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SIUSLAW NEWS
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SPORTS
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A Sporting View

By Mark Vasto

All questions answered

So there you go, America ... the vaunted NCAA playoff system — part-human, part-computer — was implemented this year, played to conclusion, and as predicted, left everyone completely satisfied.

Now we know who the “true” National Champions are.

What’s that? You still have questions? Well then, gleaned from actual comment boards from actual Interweb sites, here are an assortment of questions that we at A Sporting View headquarters have taken a crack at answering for you. From the final rankings (TCU ranked third?) to the post-game revelry (Fire!), let’s put all doubt to rest.

Q: Was Ohio State really the best team in the country?

— Ron in Lincroft

A: Look, pal ... you asked for a playoff system and you got one. You said you didn’t want it to be based solely on computer statistics, you wanted a human hand involved, and that’s what you got ... you got TCU on the outside looking in, and Ohio State running the table once they got the invite.

Yes, they are your champion. Deal with it.

Q: How is TCU ranked third to end the season when they weren’t in the final four selected for the playoff?

— Artie in Middletown

A: Human error.

Q: How is setting fires a form of celebration? Seems like college students should be smart enough to come up with something more appropriate.

— Mary in Columbus

See **VIEW 3B**

Sports Calendar

Jan. 17

- SHS wrestling Nick Lutz Inv. at SHS 9 a.m.

Jan. 18

- SHS girls bowling District at Firs Bowl 9 a.m.

Jan. 20

- SHS girls BB at Brookings 6 p.m.
- SHS boys BB at Brookings 7:30 p.m.
- MHS boys BB at Lowell 7 p.m.

Leaps and bounds



Members of the Viking cheerleading team warm up during preseason practices in November.

When every minute counts

Siuslaw’s mostly freshman cheerleading squad has high hopes for the future.

Two and a half minutes. That’s what the Siuslaw High School cheerleaders train all year for; their one-chance attempt at

the Oregon State Athletic Association championships next month in Portland.

Two and a half minutes.

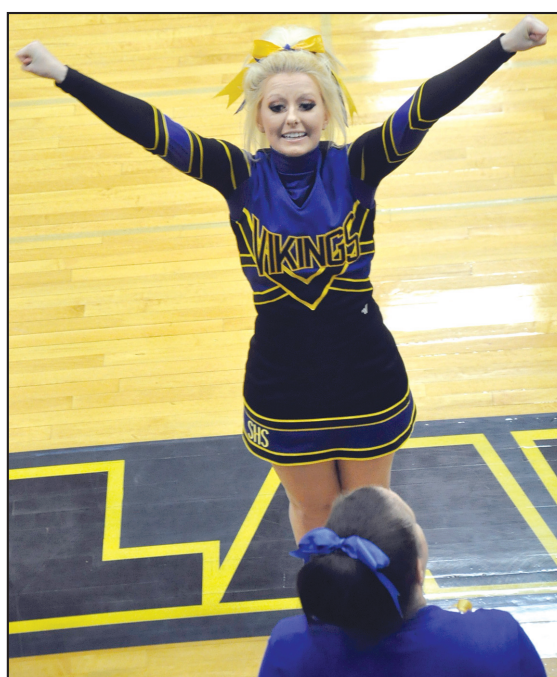
No overtimes.

No extra innings.

No second chances.

“Our routine includes music, a cheer and a second music segment,” says Diane Conlee, who has coached the Vikings cheerleading squad for more than 20 years, during which the school has won four state titles.

“It’s all in two and a half minutes, and it’s pretty intense,” adds Conlee, whose young Vikings train more than two hours a day while school is in session, perform throughout the calendar year at numerous events and put in



countless hours of volunteer time — all for those two and a half minutes.

“It’s no longer ‘put on a cute uniform and be popular,’” says Conlee.

Siuslaw’s cheerleading team captain and sole senior Kennedy Roylance performs as coach Diane Conlee looks on.

“You have to be dedicated and athletic.”

This is a year of growth for Siuslaw’s freshman-dominated team of nine focused athletes that includes two upperclassmen: senior captain Kennedy Roylance and junior Amilia Perez.

The seven freshman members are Tallyn Bello, Emilee

Christiansen, Emma Collins, Siarra Rain, Victoria Rojas, Ariel Rosinbaum

See **CHEER 3B**

Vik bowlers ready to roll into district

The Viking girls bowling team competed at North Bend Lanes this past Saturday, Jan. 10, and, with the help of freshman Abby Coday and senior Shayla Peterson, the team nabbed its highest finish so far this season with fourth place overall.

“We’re nearing the end of the sea-

son and the girls keep getting better with every tournament,” said coach Dusty Anderson.

Along with scoring from Hanna Anderson, Emy Bloomfield and Summer Large, Siuslaw was able to qualify for fifth after eight semifinals games, advancing them into the next

round.

“The ladies bowled some of their best games of the season,” said Anderson, whose team bowled a season-high 210 in the last semifinals game to qualify as one of the four

See **BOWLERS 4B**

Avian flu found in wild mallard at Fern Ridge

No human health risk but falcons, hawks may be susceptible to virus.

SALEM — Avian influenza strain HPAI H5N2 has been found in a mallard harvested by a hunter at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area near Eugene. The virus strain, known as H5N8, poses no immediate threat to human health. It has been circulating in Europe and East Asia and has not made people

sick. The female mallard was sampled Dec. 20, 2014, as part of routine testing by ODFW, USDA/APHIS, USGS and USFWS. Testing for high path avian influenza is done at several labs including the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Corvallis.

However, further confirmation regarding the strain of bird flu virus requires special testing at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

ODFW was notified of positive test

See **FLU 3B**

On the Bite

A weekly fishing report for the local region

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

MID COAST LAKES:

The wild coho salmon fishery in **Siltcoos** and **Tahkenitch** lakes is slow. Most fish have migrated onto the spawning grounds.

ALSEA RIVER:
Chinook, steelhead

Winter steelhead season is underway with reports of some steelhead being caught from the lower river up to the hatchery. Good numbers of fish typically start returning over the next few weeks.

SALMON RIVER:
Steelhead

Winter steelhead are starting to show up in most coastal basins. Salmon River does get a good return of wild winter steelhead and an occasional stray hatchery fish.

SILETZ RIVER:
Steelhead, Chinook

Winter steelhead season is underway with a small number steelhead being caught from the lower river up to Moonshine Park by both bank and boat anglers. This time of year is typically slow to fair for winter steelhead. Fall Chinook fishing is slow as most remaining fish have moved onto the spawning grounds.

SIUSLAW RIVER:
Steelhead, Chinook

Winter steelhead are starting to show up in small numbers around the mid to lower sections of the Siuslaw and Lake Creek. Fall Chinook fishing is very slow and any remaining

See **FISHING 4B**

TIDE TABLE

Entrance Siuslaw River

High Tide Low Tide

Jan. 17

8:49am / 8.0 2:43am / 3.3
10:28pm / 6.0 4:01pm / -0.1

Jan. 18

9:39am / 8.4 3:40am / 3.1
11:14pm / 6.5 4:46pm / -0.8

Jan. 19

10:29am / 8.7 4:33am / 2.8
11:58pm / 7.0 5:30pm / -1.2

Jan. 20

11:17am / 8.8 5:24am / 2.5
6:13pm / -1.4

Jan. 21

12:40am / 7.4 6:14am / 2.1
12:06pm / 8.8 6:55pm / -1.4

Jan. 22

1:22am / 7.7 7:05am / 1.8
12:56pm / 8.5 7:38pm / -1.2

Jan. 23

2:05am / 7.9 7:58am / 1.6
1:48pm / 8.1 8:22pm / -0.6

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