

Sailors unable to douse Devils

First-period deficit leaves Sailors struggling

By NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

LOWELL: 64 MAPLETON: 48

The Sailors were able to hold their own for the most part during the final three quarters of Tuesday's matchup with the Devils in Lowell, but a first-period scoring drought for the Sailors left Mapleton trailing

23-6 to start the second period. "We put up a decent fight against the league's No. 3 team," said Mapleton coach Will Crook. "But we dug ourselves into a hole early that we couldn't dig ourselves out of. "Our shots just weren't falling."

The Sailors fought back throughout the next three quarters, outscoring Lowell 42 points to 31 for the remainder of the game.

"We fought back with stingy defense and aggressive offense by Tucker Ford and

Hunter Simington," said Crook.

The senior forward and junior guard combined for 11 steals and 34 of Mapleton's eventual 48 points in the game.

"We played well at times but weren't able to put together a complete game," said Crook, whose team will host Siletz on Friday, Jan. 30.

Last night, the Sailors hosted McKenzie (after press deadlines).

"We're hoping to get a large home crowd at both games," said Crook.

Ford led scoring against Lowell with 21 points, two rebounds, four steals and one blocked shot. Simington had 13 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Senior guard Chris Free had seven points, five rebounds, two steals and three blocked shots. Sophomore guard Tyler Packebush had four points and two rebounds.

Freshman guard Daniel Collins had three points and two rebounds for the Sailors.

Next Friday's game at home against Siletz tips off at 6 p.m.

Free light giveaway for skaters, bikers Jan. 29

With shorter days upon us, more commuters may find themselves traveling home in the dark. Point2point at Lane Transit District wants to help pedestrians and cyclists stay safe during the darker winter hours.

Staff will be distributing free lights in Florence during a "Be Seen, Be Safe Light Giveaway" event on Thursday,

Jan. 29, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Also, Bicycles 101, 1537 8th Street, will be onsite offering free bicycle safety checks.

This event is free and open to the public

For more information, call Transportation Options Outreach and Events Coordinator Cammie Harris at 541-682-6206 or email cammie.harris@ltd.org.

Sea turtle continues recovery at aquarium

NEWPORT — Solstice the turtle flapped her flippers in water last week. This should be business as usual for an olive ridley turtle, but for Solstice it is a significant milestone in her journey toward recovery.

Solstice arrived at the Oregon Coast Aquarium hypothermic, dehydrated and emaciated on Dec. 22. The sub-adult turtle had ventured far from the warm temperate waters of her normal winter range, landing on a Washington beach where she was discovered by a young couple and then picked up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Solstice successfully warmed up to her ideal body temperature, 75 degrees, on

Thursday, Jan. 1. Staff monitored her condition to ensure she was stable before transferring her to a rehabilitation pool last week.

Her move back to an aquatic habitat confirmed aquarium staff's fears; she has buoyancy issues that prevent her from diving below the water's surface. This is a common ailment for distressed turtles and staff are taking steps to keep her comfortable.

"Her exposed shell is coated with a lubricant so it does not dry out, and we will be giving her some more time in the water to see if the air works itself out," said Jim Burke, Director of Animal Husbandry. "If it does not, the next steps

would include x-ray imaging and manual removal of the air. We hope the issue will resolve itself before exposing her to these more intensive procedures."

Despite this setback Solstice is showing signs of improvement. She now has a hearty appetite, eating several times a day, but she seems to have selective taste. "She will chomp down on capelin and other fish without hesitation, but spits out nutrient-packed gel food supplement we offer her," Burke said.

These latest developments are small steps in a lengthy rehabilitation process for Solstice. Her prognosis remains uncertain, but aquari-

um staff harbor growing hope for her recovery.

If all goes as planned, she will need several months of rehabilitation before the aquarium can start to plan her release with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The aquarium urges anyone who finds a sea turtle on the beach to keep their distance and contact the Oregon State Police Wildlife Hotline at 1-800-452-7888 to ensure appropriate transport and care of the delicate animal.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is open every day this winter from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit aquarium.org.

SOLVE seeks project leaders for Earth Day

SOLVE is currently accepting applications for volunteers to lead Earth Day projects for the 26th annual SOLVE IT event. SOLVE IT events will take place across the state on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also as part of SOLVE IT, teachers are encouraged to involve their students in service-learning activities any time between April 13 and 24.

The deadline for applications is Saturday, Jan. 31.

Project leaders receive assistance for Earth Day volunteer projects, including free project planning assistance and training, event flyers and pre-event publicity, online volunteer registration, and cleanup project supplies. SOLVE also has a limited number of grants of up to \$100 for reimbursement of project expenses.

The SOLVE IT program supports Oregonians who help take care of our parks, waterways and neighborhoods by picking up trash, pulling invasive weeds, planting trees and

taking care of watersheds in other ways.

Last year, SOLVE IT helped 6,700 Oregonians volunteer at more than 180 sites across Oregon.

"The health and beauty of Oregon depends on the volunteer leaders who step up and commit to making a positive difference in the environment for Earth Day," said Quintin Bauer, SOLVE Statewide Team Leader. "SOLVE is ready to help individuals, community groups and government agencies organize successful volunteer events in their community to take care of the special natural areas, parks and neighborhoods they love."

Since 1990, SOLVE IT volunteers have removed more than 15 million pounds of invasive plants and litter from illegal dumpsites, neighborhoods, and natural areas.

Interested volunteer leaders can visit www.solveoregon.org to apply online, or call SOLVE at 503-844-9571.

Avian flu virus found in wild mallard at Fern Ridge

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.

ODFW was notified of positive test results for the HPAI H5N2 found in the Fern Ridge mallard yesterday. It is the same strain that was detected in a pintail duck in northwestern Washington state last month.

The strain has not caused noticeable disease for Oregon's wild waterfowl, which have evolved with the virus and usually do not get sick. The mallard did not show signs of sickness and there have been no

reports of any recent waterfowl die-offs related to avian influenza anywhere in North America.

This detection follows a December detection of another avian influenza strain, HPAI H5N8, in backyard poultry near Winston, Ore. It marks the second highly pathogenic avian influenza virus identified in Oregon.

The detection is not a surprise for wildlife managers. "After seeing initial results from other states, we suspected the HPAI strains (H5N2 and H5N8) would be found in wild waterfowl in Oregon," said Brandon Reishus, ODFW migratory bird coordinator. "California has also documented the virus in waterfowl and it has been found as far west as Davis County, Utah."

In the coming months these birds will migrate back to nesting areas to the north, potentially spreading the virus to new areas. Wild birds can pass the influenza virus to their species or other bird species inhabiting shared wetlands or

through predator and prey interactions.

While this strain often does not sicken waterfowl, it may be a threat to falcons and hawks, which can exhibit symptoms and die. ODFW is advising falconers to refrain from hunting wild waterfowl or feeding their birds wild waterfowl meat or organ tissue.

Hunters need to practice safe bird handling.

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling and cleaning game birds.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or touch your face when handling birds.
- Keep the game bird and its juices away from other foods.
- Thoroughly clean knives and any other equipment or surfaces that touch birds. Use a solution of one third cup of chlorine bleach per one gallon of water.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after handling birds (or with alcohol-based hand products if your hands are not visibly soiled).

View from 1B

end up in the Hall, if not voted in proper, he will be brought in by the veterans committee.

The same fate likely will await Trammell.

Jeff Bagwell and first-timer Gary Sheffield did not make the cut, and Bagwell did not show any great movement from last year's vote. Both are tarred with the suspicion of PED use.

This also is why I left both off my ballot. Piazza, too, has had to dodge this question, but I chose to look the other way.

Why? I am a hypocrite, I guess. Maybe it's because he's Catholic, or Italian, or because he was clutch. Maybe because he didn't show signs of 'roid rage when Roger Clemens threw a baseball at his head and a bat at his feet at the turn of the century. Just spitballin' here.

I wouldn't give up on Bagwell or Sheff, particularly if Sheffield can mount an eloquent defense of his offensive marks. That he was a loud-mouth and considered to be a clubhouse cancer should have

little bearing on his Hall chances.

While he was outspoken, he was not necessarily a detriment to any team. Selfish? Perhaps. But who cares? He could flat-out hit. Bagwell and Edgar Martinez will benefit by having this class going to bat for them. Johnson and Biggio already have started their cam-

paigns in earnest, and their voices will be considered.

The lost cause in all of this is Don Mattingly. After all of these years, all of the statistics, I have to know when to kick the habit. You can't say I didn't go to bat for you, Hitman. If there was a Hall of Very, Very Good, though, you'd be my first inductee.



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