker and La Grande, and even Umatilla, gave us what we needed to see to get here. They were better than the teams we played this week."

Burns scored 10 of his points in the first half as Nixyaawii took a 24-11 lead at intermission.

"He's an athlete," Sams said. "He never gets tired, he just goes, goes, goes. He is a workhorse and he plays at a speed no one else does."

Damascus scored the first basket of the game, but that would be its only lead as the Golden Eagles tied the score, then took off.

"Defensively, we were nails," Sams said. "They couldn't hardly get a shot up on our defenses. We were in their shooters' faces. Our five starters were on the same page defensively."

The Golden Eagles led 13-4 after the first quarter, and 38-15 heading into the final quarter.

The Eagles outscored Nixyaawii 14-12 in the fourth quarter, but it wouldn't be enough.

"The guys don't want to give an inch," Sams said. "Damas-



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Nixyaawii's Tyasin Burns (3) pushes past Damascus Christian's Zach Nelson (2) to drive toward the basket during the Oregon 1A State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Baker High School. Nixyaawii defeated Damascus Christian 50-29 to take the title.



Corey Kirk/Baker City Herald

Nixyaawii Community School head basketball coach Ryan Sams, center, poses with his sons Dakota Sams, left, and Greyson Sams following the Golden Eagles' 50-29 win over the Damascus Christian Eagles at the Oregon 1A State Basketball Tournament on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Baker High School.

cus tried to slow the game down; it wasn't as fast paced as we'd like. We got good shots. It was efficient."

Dakota Sams added 12 points, Ruger Deming chipped in 10, and Dylan Abrahamson added eight, all in the third quarter.

"Dakota is a good all-around player with the rebounds and assists," coach Sams said.

"Ruger was a man among boys. He anchors our defense protecting the rim, he gets steals and bangs inside."

It was the first title for Ryan Sams, who took over at Nixyaawii this year after being an assistant at Pendleton High School for 13 years. He got to share the experience with his sons Dakota and Greyson.

"The connection with my

coaching staff (Alan Crawford, Lynette Minthorn and Chuck West) was amazing too," coach Sams said. "One family, one unit. The kids bought into it."

Zach Nelson led Damascus with 10 points, while Mitch Colburn added nine — seven of which came in the Eagles' fourth-quarter run.

Greyson Sams was tasked with guarding Noah McAllister, one of Damascus' top scorers. He held him to four points. Burns and Dakota Sams were named to the all-tournament first team.

"One of our top goals was to win a championship," coach Sams said. "We had some great leaders in Dakota and Tyasin."

Nixyaawii had a strong fan base all week, but picked up a few more fans along the way.

"We have the best fans," coach Sams said. "The elders are the ones getting on the refs. Even the Joseph and Powder Valley kids were all cheering for us. They wanted us to win."

The Golden Eagles finished the season 15-1. Their only loss was 85-84 to Yakama Tribal (Washington) on June 7.

NHL

Canadiens focus on bigger trophy

The Montreal Canadiens are in the Stanley Cup Final for the 35th time

By JOHN WAWROW AND
STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writers

MONTREAL — Shea Weber and the Montreal Canadiens kept their hands off the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl after advancing to the Stanley Cup Final, and even rookie Cole Caufield had no interest in touching it.

"Obviously there's a bigger one out there that we're chasing, so I think that's the only thing on our mind right now," Caufield said, following a 3-2 OT semifinal series-clinching win over Vegas in Game 6. "It's good to enjoy it. We've come a long way to get here, but the job is not finished."

Montreal is in the final for the 35th time in the franchise's illustrious history and will face the New York Islanders or Tampa Bay Lightning for a chance to win an NHL-leading 25th championship. Not only do the Canadiens not celebrate second-place finishes, but perhaps it's best Weber avoided the semifinal trophy typically given out to the Western Conference champion because Campbell is not well-liked in Quebec.

Campbell was the league president who suspended Maurice "Rocket" Richard for the remainder of the season and playoffs for hitting a linesman during a game in March 1955, leading to riots in Montreal. The Canadiens had never captured the trophy named for Campbell in their history — they've won the Prince of Wales

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SPORTS SHORT

Alternate helmets returning to NFL in '22 after 9-year pause

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL is bringing back alternate helmets in 2022, ending a nine-year hiatus that started because of concerns about player safety.

The league wrote to clubs in a memo dated Thursday, June 24, that it must be notified of plans to use alternate helmets by July 31 even though they won't be used for another year. The memo was obtained by The Associated Press.

The use of a second helmet was dropped in 2013 over concerns that wearing more than one helmet might not be safe for players. As those concerns have eased, clubs have lobbied for a second helmet because options for alternate jerseys were expanded in 2018, the league said.

The second helmet can only be worn only with so-called classic, alternate or color rush jerseys, and all players must be fitted for both helmets before training camp, the league wrote in the memo.

The primary and alternate helmets must be the same make, model and size. The alternate helmets must be worn in practice the week of the game they will be used, if not before.

The NFL began allowing throwback uniforms to commemorate its 75th season in 1994. They gained popularity through the years before the limit of one helmet made alternate uniforms less enticing because of the difficulty matching the base color of the primary helmet.



Running back Terrell Davis of the Denver Broncos moves the ball during a game against the Seattle Seahawks at Mile High Stadium in Denver, Colorado. The NFL is bringing back alternate helmets in 2022, ending a nine-year hiatus that started because of concerns about player safety. Jamie Squire/Getty Images, File