

SPORTS

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MLS

Fans allowed for Timbers-Sounders

The Portland Timbers are coming off a loss to Club América in CONCACAF Champions League play, and Sunday's game against the archrival Seattle Sounders will be their fifth match in 16 days.

Two of the Timbers' designated players, Sebastian Blanco (thigh strain) and Jaroslav Niezgodá (ACL recovery), and top goalkeeper Steve Clark (thigh strain) remain out with injuries.

It might not sound like the best recipe for a strong performance in a rivalry match, but Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said he likes how the schedule lines up for his team.

"I'm happy that we play them right now, coming out from the CCL, because I think we need to put that behind, and what better game than against Seattle to make sure that we concentrate on what is coming now in front of us," Savarese said.

What's in front of the Timbers (1-0-2, 3 points) for their match at noon Sunday (TV on ABC) is an unbeaten Sounders team. A week ago, it looked as though the rivalry match would be played without fans. But that changed Wednesday when Oregon Gov. Kate Brown eased COVID-19 restrictions across the state and dropped Multnomah County from extreme risk to high risk starting Friday. The move allowed the Timbers to host fans at 15% capacity, or about 3,800 fans, at the 25,000-seat Providence Park, as they have for three other matches this season.

"Having the fans in Providence Park is how it should be, and the environment in Providence Park when the fans are cheering and everything's rocking, as players it's what you dream about as a kid," Attinella said.

It will be the first time fans will be in the stands for a Timbers-Sounders match since August 2019, and Savarese said their presence adds to an already intense rivalry.

—The Oregonian

NHL

Protocols relaxed for some teams

Just in time for the playoffs, the NHL is relaxing virus protocols for teams that reach a vaccination threshold.

The changes take effect once 85% or more of the traveling party has been fully vaccinated, the league announced Saturday.

The changes include loosened restrictions on indoor and outdoor dining, testing frequency and mask-wearing and quarantine requirements.

Under the new regulations, fully vaccinated individuals can dine outdoors or inside (in a private section or room with masked servers), visit each other's hotel rooms and have other social gatherings without masking or distancing requirements.

The NHL is the last of the major four North American pro sports leagues to announce plans to relax virus protocols for teams based on vaccination levels. As of Friday, five of Major League Baseball's 30 teams had reached the 85% vaccinated level to relax protocols.

—Associated Press

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Speedy sprinter

Ridgeview Ravens freshman Kensey Gault is undefeated so far this season

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

SISTERS —

At a middle school track meet in 2019, a young sprinter caught the eye of Ridgeview track and field coach Mark Conrad.

Her strides were smooth, her running style efficient. Best of all, the seventh-grader, Kensey Gault, was fast. Really fast.

Then came 2020 when COVID-19 canceled the track and field season and the future Raven sprinter faded from the coach's mind.

"She had the mechanics," Conrad said. "All that stuff that goes into making a fast runner. Then, basically, I forgot about her until we had the fall season."

When sports resumed last fall and Conrad watched Gault race, he quickly realized he may have one of the state's better sprinters in his pro-



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Ridgeview High School's Kensey Gault, center, competes in the 100-meter dash at Sisters High School on Friday.

"(Gault) has been off to a good start. It is too bad that the season is on the short side. These kids are just getting into the swing of things and now it is almost over. But she has had a great start to the season."

—Mark Conrad, Ridgeview track and field coach

gram for the next four years. Since Gault began racing this spring, winning everything she entered, Conrad's hunch seems real.

"She has been off to a good start. It is too bad that the season is on the short side," said Conrad. "These kids are just getting into the swing of things and now it is almost over. But she has had a great start to the season."

As a freshman, Gault is near the top of the Class 5A leaderboard in four different events.

As of Friday evening, her time of 15.93 seconds in the 100 meter hurdles at Mountain View High on April 28, is the fastest time of all 5A girls hurdlers. She has the third fastest 100 meter time (12.45), and the fifth fastest 200 meter and 300 meter hurdle

times in the state.

Even for a runner who has routinely won races since sixth grade, when she started running track, the early success is a bit surreal for the freshman sprinter.

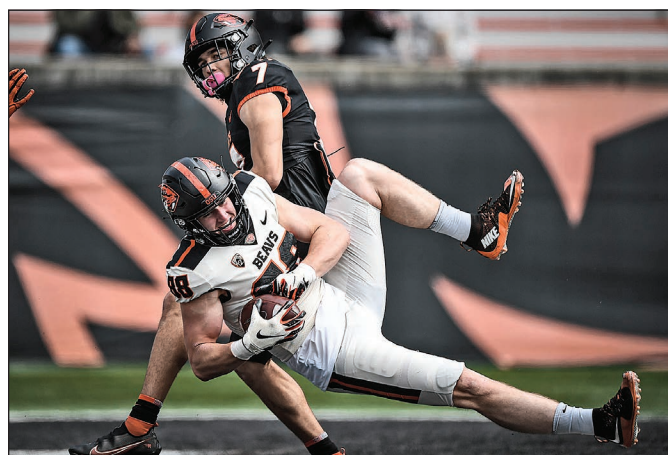
"It feels really good," said Gault. "I didn't think I would be this far up the rankings, so this year is kind of a surprise."

Racing Friday on the track at Sisters High School, Gault won the 100 (13.01) and the 200 meter (26.71) dashes, and was part of the winning 4x100 meter relay team, keeping her season unblemished.

See Gault / B2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Beavers wrap up spring practice with fans in stands



Karl Maasdam/OSU Athletics

Oregon State tight end Luke Musgrave (88), a graduate of Bend High, catches a pass in front of defensive back Alton Julian (7), during the Beavers' spring scrimmage on Saturday at Reser Stadium in Corvallis.

BY NICK DASCHER

The Oregonian

CORVALLIS — A father and son threw the football to one another in Reser Stadium's parking lot.

Several long lines of people wearing in Oregon State athletic gear waited outside of Reser's East gates to open.

A group of students ran across 26th St. on the way to the stadium yelling "Ohhhhh-Esssssss-You ... Oregon State fight, fight, fight!"

College football took another step Saturday morning toward becoming whole again at Oregon State. For the first time since the pandemic struck 14

months ago, fans were allowed to watch Beaver football do something in Reser Stadium.

It wasn't close to a traditional spring practice-ending scrimmage. Coach Jonathan Smith consistently referred to the 65-minute workout as a "showcase."

With more than a dozen players out due to COVID-19 protocol and others sidelined with minor injuries, the Beavers were limited as to what they could do Saturday.

The "showcase" highlights were five offensive series in the red zone, and defensive tackle Isaac Hodgins proposing to his girlfriend Taylor Lawson at

midfield. Take your pick.

Oh, and fans. A few thousand, maybe 3,000, sat in Reser Stadium's seats for the first time since the 2019 football season. Combined with the band and cheerleaders, it gave the Beavers a taste of what they missed in 2020, and what to expect this fall.

"It felt so much better, even having those limited fans," said tight end Luke Musgrave, a graduate of Bend High, who caught Saturday's lone touchdown. "We were all really happy to have them out there. The energy was noticeably higher with those fans."

See Beavers / B3

NWSL | CHALLENGE CUP

Thorns claim Cup after penalty shootout with Gotham FC

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Morgan Weaver buried her penalty kick after Portland goalkeeper Adrianna Franch stopped Nahomi Kawasumi's attempt and the Thorns won the Challenge Cup tournament on a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw with Gotham on Saturday.

The Thorns did not drop a match in the National Women's Soccer League preseason tournament. Following the seven-round shootout, the fans at Providence Park chanted "A-D, A-D," Franch's nickname.

"Everybody did what they needed to do to put ourselves in a good position for me to make one save, and then we brought it home," Franch said. "But it comes way before that. If we don't score a goal in this

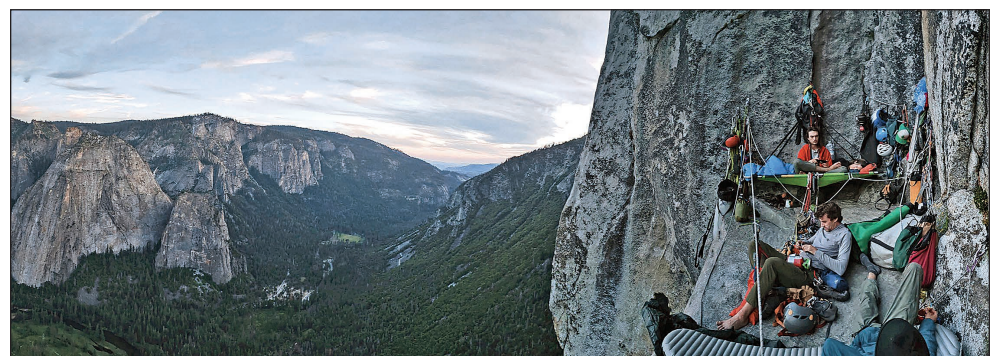
game, we're not taking PKs, if we don't keep them off the board any more than one, we're not taking PKs."

Gotham, previously known as Sky Blue before an offseason rebrand, won a pair of group-stage games, including a 4-3 victory over the North Carolina Courage.

"We weren't able to possess as we wanted to. Credit to the Thorns for putting us under pressure," Gotham coach Freya Combe said. "We weren't quite firing on all cylinders until the second half. So it turned into a bit more of a counter-attacking game. But I think it's good that we've got those tools in our armory with the pace that we've got in our front line, that we can vary up our game a little bit."

See Thorns / B3

CLIMBING



National Park Service via AP

Climbers camp on a big wall on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, California. The park said Friday it would require climbers to get permits if they spend the night while climbing the granite walls of El Capitan, Half Dome and other iconic granite features.

Yosemite climbers face new obstacle: Overnight permits

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Climbing El Capitan and the famous big walls of Yosemite National Park got a bit harder Friday.

The park added red tape to cut through before climbers can begin the physically grueling and mentally demanding feat of inching up vertical granite walls that take days to

conquer and require spending the night suspended on tiny platforms hundreds or thousands of feet above Yosemite Valley.

See Yosemite / B3