

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## OHA changes mask mandate for outdoor sports

The Oregon Health Authority has finally changed its mask rule for outdoor non-contact sports, announcing Monday that masks do not need to be worn by athletes "competing in non-contact sports outdoors and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from others and the other virus protective protocols."

The change comes less than a week after Summit's Maggie Williams' school-record-breaking 800-meter-run on Wednesday. Williams broke the Storm girls 800-meter record in 2 minutes, 8.45 seconds, while wearing a mask. She collapsed at the finish, in complete oxygen-debt, according to Summit track and field coach Dave Turnbull.

"I am concerned with the mask rule," Turnbull said after the race. "This is what I am worried about and I said this at the beginning of the season. You get a kid running the 800 with a mask on, it is actually dangerous. They don't get the oxygen that they need. This rule needs to change."

Summit cross-country coach Kari Strang called for a change to the mask rule for distance runners at the start of the cross-country season in early March. But OHA did not act until long after the cross-country season had ended and the track season was in full swing, four days after Williams' record-breaking effort and subsequent collapse were reported by The Bulletin.

—Bulletin staff report

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Ducks' Mikesell enters portal

Oregon women's basketball is losing its most veteran player — again.

Taylor Mikesell, who averaged 9.3 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 24.9 minutes over 24 games with 20 starts this season, has entered the transfer portal, according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

Mikesell, who has two years of eligibility remaining, came to UO last summer from Maryland.

She shot 44.4% from the field, including 33.3% from three-point range, and a team-high 92.5% from the foul line.

The Massillon, Ohio native is the third player to transfer from the Ducks this offseason, joining fellow guards Taylor Chavez and Jaz Shelley, who left for Arizona and Nebraska, respectively, earlier this month.

Mikesell's departure leaves Oregon with eight returning scholarship players and two incoming signees, including four guards.

Kelly Graves was not planning to pursue a transfer this offseason but is now expecting to add a via the portal, as the Ducks return Te-Hina Paopao, Sydney Parrish and Maddie Scherr and add freshman Taylor Bigby at guard.

—The Oregonian

## NBA | Playoff push

## 'WE NEED TO PLAY WITH DESPERATION'

Trail Blazers' season — and playoff hopes — unraveling after fifth-straight loss



Craig Mitchell/Idyer/AP

Portland Trail Blazers forward Norman Powell, center, shoots between Memphis Grizzlies center Xavier Tillman, left, and forward Brandon Clarke during the first half on Sunday in Portland. Memphis won 120-113. It was the fifth loss in a row for Portland.

BY AARON FENTRESS

The Oregonian

The Portland Trail Blazers season is circling down the drain at an alarming rate with no end in sight.

The Blazers fell 120-113 to Memphis on Sunday two days after losing 130-128 to these same Grizzlies, who clearly looked more athletic and hungrier than the Blazers.

The result is that seventh-place Portland (32-28) is now just a half game ahead of the eighth-place Grizzlies (31-28) in the Western Conference standings and the two teams will meet again on Wednesday in Memphis.

Sixth-place Dallas (33-26) now has a 1

1/2 game lead on the Blazers, who have lost five in a row and 10 out of 13 with 12 games remaining. Four of the team's last six losses have come by two points or less, offering a glimmer of hope that maybe the team can turn things around before it finds itself in 10th place and having to go on the road in the play-in round.

"I think we're a little frustrated right now," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "You look at some of these games, the one-point losses. I don't think we were out of sorts against Boston or against San Antonio, or Denver or the (Los Angeles) Clippers, so I think recently we've been playing good basketball and came up short in some close games."

True, but that's little consolation considering that the losses are piling up at an alarming rate for a team that on March 31 was 29-18. Making matters worse, the Blazers are 5-14 this season against the teams they will face in their final 12 games.

When asked if frustration has turned into desperation, Stotts said: "We're getting close. We need to play with a sense of desperation. There's no question. I think we're better when we play like that. But, at this stage of the season with 12 games left and looking at the standings, there has to be a certain measure of desperation when you play, and that's not necessarily a bad thing."

See Trail Blazers / A8

## NFL DRAFT

## With just 3 picks, Seattle hopes to produce late-round magic

BY GEOFFREY C. ARNOLD

The Oregonian

The Seattle Seahawks have unearthed a number of solid players during the late rounds of recent NFL drafts. They'll be challenged to find those type of players again as they enter their most unusual draft in team history.

The Seahawks currently have just three picks in the 2021 NFL draft, which begins Thursday. They have picks in the second round (No. 56), fourth round (No. 129) and seventh round (No. 250). The three picks are the fewest for the Seahawks in a draft since 1994. The Seahawks' paltry number is the fewest for any team in the 2021 draft and the fewest for any team in the draft since 2009.

The Seahawks find themselves in this position after making trades during the past season and current offseason to acquire established players in exchange for draft picks.

The Seahawks sent their first and third-round picks in the 2021 NFL Draft to the New York Jets in exchange for safety Jamal Adams in July. They shipped their fifth-round pick to the Las Vegas Raiders in exchange for guard Gabe Jackson in March and they traded their sixth-round pick in the 2021 draft to the Miami Dolphins in exchange for a seventh-round selection in the 2020 NFL draft.



Wilfredo Lee/AP file

Seattle Seahawks running back Chris Carson runs the ball against the Miami Dolphins in Miami Gardens, Florida, in October. Carson was a seventh-round pick (No. 249), just five picks from being "Mr. Irrelevant," the final selection of the 2017 draft.

The Seahawks' last three first-round picks have been in the mid-to-late 20s overall. Under head coach Pete Carroll and general manager John Schneider, their highest first round pick was Bruce Irvin at No. 15 in the 2012 draft.

Selecting players late in the first round is always a gamble, and it's even more of a guessing game in 2021. NFL decision-makers must choose players without the benefit of the NFL scouting combine or in-person workouts and conduct

virtual interviews because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Carroll and Schneider have managed to draft good players in the late rounds in the past.

Defensive back Ugo Amadi, a fourth-round pick (No. 132) in the 2019 NFL draft, has appeared in 30 games with five starts in the past two seasons. Travis Homer has become a valuable special teams player and backup running back after being a sixth-round pick (No. 204) in 2019.

See Seahawks / A8

## TOKYO GAMES

## More tests, no quarantine in updated rules for Olympics

BY STEPHEN WADE

Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo Olympic organizers and the IOC are to unveil new plans this week to explain how 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes can compete in Japan when the games open in three months in the midst of a pandemic.

The rollout of the second edition of the "Playbooks" — an IOC guidebook explaining how the games can be pulled off — comes as Tokyo, Osaka and several other areas have been placed under a third state of emergency as coronavirus cases surge.

Japan, which has attributed about 10,000 deaths to COVID-19, has also been slow with local vaccination with about 1% so far getting shots.

Organizers are expected to announce daily testing for athletes. They are also expected to drop a 14-day quarantine requirement, allowing athletes to train when they arrive. Athletes will be required to stay within a "bubble" consisting of the Olympic Village on Tokyo Bay, and venues and training areas.

Japan's Kyodo news agency, citing unnamed sources, said athletes and staff will have to be tested twice within 96 hours before leaving home. They will also be tested upon arrival in Japan.

See Olympics / A8