

## NBA

## Lillard snubbed in All-Star voting

Damian Lillard has been snubbed yet again.

The Portland Trail Blazers point guard, despite all the February MVP buzz and his otherworldly early-season play, has been denied a starting spot in the 2021 NBA All-Star Game after a weighted vote of fans, media and NBA players left him off the list of Western Conference starters.

Lillard was voted a starter by media and NBA players, receiving the second-most votes among Western Conference guards on both ballots. But he finished third in the fan vote behind Dallas Mavericks' Luka Dončić. The result was a tie between the two dynamic playmakers and, in the end, Dončić won the tiebreaker — and starting nod — because he received more fan votes.

Dončić will join Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard and Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokić as starters from the Western Conference.

Starters from the Eastern Conference include the Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid, and Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal.

James and Durant, the top vote-getters in each conference, will serve as team captains and will draft their teams from among the pool of starters and reserves on March 4. The game will be held March 7 in Atlanta.

— The Oregonian

## NFL

## Eagles trade QB Wentz to Colts

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz helped steer the Philadelphia Eagles to the franchise's only Super Bowl title and later received the richest contract in team history.

He's already gone before that deal even kicked in.

The Eagles agreed to trade Wentz to the Indianapolis Colts, according to a person familiar with the deal. Philadelphia receives a third-round pick in this year's draft and a conditional second-round pick in 2022 that can turn into a first-round pick if Wentz plays 75% of the snaps this year or 70% and the Colts make the playoffs.

Wentz is coming off the worst season of his five-year career and was benched for rookie Jalen Hurts after 12 games. He finished third in NFL MVP voting in 2017 when he led the Eagles to an 11-2 record before a knee injury ended his season and Philadelphia went on to win the Super Bowl.

The deal reunites Wentz with Colts coach Frank Reich, who served as Philadelphia's offensive coordinator in Wentz's first two seasons in the league. Press Taylor, an offensive assistant coach with the Eagles during Wentz's tenure, also has joined Reich's staff.

Wentz is entering the first season of a four-year, \$128 million contract extension he signed in June 2019. The Eagles will absorb a significant salary cap hit of \$33.8 million in dead money on their 2021 cap.

— Associated Press

## PREP SPORTS

## Bend-La Pine AD weighs in on what's ahead

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

Patience and flexibility were musts for nearly an entire year for those involved in Oregon high school sports.

Now, with a green light to start competitions for "fall seasons," Dave Williams, the athletic director of Bend-La Pine Schools, joined Bulletin Sports Talk to discuss the current landscape of prep sports in Central Oregon and what lies ahead the next couple of months as athletics return.

"There was a lot of anxiety about getting contact sports back going, a lot of people were itching, and frustrated and excited all at the same time, which is understandable," Williams said. "They opened up a pathway for the contact sports with a lot of things in place on top of the protocols that we have been adhering to for seven, eight, nine months."



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Dave Williams is the athletic director for Bend-La Pine Schools who will serve as the AD for Caldera High, a new high school set to open in Bend in the fall.

One of the protocols in place by the Governor's office, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon School Activities Association for outdoor contact sports to resume in high-

and extreme-risk counties is for each school to "opt-in" to playing by submitting a series of paperwork and waivers.

Every high school football team in Central Oregon opted

in, but pushing the paperwork through caused some delays in getting to full-contact practices with gear. Mountain View, Summit and Bend High are now cleared for full-contact practice and have enough time to meet the minimum number of padded practices required to kick off the season on Friday, March 5, the date most area teams have as their season opener.

"All four of our high schools completed all requirements and responsibilities for the opt-in and they started with their helmets (on Tuesday)," Williams said. "I know there were some people frustrated that it wasn't happening right away. But just like everything that we have been doing, things have to be vetted through ... we had to accomplish it the right way. When those things came out our schools got organized and put everything

in line and got football teams out there with their protective equipment."

Because school athletics must follow the county's guidelines on indoor and outdoor crowd sizes, there will be no spectators initially at the contests. Instead, those who want to watch will have to subscribe to the National Federation of State High School Associations Network to watch games. The gyms and football fields in the district are equipped with cameras to capture the action.

But the rule on spectators could change if Deschutes County drops down another risk level during the season.

"You put two volleyball teams in there and officials and all the personnel to run the events and all the entourage of what is going on, and we are right up to our max," Williams said.

See Prep sports / B5

## COLLEGE BASEBALL

## Beavers are back

Pitching rotation, coronavirus travel, Kevin Abel on Golden Spikes watch list

BY JOE FREEMAN  
The Oregonian

After 11 months of coronavirus delays and uncertainty, the Oregon State baseball team will make its eagerly anticipated return on Friday, when it plays Kansas State in the opener of the Sanderson Ford College Baseball Classic.

It will be the Beavers' first game since March 8, a few days before the college baseball season was canceled as the first wave of the pandemic swept through the United States. All but two players are back from last year's team, and the Beavers, who were picked to finish fourth in the Pac-12 in a pre-season poll of conference coaches, say they are as deep and talented as ever.

The biggest headline ahead of Friday's opener, which is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. in Surprise, Arizona, is the anticipated return of ace Kevin Abel. The 6-foot-1 righthander will start for the first time since undergoing Tommy John surgery 22 months ago, and he says his stuff is "better" than it was before his injury. The Beavers' lineup, which returns all but one player from last season, also figures to be improved.

Here are a few things to keep an eye on as the Beavers open the season in Arizona:

## How to watch

The Beavers will play four games in as many days at the Sanderson Ford College Baseball Classic, fac-



Chase Allgood/For The Oregonian

It's been roughly 22 months since Oregon State right-hander Kevin Abel underwent Tommy John surgery on his million-dollar right arm. But time and rehab have only managed to reinforce his resolve and repertoire.

ing New Mexico (twice) and Gonzaga in addition to Kansas State. The games will not be televised, but all four will be streamed live on FloSports, an internet event streaming service. For more information and to sign up, visit flosports.tv.

## Weekend rotation set, 4th starter undecided

The Beavers' first crack at a weekend rotation has been settled, as hard-throwing lefthander Cooper Hjerpe and sophomore righthander Jake Pfennigs will follow Abe in the first three games, coach Mitch Canham said.

Hjerpe, a 6-2 freshman, made six relief appearances for the Beavers in 2020, striking out 16 in 12.0 innings. His best outing came at Mississippi State, where Hjerpe recorded four strikeouts in 3½ scoreless innings to earn his only win. He'll start against New Mexico on Saturday. Pfennigs, a 6-6 sophomore who started four games last season and finished 2-3 with a 3.57 ERA, will start Sunday against Gonzaga.

The Beavers' fourth starter, which remained undecided two days before they departed for Arizona, is still a mystery, although Nathan Burns and

## Next up

Oregon State vs. Kansas State  
When: 11 a.m. Friday  
TV: FLOSPORTS



Will Frisch are likely in the mix.

"We're going to work through that fourth spot," Canham said. "Got an idea, but we're not there yet."

What is clear, Canham said, is that pitching coach Rich Dorman is prepared to go deep into his bullpen and won't shy away from experimentation during the Beavers' two-week trip to Arizona. They will play eight games in 10 days, and 16 pitchers are on the 35-player travel roster. It's not out of the question that all 16 will toe the rubber at some point.

Canham said he'll err on the side of caution early in the season and refrain from extending his starters deep into games, which, as a result, should lead to more work for the bullpen. Ideally, Canham said, his key relievers will see at least two appearances in each four-game set.

See Beavers / B4

## TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## Osaka eyes 4th Slam title against Brady

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Tennis Writer

Whether or not Naomi Osaka claims the Australian Open championship — and make no mistake, she will be expected to win — this much seems certain: Tennis has a new dominant force.

Sure, it's clearly possible that Osaka could be beaten by the 22nd-seeded American Jennifer Brady in the title match at Melbourne Park on Saturday.

Brady is, after all, emerging as a force on hard courts, too,

thanks to a big serve and big forehand.

She pushed Osaka to three sets before losing to her in the U.S. Open semifinals last September, then shrugged off a two-week hard quarantine in Australia to reach her first Grand Slam final.

It is the No. 3-seeded Osaka, though, who overpowered and overwhelmed Serena Williams in the semifinals Thursday.

Who is riding a 20-match winning streak dating to last season.

Who already has spent time at No. 1 in the rankings.

Who is seeking her second Australian Open title and fourth Slam trophy — and she is still only 23.

Like 23-time major champion Williams, there is a determination that Osaka manages to display when the finish line is near on their sport's most important stages: She has run her record to a combined 11-0 in Grand Slam quarterfinals, semifinals and finals.

See Tennis / B5



Andy Brownbill/AP

Naomi Osaka celebrates after defeating Serena Williams in their semifinal match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday.