

WCL BASEBALL

Springfield team joining in 2022

The West Coast League on Thursday announced the addition of the expansion Springfield Drifters as the league's 16th member team, beginning in 2022.

The Drifters will join the Bend Elks, Corvallis Knights, and Portland Pickles as the WCL's fourth Oregon-based team in the summer college wood-bat league.

The Drifters, Bushnell University, and Huddle Up Foundation comprise the Springfield Baseball Project, which is partnering with Springfield Public Schools to renovate the Hamlin Sports Complex baseball field, located at Hamlin Middle School. Beginning in 2022, both the Drifters and the Bushnell Beacons will call the Hamlin Sports Complex home in their inaugural seasons.

The Drifters join the Edmonton Riverhawks, Kamloops NorthPaws and Nanaimo NightOwls as the four expansion teams set to begin play in 2022. Edmonton, Kamloops and Nanaimo, along with the Victoria HarbourCats and Kelowna Falcons, are gearing up for the 2022 campaign after withdrawing from the 2021 season due to continuing pandemic-related border and gathering limitations.

The Bend Elks are scheduled to open the 2021 season on June 3 against NW Star Academy at Vince Genna Stadium in Bend. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

—Bulletin staff report

GOLF

Bulletin invites calendar items

The Bulletin is assembling a golf calendar for the 2021 edition of our annual Central Oregon golf guide. The guide will be published later this spring.

Those who wish to have information included in the calendar — including dates for clinics and classes, public leagues, and other tournaments and events — are encouraged to submit that information by April 30 to The Bulletin (sports@bendbulletin.com).

—Bulletin staff report

TRACK & FIELD

Tickets for Trials at Hayward in doubt

The organizing committee for the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials from June 18 to 27 at Hayward Field has determined that the tickets held by existing customers cannot be fulfilled.

All customers with tickets will receive a refund, and a revised ticketing program with an updated seat inventory that is compliant with new regulations amid the COVID-19 pandemic will be announced in May.

"We are confident that some number of spectators will be able to attend the event if regulations allow," TrackTown USA CEO Michael Reilly said in a news release. "Unfortunately, we now know that we won't be able to both comply with important public health regulations and fulfill the tickets that already have been sold."

The organizing committee will contact customers who have already bought tickets with details of the refund policies and procedures.

—The Oregonian

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Finally time for track

An 800-meter school record and masks at forefront of first meet at Summit in 2 years

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

It had been nearly two years since a high school track and field meet was held at Summit High.

On a blue-sky, windless spring afternoon Wednesday, the program with 17 state titles hosted its first meet since the Mountain Valley Conference Championships in May 2019. The meet included smaller schools Sisters, Gilchrist and Paisley.

"We had a lot of victories today," said Summit coach Dave Turnbull. "I don't think we are going to see a ton of incredible marks, but I am just excited for all of the kids to have a great experience."

Perhaps no other event brought as much intrigue as the girls 800 meters. There was a runner who had Turnbull and a couple of assistants dancing after a shattered school record, as well as possible safety issues for runners, who are still required to wear masks when competing.

A couple of meters from the finish line of the 800 and with everyone else in the race in her wake, Maggie Wil-



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Summit's Ava Carry-McDonald, from left, Morgan Powell and Avery Malace compete in the 100-meter hurdles Wednesday at Summit High.

liams began to fall.

She was parallel to the track before skidding across the finish line in a time of 2 minutes, 8.45 seconds.

"I was pushing so hard and everything went blurry and I just fell," said the junior speedster. "But luckily I fell at the right spot and crossed the line with my head."

Once she regained consciousness, surrounded by coaches and nearby teammates cheering her on, she said she was a little scared to be waking up on the ground. But her attention quickly returned to her time and where it placed her in Summit's storied record books.

It was the fastest time in school history, breaking Izzy Max's 2019 record of 2:10.54. It is currently the fastest time in Oregon this year, as well as the fourth-fastest high school time recorded in the country.

"I really wanted to know if I had

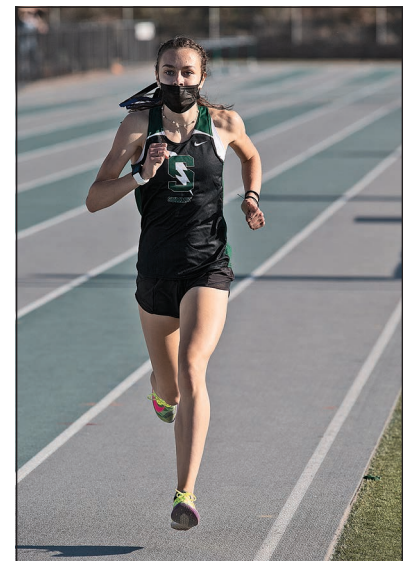
broken it," Williams said. "I was so excited when I found out. When I joined the program Izzy Max was a role model to me in the 800. This year Turnbull said I could break it so that has been my goal."

While thrilled to see a record broken, Turnbull was also fixated on freshman Karsyn Walton, a freshman who was bringing up the rear of the race in her first ever high school track meet.

"I'm equally proud of Karsyn," Turnbull said. "Those are the victories ... you have a freshman who hasn't done track in years and wants to try the 800, which is the hardest event. But she comes out and does it. Kids can move people, and I saw a lot of kids moving people today."

Wednesday's meet also brought to light the issue of wearing masks while running.

See Prep Track / B5



Courtesy Jon Tapper

Summit's Maggie Williams runs in the 800 meters on her way to breaking the school record on Wednesday.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Beavers' lineup flexibility is an asset

BY JOE FREEMAN
The Oregonian

When Oregon State baseball coach Mitch Canham turned in his lineup card over the weekend before a game against California at Goss Stadium in Corvallis, it featured something it had not featured at any point in 2021:

The same nine names, in the same order, for a second time this season.

The coach who might patrol third base one game only to watch from the dugout the next, and who prides himself on keeping practices "random" with a touch of "chaos," has created the most unpredictability and curiosity with the most fundamental aspects of baseball — his lineup.

In 35 games this season, the Beavers have used 34 lineups as Canham has mixed and matched combinations at every spot in the order. Fifteen Beavers have hit eighth. Twelve have hit seventh. Nine guys have hit in the nine hole. Eight have hit second, fifth and sixth in the order. Six have hit cleanup, while five have hit leadoff and third.

The only consistency with Canham's lineup has been inconsistency.

"Random can be fine," Canham said. "There's something to be said about consistency and knowing where you're at ... but the reason the lineup is changed is you're looking for the best matchup and the best flow in the lineup. So I think

on a given day, it can always change. You're always trying to put the best lineup together to score the most runs."

Lineups almost always evolve over the course of a college baseball season as teams ride the waves of a 56-game grind. Coaches have to navigate injuries and days off, and regularly plot lineups based on pitching matchups, including whether they are facing a left-handed starter or right-handed starter.

Players ride hot streaks and work through slumps. Sometimes, when a team is in a rut, a coach simply wants to mix things up. And sometimes, when the schedule is especially demanding — the Beavers just played 17 games in 24 days, for



Leon Neuschwander/For the Oregonian/TNS file

Oregon State coach Mitch Canham has used 34 different lineups in 35 games this season as the Beavers have surged to the top of the Pac-12 Conference standings.

example — a coach needs to proactively consider the mental and physical health of his players.

Canham has changed lineups for all of these reasons — and more — over the first 35 games of the season. But at the

root of his game-by-game merry-go-round is a fundamental belief that baseball is random and unpredictable, and players need to avoid complacency so they remain mentally ready for whatever comes their way.

See Baseball / B5

NFL DRAFT

FCS draft prospects generally opted not to play this spring

BY STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

There's a common thread linking most of the Football Championship Subdivision players who expect to hear their name called in the NFL draft.

They didn't participate in their schools' pandemic-delayed spring season.

"Ultimately, it just comes down to athletes taking care of their bodies," North Dakota State offensive tackle Dillon Radunz said. "You can go out and have fun and do that, and there's a certain purity to that, but next thing you know, some guy tears his ACL in the spring, and now he misses out on the

spring season, and misses out on the fall season. Then he has to wait another whole year and a half just to play football again."

When the NCAA announced that the FCS season wouldn't start until February, it left draft prospects from those schools facing a dilemma. Do they stick with their schools for the spring season or use that time to get ready for the draft?

Most decided to start preparing for their future.

North Dakota State quarterback Trey Lance said playing a spring season wasn't feasible because of the way the schedule was designed. The FCS playoffs start Saturday, less than a week

before the draft.

"I would have had to leave my team in the middle of the season (for the draft)," Lance said. "Here at North Dakota State, we play for national championships. That's the expectation every single year. So for me, if I was going to stay in school and play, I would have stayed and played the spring and the fall as well."

Lance and Radunz will likely be the first two players drafted from non-Football Bowl Subdivision programs next week. Lance is projected as a top-10 overall pick. Radunz seems likely to get taken in the second round.

They helped North Dakota State win an FCS title in 2019, the Bison's eighth championship in nine seasons. Lance and Radunz ended their college careers by playing in North Dakota State's lone game last fall, a 39-20 victory over Central Arkansas.

Radunz noted that even if he had played a spring season and avoided injury, the move could have caused long-term drawbacks. He believed playing a full college schedule in the spring and an NFL season in the fall ultimately might have shortened his career.

"You're just playing that much football in a short period

of time, and it's just not good for a body, especially at this high level of play," Radunz said.

Here's a breakdown of some other draft prospects from schools outside the FBS ranks.

OT Spencer Brown, Northern Iowa

Brown gained nearly 100 pounds while at Northern Iowa to develop into a 6-foot-8, 311-pound prospect. Brown opted out after Northern Iowa decided to delay its football season to the spring, but he did participate in the Senior Bowl and had an impressive pro day performance.

See NFL Draft / B4