

SPORTS

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WORLD CUP
ALPINE SKIINGCrash sends Bend's
Ford to hospital

ADELBODEN, Switzerland — American skier Tommy Ford was airlifted to a hospital after crashing in a World Cup giant slalom on Saturday.

Ford crashed three gates from the finish after going wide into rough snow beside the course. His skis touched and he fell forward, sliding down the hill first on his neck and left shoulder.

The United States Ski Team later said Ford's "head and neck injuries are minor and resolving nicely. He has a knee injury that is undergoing further evaluation."

Ford knocked over a course-side worker before coming to a stop close to safety nets beside the finish. He initially lay still with his face against the snow though was soon conscious and talking with medical staff.

A helicopter landed by the course 20 minutes later to airlift the 31-year-old racer, who is from Bend.

Ford has one giant slalom win and two more podium finishes in 12 seasons on the World Cup circuit. He wore bib No. 4 on Saturday as one of the top-ranked racers after top-10 finishes in his past four starts.

Ford's next scheduled giant slalom is in six weeks — on Feb. 19 at the world championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

—Associated Press

NFL

WILD-CARD ROUND

Rams 30
Seahawks 20

Bills 27
Colts 24

Buccaneers 31
Washington 23

SPORTS BETTING

Table tennis rules
Oregon betting app

"The Big Four" of professional sports leagues in the United States are the NFL, NBA, Major League Baseball and NHL.

Not true of the big four sports that attracted the most betting money on the Oregon Lottery Scoreboard app in 2020 out of more than \$218 million wagered:

First is basketball at \$70,622,322. Second is football at \$53,869,591. Third is soccer at \$24,843,983. And fourth? Table tennis at \$21,105,652.

Baseball came in fifth at \$16,956,942, while ice hockey was eighth at \$6,610,076.

The Scoreboard app has seen tremendous growth since it launched in October 2019.

From October to December of that year it brought in \$45,272,477 in bets, with a gross profit of \$2,924,428. During the same period in 2020, it took \$81,482,414 in bets with a gross profit of \$9,918,246. And its profit margin jumped from 6.46% to 12.17%.

And this is still without college sports on the table.

Matt Holt, president of U.S. Integrity, a Las Vegas company that monitors betting behavior, described Russian table tennis to ESPN as "a controlled Wild West in the U.S."

Though table tennis ranks No. 4 in Oregon in bets handled, it ranked No. 1 in average bet amount at \$51.54 in 2020.

—The Oregonian

NFL PLAYOFFS

Seahawks can't overcome mistakes in loss to Rams, 30-20



Ted S. Warren/AP

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, right, eyes a receiver while trying to avoid being sacked by Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle A'Shawn Robinson during Saturday's wild-card game in Seattle.

BY TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Quietly, Aaron Donald, Jared Goff and the rest of the Los Angeles Rams seethed.

They watched less than two weeks ago as the Seattle Seahawks loudly celebrated a division title the Rams felt they gave away. Los Angeles desperately wanted another shot.

Behind a lot of Cam Akers churning yards on the ground and mostly a great defense, the Rams are moving on in the NFC playoffs at the expense of the Seahawks.

"We come up here, and all week we were told how good they are and how we snuck into the playoffs," Goff said. "Two weeks ago you saw them smoking cigars and getting all

INSIDE

• Bills hang on against Colts for first playoff win in 25 years, **B3**

excited about beating us, and winning the division, and we were able to come up here and beat them."

Akers rushed for 131 yards and a touchdown, Darius Williams returned Russell Wilson's interception 42 yards for a score, and the Rams beat the Seahawks 30-20 in the NFC wild-card playoff game Saturday.

"A lot of guys stepped up and answered the bell in a big way," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "Darius Williams showing up, I thought that was a huge momentum shift for us."

The best defense in the league during the regular sea-

son carried its dominance into the playoffs — even while missing unanimous All-Pro tackle Aaron Donald for much of the second half. No team was better at limiting yards or points than the Rams (11-6) and they continued to torment Wilson and the Seahawks (12-5).

Seattle's quarterback was under siege from the defensive front and a secondary that minus one play never let DK Metcalf or Tyler Lockett break loose. Donald, before leaving with a rib injury, and Jalen Ramsey were superb. But so were other role players such as Troy Reeder, Jordan Fuller and Leonard Floyd.

Floyd had two of the Rams' five sacks.

See **Seahawks** / B3

Community Sports

Sports for every kid



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Natalie Hummel, executive director of Every Kid Sports, stands in the office of the nonprofit in Bend on Thursday.

A Central Oregon-based nonprofit that helps underprivileged kids pay for sports programs looks to go national

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

As many families struggle financially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, signing kids up for sports might not be a priority — especially when fees for youth programs can run \$100 or more.

Every Kid Sports, a Central Oregon-based nonprofit, helps kids from low-income families pay the fees required to participate in youth sports. Though most sports are still on pause, they are scheduled to resume in the coming weeks and months and many kids will likely need financial help in order to take part.



Courtesy Amanda Conde

All four kids in the Valdez family, of Bend, have utilized the Every Kid Sports Pass to support their jujitsu practice at Clarks Martial Arts studio in Bend.

"There's so much more need now," says Natalie Hummel, executive director of Every Kid Sports. "And even families that used to be able to cover their kids playing sports are in trouble now. It's been wide-ranging, the amount of impact COVID has had on families. If you can't get food on the table, you're not going to be registering your child to play sports."

The nonprofit was founded 11 years ago in Bend, and was formerly called Kids in the Game.

Every Kid Sports mostly aids youth in Central Oregon, but has recently expanded to help youngsters throughout the Pacific Northwest and nationally.

The Every Kid Sports Pass program approved more than 1,700 grants for kids in 2020 throughout the Pacific Northwest, according to Hummel. The goal, Hummel says, is to have it be available nationwide by September. Families can register discreetly online at every-kidsports.org.

See **Kid** / B3WORLD CUP SKIING
ROUNDUPPinturault
takes giant
slalom, ties
Miller for wins

Associated Press

ADELBODEN, Switzerland — Alexis Pinturault won a World Cup giant slalom for a second straight day on the storied Adelboden hill on Saturday, topping his superb performance from Friday.

Pinturault defied fast-fading light in the second run to post a huge winning margin of 1.26 seconds over Filip Zubcic, the runner-up on back-to-back days.

See **Skiing** / B3

NHL PREVIEW

Players prep
for 56-game
season sprint

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

The NHL has started seasons of fewer than 82 games in January and played into the summer to award the Stanley Cup.

Just not like this.

When the puck drops on the regular season in five rinks Jan. 13, it will be the start of a 56-game sprint to the playoffs with all divisional play until the semifinals.

That will ramp up the rivalries, reduce travel during the pandemic and make this a once-in-a-lifetime chase for a title.

"We're going to see a 56-game season, but it'll be 56 playoff games," veteran New York Islanders general manager Lou Lamoriello said. "It's exciting. I think the divisions the way they're in front of us, it'll be great for the fans and I think the players will enjoy it, also, so I think the rivalries will just raise to a level we haven't seen in a long, long time."

If hockey can navigate the perils of the virus like other sports. Already three teams have been affected, with Dallas unable to start the season on time.

See **NHL** / B4