

PREP SPORTS

New rules pave way for hoops, wrestling

Indoor full-contact sports in Oregon will be allowed starting Friday under new COVID-19 guidance issued by the Oregon Health Authority on Tuesday.

That means high school basketball and wrestling will likely be allowed to have their seasons, which are planned for May 10 to June 27.

"Any step toward us actually being able to be on the floor, with jerseys, playing another team, is great for our kids," said Summit boys basketball coach Jon Frazier on Tuesday.

Under the new guidance, indoor full-contact sports will be allowed under all risk levels.

Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties are now all in the high risk category. Under that category, the new guidance states that "indoor full-contact sports are allowed for K-12 with a submitted plan."

Additionally, it states that "indoor full-contact sports are allowed for adult/club/youth sports with guidance requirements."

Before Tuesday's updates, indoor full-contact sports, such as basketball and wrestling, were not allowed under any risk level.

— Bulletin staff report

SNOW SPORTS

Big Wave Challenge through Sunday

The Big Wave Challenge runs through Sunday at Mt. Bachelor ski area.

In the event's 10th year, snowboarders and skiers are invited for an open session on the big wave course on Midway Run, off Pine Marten lift in West Village, according to mtbachelor.com. The course will be open daily through Sunday.

The reimagined event continues to be inspired by legendary big-wave surfer and avid snowboarder Gerry Lopez, of Bend.

The Big Wave Challenge this year is not a formal event, as there will no registration, judging or awards.

The course features a series of huge sweeping banked corners, quarter-pipes and spines, incorporating the natural terrain to create wavelike features.

The event is a fundraiser for Pat Malendowski, who used his special terrain-park-creation skills to build waves out of snow during the first several years of the Big Wave Challenge. Malendowski has been battling brain cancer for five years.

Those interested in supporting the Big Wave Challenge fundraising effort can purchase Aloha bags (which include a variety of items) for \$100 at the Patagonia in Bend on Monday, April 26, or Tuesday, April 27. They can also bid on items via a virtual auction at www.32auctions.com/BigWaveChallenge.

All of the proceeds from the Aloha bags and the online auction will be donated to support Malendowski, according to mtbachelor.com.

— Bulletin staff report

INSIDE

Looking for refs — Bend Park & Rec is looking for refs for youth lacrosse league. Sports briefing, **A6**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sports figures react to Derek Chauvin's conviction



Ted S. Warren/AP file

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson walks off the field after a practice session at training camp in Renton, Washington. Wilson posted the message "Love wins" after former police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder in the death of George Floyd.

BY DAVID WHARTON

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — It was last summer that pro athletes raised their voices in unison to protest the death of Black men at the hands of police, their protest temporarily shutting down sports across the country.

So it makes sense that Tuesday, after former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of murder in the death of George Floyd, athletes spoke up again in tones that ranged from joyous to guarded.

"ACCOUNTABILITY," LeBron James tweeted.

Magic Johnson was more effusive: "Thank God ... guilty! Justice has been served!"

A little closer to the situation, the Minnesota Timberwolves and their WNBA colleagues, the Lynx, posted a statement: "We are hopeful that today's decision will serve as a step forward, but it does not ease the physical and emotional pain that continues in an environment where systemic racism exists."

The intersection of sports and social justice dates at least as far back as Jackie Robinson shattering baseball's color barrier in 1947. The 1960s were marked by Muhammad Ali's refusal to go to Vietnam and a protest from sprinters John Carlos and Tommie Smith, who raised their fists on an Olympic podium.

More recently, Colin Kaepernick added fuel to a national debate when he took a knee during the national anthem.

In the summer of 2020, after police in Kenosha, Wis., shot a 29-year-old Black man named Jacob Blake, the Milwaukee Bucks decided to sit out an NBA playoff game, triggering walkouts that spread quickly to baseball, soccer, hockey and tennis.

At the time, James said: "I know people are getting tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America. Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

See **Justice** / A6

NBA

On a hot streak

With 78 3-pointers in his last 11 games, Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry is shooting his way into history

BY TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Never. That's the last time the NBA saw a shooting stretch like the one Stephen Curry of the Golden State

Warriors has assembled over the past few weeks.

It's been 45 years since the last instance of an NBA MVP being selected from a team that wasn't at least 10 games over the .500 mark, but Curry has shot his way into serious consideration.

He's averaging 31.4 points on 49% shooting this season; the only other season in which he averaged more than 30 points was 2015-16, when he averaged 30.1 on 50% shooting — and was the unanimous MVP.



Matt Slocum/AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry reacts after making a 3-pointer against the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday in Philadelphia.

Those Warriors were 73-9. These Warriors are 29-29. That's the big difference, the biggest reason why Curry isn't even more prevalent in the MVP talks.

"He's never played any better, that's for sure," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's been incredible to watch."

Bob Pettit and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar are the only players to win MVP awards on teams that had winning percentages below .500. The award typically

goes to the best player on a team that finishes high in the standings, not one that'll likely have to scratch and claw just to make the postseason.

That said, these are not typical times. "Steph Curry left no doubt about who the real MVP is tonight!" Magic Johnson tweeted on Monday, when Curry had 49 points to lead Golden State past Philadelphia.

See **Curry** / A6

SOCCER | SUPER LEAGUE COLLAPSE

English clubs withdraw, dooming competition

BY ROB HARRIS

AP Global Soccer Writer

LONDON — The Super League collapsed before a ball was kicked in the European breakaway competition after being abandoned by the six English clubs, leaving the Spanish and Italian participants stranded.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City and Tottenham throughout Tuesday evening deserted the proposal to launch a largely-closed midweek competition amid an escalating backlash from their supporters and warnings from the British government that legislation could be introduced to thwart it.

The Super League project was overseen by Real Madrid President Florentino Perez, who also signed up Barcelona and Atlético Madrid in Spain, and Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan from Italy. The rival for the UEFA-run Champions League became unviable without the six clubs from the world's richest league.

The remaining fledgling Super League organization was defiant, blaming "pressure" being applied for forcing out the English clubs and insisting the proposal complied with the law and could yet be revived.

"Given the current circumstances," the Super League said in a statement, "we shall reconsider the most appropriate steps to reshape the project, always having in mind our goals of offering fans the best experience possible while enhancing solidarity payments for the entire football community."

The English clubs heeded the appeals from UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin to remain part of the Champions League, which has a qualification criteria based on a team's performance in the domestic league.

"I said yesterday that it is admirable to admit a mistake and these clubs made a big mistake," he said. "But they are back in the fold now and I know they have a lot to offer not just to our competitions but to the whole of the European game."

"The important thing now is that we move on, rebuild the unity that the game enjoyed before this and move forward together."

As it became clear Chelsea and City were quitting the Super League on Tuesday evening, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and his teammates posted a message advocating staying within the open European competitions.

Liverpool, which is owned by the Boston Red Sox investment group, eventually issued a statement thanking those inside and outside the club for "valuable contributions" before making the decision to stick within existing structures.

Manchester United defender Luke Shaw also went against his club by tweeting his backing of the existing Champions League minutes before his club's about-turn.

"We have listened carefully to the reaction from our fans, the UK government and other key stakeholders," said the club owned by the American Glazer



Frank Augstein/AP

Chelsea fans protest against the team's decision to be included among the clubs attempting to form a new European Super League before a Premier League match between Chelsea and Brighton and Hove Albion in London on Tuesday.

family and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. "We remain committed to working with others across the football community to come up with sustainable solutions to the long-term challenges facing the game."

Just as the Glazers also own the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Stan Kroenke has the NFL's Los Angeles Rams in his portfolio along with Arsenal. It is the closed models of American sports that were believed to be so appealing to the U.S. owners by offering financial certainty.

But they were resisted by fans of English clubs.

"It was never our intention to cause such distress, however, when the invitation to join the Super League came, while knowing there were no guarantees, we did not want to be left behind to ensure we protected Arsenal and its future," the north London club said. "As a result of listening to you and the wider football community over recent days we are withdrawing from the proposed Super League. We made a mistake, and we apologize for it."