

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

UP Pilots dismiss coach Terry Porter

The University of Portland dismissed men's basketball coach Terry Porter Friday afternoon, parting ways with the one-time Portland Trail Blazers great after a disappointing four-plus seasons.

Hired in 2016 to turn around a perennial losing program, Porter brought a robust resume to the Pilots that featured two stints as an NBA head coach on top of an All-Star NBA playing career. But he failed to deliver on the hype his hiring brought to the North Portland campus, compiling a 43-103 record that included zero winning seasons.

The Pilots are just 6-11 (0-8 West Coast Conference) this season and have lost nine in a row. After enduring a 105-60 drubbing to BYU Thursday at the Chile Center, UP administrators decided they had seen enough. Assistant Ben Johnson will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season.

"I would like to thank Coach Porter for his service to the University," Scott Leykam, the Pilots Vice President for Athletics, said in a statement.

UP administrators were poised to let Porter go last spring, sources said, after he guided the Pilots to a disappointing 9-23 record that included a forgettable 1-15 mark in the conference. But the pandemic prompted administrators to conclude that it didn't make sense to pay the school's highest-paid employee not to work for a year.

Porter overhauled the Pilots' roster from top to bottom heading into the 2020-21 season, adding seven junior college or graduate transfers from across North America. UP started the season with hope, winning six of its first eight games, including a signature 87-86 overtime victory against Oregon State on the road. But things went south from there, as they so often have over the last four-plus seasons.

— The Oregonian

MLB

Star pitcher Bauer picks L.A. Dodgers

LOS ANGELES — Trevor Bauer is coming home to pitch for the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner announced his decision on Friday in a two-minute video posted to his Twitter account. Bauer narrated the piece, which ended with him saying, "This season is about making sure history remembers us as we wish to be remembered. This season is about adding to our legacy. And I can't wait, Dodger fans."

The Dodgers made it worth his while: His contract is for \$102 million over three years, according to multiple media reports.

Bauer, who turned 30 last month, was born in North Hollywood, went to high school in Santa Clarita and played baseball at UCLA.

Bauer joins a Dodgers rotation that had a major league-best 3.02 ERA during the abbreviated 60-game season last year, when the franchise won its first championship since 1988.

He gives the club a third Cy Young winner, joining three-time winner Clayton Kershaw and 2012 winner Price.

— Associated Press

PREP SPORTS

Soccer and cross-country get green light

Football and volleyball remain in doubt heading into Monday's decisive OSAA meeting

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

Leading up to Monday's Oregon School Activities Association executive board meeting to finalize plans for the return of high school sports, certain aspects remain unclear.

While soccer and cross-country have the green light to start practicing on Feb. 22, football and volleyball remain the two sports keeping "fall" sports from fully returning.

The fate of the two sports will be clear after the OSAA's meeting on Monday.

For football it is simple: The Oregon Health Authority will have to change its stance on contact sports before Monday. As of now and as has been the case throughout the pandemic, contact sports — including tackle football, basketball and wrestling — are prohibited.

Should nothing change in regards to contact guidelines, 7-on-7 or flag football become a more likely option for football because those activities are allowed. For linemen, who are not part of 7-on-7 or flag football, virtual linemen challenges will

be made available if the board decides to forgo tackle football.

"Our board is committed to provide some sort of option," said OSAA executive director Peter Weber on Friday.

Friday morning, Gov. Kate Brown and the OHA did not provide updates or changes to the contact sports guidelines during a 45-minute press conference.

Weber also noted late Friday afternoon that it is not uncommon for the OSAA to work with OHA over a weekend.

Volleyball has a bit more flex-

ibility than football to hitting its start date — even if it is just for a certain number of schools.

The executive board will discuss Monday morning the possibility of letting the schools in non-extreme risk counties start practicing volleyball on Feb. 22. The board could also give schools in extreme risk counties — 24 of 36 in the state, including Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties are extreme risk — the option of moving to a different timeframe when perhaps the COVID-19 case numbers are not as high.

The prospect of outdoor volleyball will also be discussed during Monday's board meeting, Weber said.

While volleyball will have the option to move to a different time of the year, tackle football might not have the same luxury.

The OSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations are worried about playing tackle football after May 1, which would make for a quick turnaround to start the following season in August.

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WORLD CUP SKIING

BY ERIC WILLEMSEN

Associated Press

A personal tragedy. The global pandemic. Then a back injury to top it all off.

Mikaela Shiffrin had to deal with a surprising number of setbacks in 2020. But if there's a silver lining, those setbacks also created a new bond between the 25-year-old skiing great and her coaching team — a bond that has her back as one of the favorites at next week's world championships in Italy.

"We've become almost like family," Shiffrin said a few days before the start of the worlds.

"With the last year that I have experienced, I have been even more grateful for their support, not only as coaches in my professional career, but also almost like mentors in life."

For a two-time Olympic champion expected to win virtually every time she steps into the starting gate, and an athlete whose nearly every



Giovanni Auletta/AP file

Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates after winning a World Cup slalom in Flachau, Austria, on Jan. 12.

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move is documented in the public spotlight, 10 months away from racing meant a complete reset.

"That's a really long time in sports," Shiffrin's head coach, Mike Day, told The Associated Press.

"People have looked at this as a period of time off. But realistically it's like an injury. She went through something that hurt really badly and the timeline for return is something that is extremely personal."

Shiffrin's season was upended a year ago when her father, Jeff Shiffrin, died following an accident at the family's home in Edwards, Colorado.

The outbreak of the coronavirus in Europe canceled the World Cup season in mid-March just when Shiffrin was attempting a comeback at races in Sweden, and the pandemic vastly limited her opportunities for training during the summer.

See Shiffrin / B7

NFL | SUPER BOWL LV

Reid, Arians bring their stellar offensive systems to Super Bowl

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

Andy Reid came up in the West Coast offense where the quarterback performs almost like an NBA point guard, using short passes that talented playmakers can turn into long gains.

Bruce Arians' offensive philosophy has relied on the mantra "no risk it, no biscuit" as he wants to quarterbacks to take chances downfield even if it sometimes leads to mistakes.

The approaches may be diametrically different but both have been successful. Reid and Arians have consistently run prolific offenses that have helped the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers reach the Super Bowl.

But Reid and Arians reached title game because both coaches have also shown the ability to adapt. Reid has gradually used more shotgun and spread formations over the years, helping Patrick Ma-

homes develop into the game's top QB.

Arians has altered his offense a bit this season in Tampa Bay to cater to Tom Brady's strengths, incorporating more motion and a few more shorter passes to go along with the deep strikes that remain a staple.

"If you're not looking for new things every year, you're falling behind," the 68-year-old Arians said. "You can look at what some other people do. But if it really doesn't match your personnel, it's not a fit for you."

There are plenty of differences in the two offensive philosophies, but they can be boiled down to two key statistics from SportRadar that sum up how the passing games thrive.

The Bucs led the NFL this season with 42 completions that traveled at least 20 yards downfield, while the Chiefs ranked 14th with 26 deep com-

INSIDE

• Chargers' Herbert excited for fresh start with new coach, B2

pletions this season.

"You can't hit a home run unless you're going to swing for one," Arians said. "You can't do anything special in life sitting on a fence."

Kansas City led the league by gaining 2,447 yards after the catch as Mahomes took advantage of playmaking ability of players like Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce. Tampa Bay ranked 17th with 1,874 yards after the catch.

Reid's offense creates space — the receivers have the second best average separation for receivers, according to NFL NextGen stats, at 3.8 yards per throw.

"Coach Reid does a great job of giving you multiple looks out of certain formations, certain motions, certain movements," Kelce said. "What that does is it helps kind of keep the



Charlie Riedel/AP file

Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy Reid, right, watches quarterback Patrick Mahomes warm up before a divisional-round playoff game against the Cleveland Browns in Kansas City on Jan. 17. Reid is considered one of the most innovative offensive minds in the NFL, and he has one of the most talented quarterbacks ever to execute his schemes.

defense in a reactionary position if you perform them the correct way."

When Brady arrived in Tampa Bay this season after two decades in New England, there were questions about whether the 43-year-old quarterback had the arm strength to thrive in Arians' offense.

After a midseason lull when he missed on 23 straight deep balls, Brady has completed 25

of 52 deep passes over the past eight games, nearly doubling his completion percentage on deep throws from the first 11 weeks.

Including the playoffs, Brady's average throw has traveled a career-high 9.4 yards downfield and his 43 deep completions are the most since SportRadar began tracking air yards in 2016.

See Super Bowl / B2