

Sports

Hayward Field's glorious history

It would be difficult to overstate what Hayward Field means to the world of track and field.

With the spectacular overhaul of the aging structure in Eugene now complete, it will be the site of more great competitions, beginning with next year's U.S. Olympic Trials (pandemic conditions permitting).

It's the latest chapter for a structure that began as a home for Duck football in 1919. A 440-yard track was added two years later.

Bill Hayward coached at Oregon from 1904 to 1947. His reputation for success was such that the new athletic field was named after him in 1921. In addition to a highly successful time coaching track and field athletes, he also served as athletic trainer and basketball coach for a time.

Hayward coached four world record holders and nine Olympians and served as a track and field coach at six Olympics.

One of Hayward's pupils was Oregon coaching great Bill Bowerman. Whose students, in addition to many world-class competitors, included a skinny distance-running business major named Phil Knight.

My senior year at Oregon (1974-75), I lived in an apartment just across 18th Avenue from Hayward Field.

It was an era of strong dual meets in NCAA track, none more intense than when the Ducks under coach Bill Dellinger faced John Chaplin's Washington State Cougars. The place was almost always packed.

I went on to see many



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

The NCAA awarded Hayward Field the 2024-2027 outdoor track and field championship meets. The 2021 and 2022 meets will also take place in Eugene.

BOB'S THOUGHTS

BOB BAUM



outstanding performances on the historic track, including many NCAA championships, U.S. Championships and U.S. Olympic Trials.

I'd trudge up the steps of the wooden west grandstand to the press rows at the very top, a tough journey for an out-of-shape sports writer.

The Olympic Trials are among the best sporting events anywhere, in my humble opinion. It's an all-or-nothing competition. Finish in the top three, and you're headed to the Olympics. Finish fourth and (unless you're a sprinter in the relays) and you're out of luck.

In my early days covering track, there were no lights at Hayward. At one NCAA meet, they had to drive cars up and turn the lights on to finish the

decathlon pole vault.

No discussion of Hayward Field can be complete without talking about Steve Prefontaine, the charismatic, barrel-chested runner from the blue collar mill town of Coos Bay who everyone knew as "Pre."

My last year in college, I covered track and field for the student newspaper, the Daily Emerald. That meant covering lots of Prefontaine. We were in the same class, not that I knew him — at all.

But he could be breathtaking to watch run. And so many of those great races occurred at Hayward.

I remember watching one Saturday as he pulled away to beat Oregon State's Hailu Ebba one Saturday afternoon in a stirring 1,500-meter race.

But Pre wasn't in the mood to talk about the race. He jogged away from a handful of reporters.

After his tragic death in a car accident in 1975, Prefontaine's name lives on in a meet held each year at Hayward.

The new Hayward is a beautiful place, judging by the photos. It is set to host the world championships in mid-2022, the first time the event will be held in the United States.

The new Hayward undoubtedly will have many thrilling track moments.

It will build on a sterling legacy built there over the last 100 years, where those who sat in those old wooden stands became the most knowledgeable track fans anywhere.

There's now even more reason to call Eugene Track City, USA.

Bob Baum, who grew up in Union, covered 10 Olympics and four world track and field championships in a 43-year career with The Associated Press. He retired last year after 23 years in Portland and 20 based in Phoenix, Arizona. He lives in Island City with his wife Leah and their four cats and two dogs.

OREGON STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavers thwart Vikings' upset bid

By Jesse Sowa
Albany Democrat-Herald

CORVALLIS — Lessons are always more easily learned when the result is a win instead of a loss.

That's where Oregon State stood Tuesday night after seeing a 15-point, second-half lead against Portland State disappear.

The Vikings came all the way back to take the lead, but the Beavers made the defensive plays they needed to and held on for a 67-62 win in a nonconference men's basketball game at Gill Coliseum.

OSU (4-3) outscored PSU (2-4) 10-3 after the Vikings took a 59-57 lead on James Scott's conventional three-point play with four minutes left heading into the final media timeout.

"That's on us. We never should have let it get to that point," said Beavers senior guard Zach Reichle of himself and his teammates. "They were the aggressor of the second half and we kind of let them keep getting back in the game. That's not on the coaches to kick-start it. That's on us."

Reichle's 3-pointer got Oregon State back in front. Rodrigue Andela made 1 of 2 free throws and PSU's Amari McCray hit both of his to tie it. Khalid Thomas made 1 of 2 at the line with 2:13 left to put the Vikings in front.

But that was all the scoring that Portland State would get as the Vikings missed their last four field goal attempts.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Wilson leads BYU to 49-23 bowl win

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — The NFL will have to wait for BYU's Zach Wilson — for a few days, at least.

Wilson threw for 425 yards with three touchdown passes and two rushing scores as No. 13 BYU routed UCF 49-23 in the Boca Raton Bowl on Tuesday night.

Wilson, considered a top prospect, completed 26 of 34 passes in what might be his final college game.

"I don't know yet," Wilson said when asked about his plans. "I'm probably going to enjoy the Christmas break and discuss with coaches, discuss with my family and figure out what's best. Obviously, (a decision) probably has to be before the new year."

The Cougars (11-1) led 35-10 at halftime and finished with 655 yards of offense to UCF's 411.

Tyler Allgeier carried 19 times for 177 yards and a score. Isaac Rex had five catches for 96 yards and two touchdowns as BYU earned its first victory in nine games it has played in the Sunshine State. The Cougars led 14-0 less than four minutes into the game.

NBA REGULAR SEASON OPENS WITH A BATTLE OF LOS ANGELES

Lakers collect title rings, but Clippers get the win

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — After the Los Angeles Lakers got their championship rings, the Los Angeles Clippers gave a performance that showed this retooled team is determined to contend for its own jewelry several months from now.

Paul George scored 26 of his 33 points in the second half, Kawhi

Leonard added 26 points and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied past the Los Angeles Lakers on the NBA champions' ring ceremony night for a 116-109 victory Tuesday.

George went 13 of 18 with five 3-pointers in an outstanding first game since agreeing to add four years and \$190 million to his contract with the Clippers, who never trailed in the latest meeting

of Southern California's two NBA powerhouses. The Clippers beat the Lakers in the season opener for the second straight year while winning coach Tyronn Lue's debut.

The Clippers stayed in their locker room while the Lakers received their rings, but they emerged with purpose and determined play — from their two superstars in particular.

"Our focus was on us," Lue said. "The Lakers, they deserved that ring. They had a great year, and you can't take nothing away from them. Our focus wasn't really on the Lakers. They were the best team last year, so congratulations to them again, but now we're moving on."

LeBron James scored 22 points and Anthony Davis had 18 for

the Lakers just 72 days after they finished off the Miami Heat in the NBA bubble. James said he turned his ankle "pretty good" in the second half, leading him to play just 28 minutes.

"I'm happy today is over with and we can focus on the season, but it's just a lot to process," James said. "It felt weird having a basketball game today."

Picking the NFL: week 16

Overall record: 128-70-1

Minnesota Vikings (6-8) vs. New Orleans Saints (10-4)

Although they were not on the winning end of last week, seeing Drew Brees out there and playing healthy was a big enough win for Saints fans as the playoffs are on the horizon. This week they'll return to the win column against the slumping Vikings. Even without star wide receiver Michael Thomas the New Orleans offense will be strong on Christmas night, leading the Saints to their 11th victory, 31-14.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers (9-5) vs. Detroit Lions (5-9)

The Buccaneers, after rallying to a win over the Falcons, stay on the road, this time heading to Detroit. I give them the edge on this game as the Lions, though they have a future star in running back D'Andre Swift, are struggling on both sides of the ball. The Bucs will win, 35-21.

San Francisco 49ers (5-9) vs. Arizona Cardinals (8-6)

After losing yet another game last week against the Cowboys, the Niners are now able to think about next year, and they should rest their stars who are on the cusp of returning from injury. The



COREY KIRK

Cardinals, meanwhile, remain in playoff contention and will play at full strength with their aerial attack including arguably the league's best wide receiver in Deandre Hopkins. The Cardinals will win, 28-10.

Miami Dolphins (9-5) vs. Las Vegas Raiders (7-7)

After suffering back-to-back losses to the Colts and Chargers, I don't see the Raiders getting past the Dolphins. Miami is lacking weapons, though, with the availability of Devante Parker, Jakeem Grant and Mike Gesicki all in doubt. I see the Dolphins coming out with the win, 17-14.

Carolina Panthers (4-10) vs. Washington Football Team (6-8)

The Washington Football Team continues to lead the NFC East, while the Panthers' main story is whether Christian McCaffrey will return from his thigh injury. Things seem to be clicking for Washington right now, and I see them winning, 21-10.

Indianapolis Colts (10-4) vs. Pittsburgh Steelers (11-3)

The Steelers have lost three straight and now face a Colts team that has the potential to make a deep playoff run. I see the Colts will walk away with the victory, 38-35.

Atlanta Falcons (4-10) vs. Kansas City Chiefs (13-1)

Two teams having two completely different seasons, obviously. Will the Falcons let their starters continue to get their reps even if they are no longer in playoff contention? The Chiefs continue to look smooth on both sides of the ball, and will have no trouble with the Falcons, winning 31-14.

Chicago Bears (7-7) vs. Jacksonville Jaguars (1-13)

Coming off a big win against the Vikings, the Bears travel to Jacksonville to take on the Jaguars, where the biggest story is that, with the Jets' first win, the Jaguars are more likely to land Trevor Lawrence in the draft. Regardless, the Bears should have no trouble against the Jaguars, winning 24-10.

Cincinnati Bengals (3-10-1) vs. Houston Texans (4-10)

Wow, look at the Cincinnati Bengals, coming off an upset of the Steelers on Monday night. Both

Cincinnati and Houston are out of playoff contention. I give the edge to Houston based on their offense, and I see the Texans winning 17-10.

New York Giants (5-9) vs. Baltimore Ravens (9-5)

The Giants might be without quarterback Daniel Jones again, and the Ravens, after weeks of frustration, are back to form. Their momentum behind Lamar Jackson will continue in a 28-17 win.

Cleveland Browns (10-4) vs. New York Jets (1-13)

Good news, Jets fans! Your team finally came out victorious last week against the Rams. But this isn't a matchup made for continuing that momentum, as the Browns, despite significant injuries, have proved that they belong among the best teams in the league. Cleveland will win, 28-14.

Denver Broncos (5-9) vs. Los Angeles Chargers (5-9)

Another game lacking playoff implications, I see Justin Herbert leading the Chargers, who have been competitive despite a losing record, to a close win, 24-21.

Philadelphia Eagles (4-9-1) vs. Dallas Cowboys (5-9)

After winning at home last week against San Francisco, the Cowboys take on an NFC East opponent in the Eagles. I give Philadelphia the edge behind rookie quarterback

Jalen Hurts, who will exploit the Cowboys' defensive weaknesses in a 21-17 win.

Los Angeles Rams (9-5) vs. Seattle Seahawks (10-4)

In this battle that likely will decide the NFC West champion, I see a different outcome from the Rams' win in mid-November. Russell Wilson and Seattle will exploit the Rams' secondary, as star cornerback Jalen Ramsey can't guard everybody. The Seahawks will win, 28-14.

Tennessee Titans (10-4) vs. Green Bay Packers (11-3)

Sunday Night Football has us heading to Lambeau Field to see the Packers hosting the Titans. This game is big for the Titans as they're tied with the Colts for first place in the AFC South. The Packers will be strong as always on offense, but I don't think they will be able to stop Derrick Henry consistently. I'm going with the Titans in what some may consider an upset, 35-31.

Buffalo Bills (11-3) vs. New England Patriots (6-8)

Monday night we see this AFC East contest as the Bills travel to Gillette Stadium. The Bills aren't just playing good football, they are playing consistent football, unlike the Patriots. The Patriots will not handle that aerial offense behind the arm of Josh Allen, and the Bills will win their 12th game of the year, 28-17.