

## NBA

## Blazers' Lillard has abdominal strain

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard is the latest player to land on the team's injury report.

Lillard is listed as questionable for Thursday's game at Philadelphia (15-6) with an abdominal strain, something he has had to deal with off and on for the past few years.

"It just locks up, tightens up and it's hard to move," Lillard said.

Lillard said following the team's 132-121 win Tuesday at Washington that he has been dealing with some nagging injuries lately and at times during the game had trouble moving well. He said he even wondered if he should have sat out a recent game on the current six-game road trip. But he said he decided to fight through the pain.

Lillard said the injury first surfaced when he was bumped during the team's Jan. 25 game against Oklahoma City.

"Each game after that it's been getting irritated," Lillard said.

And now it has landed him on the Blazers' injury list, which is already pretty lengthy.

Derrick Jones Jr., who has missed the team's last two games with a sprained foot, has been upgraded to questionable for Thursday. Out are forward Nassir Little (left knee sprain), guard C.J. McCollum (broken foot) and center Jusuf Nurkic (broken wrist). Forward Zach Collins has been out all season with a broken ankle.

Should Lillard miss Thursday's game, the Blazers would likely turn to Anfernee Simons to start at point guard alongside Gary Trent Jr. in the backcourt.

The Blazers do not have another healthy point guard on the roster.

—The Oregonian

## SUPER BOWL

## 2 Chiefs on COVID list due to barber

Less than a week before the Super Bowl, the Chiefs have a pair of players on the reserve/COVID-19 list because of high-risk close contacts.

Their close contact? A barber.

A barber tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday and gave wide receiver Demarcus Robinson and backup center Daniel Kilgore haircuts, a source confirmed.

Robinson and Kilgore have tested negative and were wearing masks while getting haircuts, as was the barber. If they continue to test negative, they can return to the team in time for the Super Bowl. But they have been held out of practice while on the reserve/COVID-19 list this week. They were placed on the list Monday.

The barber had been scheduled to cut other players' hair inside the Chiefs facility, per NFL Network. According to ESPN, that included more than 20 players and staffers, including quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

The barber had been tested Sunday when he began the haircuts but had not yet learned the results of those tests. He tested negative each of the previous several days, including Saturday. He was told of the positive result while cutting Kilgore's hair, according to the NFL Network.

—The Kansas City Star

## Prep Sports

## Footballers find ways to play



Courtesy photos

Mountain View junior quarterback Jakoby Moss at a recent 7-on-7 football tournament in Salem.

*QBs from Mountain View and Bend have made the most of offseason opportunities, but long for the return of tackle football*

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

Since fall 2019, high school football players have been patiently waiting. Now, as they continue their long wait, they are hoping for a Hail Mary in the next couple of days.

The high school football season is scheduled to officially begin on Monday with team practices, but unless some systematic changes come from the Oregon Health Authority or the Governor's office, the wait might continue for football teams.



Bend High sophomore Alexander Emery at the Offense-Defense All American Bowl in Arlington, Texas, last week.

But that has not stopped high school football players in Central Oregon from finding ways to continue playing the game they love.

Mountain View's Jakoby Moss and Bend High's Alexander Emery are two examples of players who have found avenues to continue to play football in a state where the game remains prohibited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Moss, it is spending most weekends playing in 7-on-7 passing-league tournaments — which have grown in popularity in the absence of tackle football.

"It started ramping up during the end of summer and continued to ramp up as we felt that the (fall) season might not happen," said Moss, the Cougars' junior quarterback. "Tournaments just kept getting bigger and bigger. It has been beneficial for me as a quarterback. My knowledge of the game has grown, mechanics have improved, and recruiting — being able to get some tape for coaches has been beneficial as well."

Without offensive and defensive linemen, a running game, or blitzing defenders, the non-contact 7-on-7 style of football is a far cry from the tackle game — especially compared with the run-heavy offense that Mountain View typically deploys on Friday nights in the fall.

See **Prep sports** / A6

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL | OREGON RECRUITING

## Ducks add to top class in program history

BY JAMES CREPEA

The Oregonian

EUGENE — Oregon solidified its best recruiting class in program history on Wednesday, signing a pair

of four star prospects in running back Byron Cardwell and cornerback Avante Dickerson

to a 23-member class of 2021 ranked No. 3 nationally by Rivals and No. 6 by 247Sports and ESPN, and the Ducks may not be done yet.

See **Ducks** / A7

## NFL

## New 'Hawks OC Waldron hits all the right notes

BY TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Shane Waldron hit all the right notes Tuesday as he discussed his first opportunity to be an offensive coordinator in the NFL.

Now comes the wait for the fall to find out whether Waldron's offensive beliefs will mesh with what works best for Pete Carroll, Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks on the field.

"I've talked to Pete a bunch about this throughout the process. He has my back, fully supportive with what I want to do and what direction we want to take this thing together," Waldron said.

"So it will be a situation where I feel like I'm walking into a great scenario, with a bunch of great coaches that have such a solid foundation."

See **Waldron** / A6

## TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## No play, but plenty of tests for players

BY JOHN PYE

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Players were isolating and getting tested for COVID-19 instead of playing tuneup tournaments four days before the Australian Open as concern grew over the impact on the year's first tennis major.

All competition at six tournaments scheduled for Thursday was called off overnight and 520 people who flew to Melbourne for the Australian Open were ordered to isolate in their accommodation and get tested after a man who worked at one of the quarantine hotels until last Friday tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Australian Open is scheduled to begin Monday, and preparations have already been disruptive and chaotic. All players and their entourages and everyone else flew

into Australia for the tournament had to spend 14 days in hotel quarantine. Of those, 72 players were forced into hard lockdown after passengers on their charter flights later returned positive tests for the virus.

Anyone connected with the tournament and who quarantined at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Melbourne were deemed to be casual contacts of the 26-year-old infected man and were undergoing testing at a dedicated facility.

Allen Cheng, Victoria state's deputy chief health officer, said authorities were being extra cautious.

"We think the risk to other guests at the hotel, so tennis players and their accompanying staff, is relatively low because they were in the rooms at the time as opposed to staff who were outside the rooms,"

Cheng told a news conference Thursday. "So we're testing them to be sure, and it's precautionary."

Cheng said six people in the Grand Hyatt during the quarantine period for the Australian Open had tested positive and were transferred to a medical facility, and it was likely the man — a resident support officer — was infected there.

"We are aware that he was on a floor where there were cases," Cheng said.

Cheng said it was "unlikely" the Open will be canceled.

Victoria State Premier Daniel Andrews said in news conference late Wednesday that he didn't expect the Feb. 8-21 Australian Open to be impacted, although he has added that it's an unfolding situation.

He said the late-night announcement of the positive case was done "through an



Hamish Blair/AP

A car leaves a COVID-19 testing station in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday. All competition at six Australian Open tuneup events scheduled for Thursday was called off after a worker at one of the tournaments' Melbourne quarantine hotels tested positive for COVID-19.

abundance of caution."

Andrews on Thursday confirmed close family contacts of the infected worker had tested negative for COVID-19 and contact tracing was advanced.

Everyone in the city will be required to wear masks while indoors.

The latest coronavirus restrictions could test the resolve

of players who have recently come out of two weeks in quarantine. It will also give ammunition to critics of the government decision to allow people to fly in from all over the world at a time when coronavirus cases were surging in some countries but under control in Australia.

See **Tennis** / A7