

SPORTS

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**INSIDE TODAY'S
EDITION** » 24-PAGE
GOLF PREVIEW

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**PREP
TRACK & FIELD**
**Area athletes
claim 8 state titles**

State track and field meets were held across the state on Friday and Saturday, and Central Oregon athletes brought home eight individual titles.

Summit's Kohana Nakato won the girls javelin with a heave of 155 feet, 1 inch, to help lead the Storm girls to a third-place finish at the 6A Track and Field Showcase in Oregon City.

It was a hurdles sweep for Ridgeview at the 5A Invitational in Wilsonville. Senior Cody Gehrett won both the 110-meter hurdles (14.60 seconds) and the 300-meter hurdles (39.00) to lead the Ravens to a third-place team finish. Likewise, freshman Kensey Gault won both hurdles events with a 15.40 in the 100 hurdles and a 46.12 in the 300 hurdles. With a time of 51.11 seconds, Jeremiah Schwartz won the boys 400 meters, giving Ridgeview five total state winners on the weekend.

Also at the 5A Invitational, Crook County's Marjorie Hutchins won the triple jump with a mark of 35-00.5.

Sisters' Ethan Hosang won the 3,000 meters at the 4A State Track and Field Championships in Florence, finishing with a time of 8:44.39.

Central Oregon had six teams finish in the top 10 in team scores in their respective classifications. Summit girls (62) and Ridgeview boys (50) each finished third to boast the highest placings among area teams.

Crook County girls finished with 30 points, good for sixth at the 5A meet, and Ridgeview was eighth with 28 points. In the 4A state meet, Sisters boys finished fifth with 40 points, while the girls finished sixth with 33 points.

— Bulletin staff report

NBA
**Vaccinated coaches
are able to unmask**

Just in time for the playoffs, the NBA told its head coaches Saturday they may work without masks during games if they have been fully vaccinated.

Assistant coaches and players are still required to wear masks in the bench area. Head coaches — if vaccinated — may choose to go without masks after pre-game introductions through halftime, then again after halftime until the game concludes.

The memo, sent Saturday just a few hours before the postseason opener between Miami and Milwaukee and obtained by The Associated Press, also said that head coaches will have to wear masks during halftime, during warmups and shootaround before the start of the third quarter and postgame. If opposing coaches choose to meet briefly on the court after a game, masks are encouraged.

Coaches will still need to participate in the NBA's testing regimens, the league said.

Meanwhile, for the playoffs, the NBA is going to see its largest crowds of the season. While many arenas have begun expanding capacity, the NBA hasn't ruled out the possibility of arenas returning to 100% capacity for the NBA Finals in July.

— Associated Press

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ravens rolling

Ridgeview caps off first week of 'winter' season with a pair of wins

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

REDMOND —

Friday night's game between Ridgeview and Summit girls basketball teams started not with a tipoff, but with Summit passing the ball in to start the game — a sight as strange as starting a shortened winter sports season weeks before Memorial Day.

While certain aspects of life prior to COVID-19 are trending toward normalcy, the effect of the pandemic on high school sports has taken a toll.

See Ravens / B3



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin photos

Ridgeview High School's Paige Pentzer (30) attempts to dribble around Summit High School's Whitney West (24) during the first quarter at Ridgeview on Friday night.



Summit High School's Sam Coronado (23) drives to the basket during the third quarter against Ridgeview High School on Friday night.

MOTOR SPORTS | NASCAR CUP SERIES

Elliott still chasing 1st win of season in Texas

BY JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — NASCAR is set to race the Circuit of the Americas for the first time and all eyes are on both Chase Elliott and an unsettling weather forecast of rain that could make the inaugural Texas Grand Prix a wild one.

INSIDE

• Penske drivers struggle with speed at Indy 500 qualifying, **B6**

Elliott, NASCAR's defending champion and most popular driver, will start Sunday as the favorite given his career mastery of road courses. And he needs a win. NASCAR's season of parity has so far produced 10 winners through 13 races but none for Elliott.

Elliott's been close with five



Chuck Burton/AP

Chase Elliott prepares for practice for Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, on Saturday.

top-five finishes and he was runner-up at the Daytona 500 and at Martinsville. He led a race-high 44 laps on the road

course at Daytona but a late yellow flag ruined his chance at victory.

It may not be time to worry

about Elliott's season, but his Hendrick Motorsports teammates have all been to victory lane this year.

Kyle Larson and William Byron have one win each, while Alex Bowman's victory last week was his second of the season.

"I'm not one to guarantee things in my life," Elliott said when asked this week if he'd expected to win by now. "We all want to win as a team. I want to win as much as anyone else. But we haven't and that's really the bottom line."

In normal conditions, Elliott should feel as comfortable as anyone on a new track. His five career road course wins are the most among active drivers and he's won four of the last five outings on road tracks.

See NASCAR / B6

MLB COMMENTARY

Judging the Mariners on vaccination progress

BY LARRY STONE

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — As a grim-looking Scott Servais said numerous times Friday in his pregame Zoom session, the decision by Mariners' players to get vaccinated or not is a personal choice.

That is indeed true — and the Major League Baseball Players Association was so adamant on that point that they insisted vaccination not be made mandatory. Union chief Tony Clark has said they did so at the strong behest of players as expressed via polling.

So, yes, players have the right to do what they want and what they feel is best. That includes rejecting the vaccine that is now readily available across the country, and which medical experts agree gives us our best chance of eradicating COVID-19 and returning to normal life.

Their beliefs are their beliefs. But I have the right to point out my belief that such a decision is misguided, shortsighted and potentially dangerous to others. Frankly, it smacks of selfishness.

Fans have the right to be upset that the already-struggling Mariners will now be short-handed for an indeterminate time with Friday's unsettling news: Four relievers were placed on the injured list due to a positive COVID-19 test within the ballclub and the subsequent contact tracing. Results of further COVID-19 testing will be available Saturday, meaning more fallout could be forthcoming.

See Mariners / B3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Alex Forsyth leads Ducks' offensive line on and off the field

BY JAMES CREPEA

The Oregonian

With spring practice over, The Oregonian is reviewing Oregon's depth chart position by position. We continue the series by looking at the centers.

Centers are typically the leaders on the offensive line and Alex Forsyth is no different.

The fifth-year junior was already taking on that role when he worked with the second team in 2019, waiting along with most of the other eventual starters in 2020 behind more experienced players, most of whom made it to the NFL.

Forsyth took over as the starter in the spring of 2020 and hasn't looked back.

He makes the protection calls up front for a group that allowed 11 sacks over seven games, which ranked 29th nationally. Considering Oregon's entire line was new starters, that's an impressive debut albeit in a shortened season.

See Ducks / B3