

SPORTS

THE BULLETIN • TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

bendbulletin.com/sports

HIGH SCHOOL ALPINE SKIING

Summit skiers dominate regional

High school alpine skiing regional finals were staged this past week at Hoodoo and Willamette Pass ski areas.

The R.A.C.E.S. league included teams from Summit, Mountain View, Redmond, Sisters, Marist, South Eugene, Sheldon, Churchill, Corvallis, Crescent Valley and West Albany.

In the boys giant slalom on Saturday at Willamette Pass, Harrison Schock of Summit won with a two-run combined time of 2 minutes, 9.82 seconds. Summit's Preston Schock was second (2:10.77) and Bela Chladek of Sisters finished third (2:11.16).

In the girls giant slalom, also Saturday at Willamette Pass, Zoe Doden of Summit won in 2:13.13. Erin Kirksey of Mountain View took second in 2:15.09 and the Storm's Nicole Fournier placed third (2:15.30).

In the boys slalom at Hoodoo on Wednesday, Chladek won in 1:52.66. Preston Schock finished second (1:55.09) and Harrison Schock was third (2:01.26).

In the girls slalom, also at Hoodoo Wednesday, Morgan Berg of Mountain View won in 2:01.47. Brooke Leggat of Summit took second (2:05.70) and Lily Nelson of South Eugene placed third (2:10.17).

High school alpine ski teams in Central Oregon were allowed to start training and racing Feb. 1.

The 2021 Oregon High School Alpine State Championships are scheduled for Thursday and Friday at Mt. Hood Skibowl.

—Bulletin staff report

PAC-12 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Beavs on roll going into tourney

Oregon State's 88-77 win over Oregon, the Beavers' sixth win in seven games, is resonating in places that have national implications.

The Beavers (9-6, 7-6 Pac-12) appeared in the Associated Press Top 25 poll for the first time in nearly two months. The Beavers didn't crack the top 25, but received votes for the first time since Jan. 4.

The last time OSU was ranked among the top 25 teams was Dec. 14.

OSU also shot up seven spots to No. 29 in the NCAA NET rankings, a key tool used by the women's basketball tournament committee in determining berths and seeds.

To gauge how far the Beavers have come in the NET rankings, in mid-January they were No. 102.

And, in what probably matters most to Oregon State's program, the Beavers are solidly in the NCAA tournament according to ESPN's Bracketology. In Monday's iteration of the bracket, OSU was 10-seed, an improvement from last week, when the Beavers were one of the final four teams in the field.

Oregon State is 4-5 against top 50 teams in the NCAA NET rankings. As a comparison, Oregon is 4-7 against top 50 opponents.

Oregon State, No. 5 seed, opens at 11 a.m. Wednesday against 12-seed California. Should the Beavers win, they'll face 4-seed Oregon at 11 a.m. Thursday.

—The Oregonian

PREP SPORTS | SOCCER

Madras nets big win as sports return

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

Madras started off the high school sports season with a resounding win.

In its season opener, the White Buffaloes boys soccer team rolled Molalla 6-1, getting two goals each from junior Luis Benitez and senior Leo Gutierrez.

It was the first high school

sports played in Central Oregon in nearly year, since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March 2020.

"I think we were a little more prepared and a little more skilled at the skill positions," said Madras coach Clark Jones. "A unit of eight to 10 kids have been playing consistently two to three times a week since August. The leadership and the

chemistry was there."

Junior Manny Flores and senior Israel Penalzoza each pitched in to the scoring while senior Javier Sedano finished with three assists on the team's six goals.

After one of the more memorable season openers for Jones, it will be a quick turnaround, as Madras travels to face Tri-Valley League rival

Molalla again on Thursday for back-to-back matches.

"To get a successful team, you have to have discipline and focus," Jones said. "We are hoping to keep that the next three days and get another positive result."

Creswell 1, La Pine 0

The girl's soccer battle against Creswell fell short, as the Hawks fell 1-0 on a muddy

football field in their season opener in La Pine.

Creswell broke the scoreless tie with 10 minutes left in the second half. It was an evenly played game with Creswell taking one more shot on goal than La Pine (6-5). Although the shots were close, there was a feeling the team left some goals on the field.

See Preps / A7

Outdoors | Bison hunting

"THE PLACE WHERE WIND IS BORN"



GARY LEWIS

Knelt down in the sandy soil next to a bison, before the good hard work begins, one cannot help but to run fingers through the rich wool. Silky soft. In February and March, the woolly "down" of the bison is at its longest. There is no finer robe.

At once, a person marvels at the great store of meat, the uses of hide and the fiber, and on the hoof, its superior fitness for the plains.

The Lakota called it tatanka. To the Shoshone, it was bozheena. The Blackfeet called it real food.

Through the Sand Hills of Nebraska, even the roads are built on the buffalo trails because over thousands of years the animals found the best ways to water, food and shelter.

See Lewis / A7



▲ From left, Tracy Wilson, of Vancouver, Washington, Super Bowl champ John Howell and Gary Lewis walk a windy ridge on a bison hunt in Nebraska. Photo courtesy Samuel Pyke



▲ A herd of bison in Nebraska's Sand Hills. This herd has been on the Howell property for 25 years. Gary Lewis/For The Bulletin

NFL DRAFT 2021

Kiper shares evaluations of Sewell, other Ducks

BY JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Mel Kiper Jr. sees several Oregon players being selected in this year's NFL Draft, headlined of course by offensive tackle Penei Sewell.

The ESPN draft analyst shared his early evaluations of five former Ducks including Sewell, who he sees going in the top five.

"I think it's ideal at Cincinnati at 5," Kiper said. "I think you get a left tackle. People say well he was a little overrated, I'm not buying that. He didn't play this year. Had he built on what he did in 2019 he would have been regarded as the next

(Tony) Boselli, (Jonathan) Ogden or (Orlando) Pace. I get why you wouldn't put him in that category right now because he didn't play this year, but for Cincinnati he's exactly what they're looking for and I think he would be an ideal pick at that point. I would think Sewell to me would be no later than five. Some are projecting him down at 10, I don't see that happening, that's just me. I think the Bengals will be the ideal spot."

The 2019 Outland Trophy winner and the third unanimous All-American in Oregon program history, Sewell opted out of the 2020 season.

He did not allow a sack as a sophomore and led the Ducks with 58 knockdowns and led the nation with a run-blocking grade of 95.3 from Pro Football Focus and was third with a pass-blocking grade of 91.1.

Kiper also has draftable grades for four UO defensive backs: Jevon Holland, Thomas Graham Jr., Brady Breeze and Deommodore Lenoir.

Holland, who was among the players to opt-out of the 2020 season, had 66 tackles with 4.5 for loss, four interceptions and four pass breakups and averaged 15.25 yards per punt return in 2019.

See Ducks / A7



The Oregonian file
Former Oregon offensive lineman Penei Sewell is projected to be a top NFL draft pick.