

SPORTS

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COLLEGE SPORTS

OSU projects a budget deficit

CORVALLIS — The pandemic is slowly loosening its grip on Oregon State athletics, but another year that includes some belt-tightening is ahead.

Athletic director Scott Barnes said the school ends its 2021 budget year on June 30 with a deficit of about \$33 million, down from a projected \$35 million. The picture brightened in recent months with improved conference revenue, OSU baseball was allowed to sell some tickets for home games, and a few unexpected cost reductions.

A new budget year begins July 1, with a far better outlook on revenue, driven by football. Barnes is forecasting a deficit of \$15-17 million for the upcoming year, but that is assuming Reser Stadium at 50% capacity. It is likely, based on what Gov. Kate Brown has said in recent weeks, that OSU will be able to sell every seat for home games this season.

Next year's budget also includes full salaries for athletic department employees and coaches. Last year, OSU cut 23 positions from the department, with remaining employees taking a salary reduction. Coaches gave up their contract bonuses last year.

Barnes does not expect to have a deficit from the 2023 budget that begins July of 2022.

Oregon State's most prominent financial item for the upcoming school year is the start of Reser Stadium's west side renovation. Barnes said the project is on track to begin tear-down when the final 2021 home game is completed.

—The Oregonian

TENNIS

Osaka, Nadal not playing Wimbledon

Rafael Nadal and Naomi Osaka are sitting out Wimbledon, leaving the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament without two of the sport's biggest stars as it returns after being canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Nadal, a two-time champion at the All England Club, announced via a series of social media posts Thursday that he would also miss the Tokyo Olympics to rest and recover "after listening to my body."

Osaka's agent, Stuart Duguid, said Thursday in an email that the four-time Grand Slam champion does plan to head to the Summer Games after skipping Wimbledon.

"She is taking some personal time with friends and family," Duguid wrote. "She will be ready for the Olympics."

Last month, Osaka was fined \$15,000 when she didn't speak to reporters after her first-round victory at the French Open. The next day, Osaka pulled out of the tournament entirely, saying she experiences "huge waves of anxiety" before meeting with the media and revealing she has "suffered long bouts of depression."

In a statement at the time, she said she would "take some time away from the court now, but when the time is right I really want to work with the Tour to discuss ways we can make things better for the players, press and fans."

—Associated Press

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cougars' defense shows up

Mountain View holds off Summit to end a short, packed season

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

Several weeks ago, Mountain View coach Megan Dickerson was hoping that her squad would figure out what kind of defensive team it wanted to be down the final stretch of the season.

In the final half of the final game of the shortened girls basketball season played in late spring, the Cougars put on a defensive clinic Wednesday night to close their season with a 42-38 win at cross-town rival Summit.

INSIDE

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"I felt like we played it really smart," Dickerson said. "I thought it went beyond the physical ability to fly around, but also using our heads and playing smart. We boxed out and rebounded, which was one of our weaknesses, and we did well limiting them to one shot at most possessions."

Trailing 20-19 at halftime, the Cougars held the Storm to just two points in the entire third quarter.

"It started on defense," said Mountain View's Julia Towle, who scored a game-high 17 points. "Communicating brought a lot of energy, which translated into offense. I think we were mentally in this game. We really wanted this win."

Towle, coming off an injured ankle, carried the Cougars' offense in the first half, as the 6-foot senior scored 11 of their 19 points in the half.

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Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Mountain View's Julia Towle (22) shoots around Summit's Healy Bledsoe (15) during the third quarter Wednesday night at Summit High School.

GOLF | U.S. OPEN



Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP

Matthew Wolff plays a shot from a bunker on the 11th hole during the first round of the U.S. Open on Thursday at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

For Matthew Wolff, being happy is the ultimate goal

BY TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

SAN DIEGO — The opening tee shot was frightening, and the three straight three-putts maddening. Matthew Wolff had no idea how things would play out Thursday in a roller coaster of a round at Torrey Pines, but he was pretty sure of one thing.

He was going to finish with a smile on his face. Because 18 holes into the U.S. Open, Wolff was already feeling like a winner.

"No matter what happened today — the score that I shot — I just have been having fun," the former Oklahoma State star said, pausing before adding: "And I haven't had fun out here in quite a while."

So little fun that Wolff was questioning his career before

it even had a chance to really take off. So little fun — including a disqualification at the Masters — that he walked away from golf for two months to try and get his head together.

Wolff wants to win the Open, yes, just like any player in the field. But what he wants most is to simply be happy — a word he repeated over and over again as he spoke candidly about the pressures of being on the big stage at the age of 22.

Playing golf for a living isn't nearly as easy as it looks, even for one of the top young talents in the game.

"Unless you're actually a professional athlete or playing a sport, you just don't know the emotions that come along with it," he said. "It's just a lot. And it's really hard."

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TRACK AND FIELD

Chances fade for banned runner to race at Olympic trials

BY EDDIE PELLIS AND PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writers

EUGENE — The odds of banned runner Shelby Houlihan running at the U.S. Olympic trials diminished sharply late Thursday when the country's Olympic committee said it would follow all antidoping rules and USA Track and Field received long-awaited official notice of her suspension.

The developments capped a whirlwind day that began with USATF saying it would not bar the American record-holder at 1,500 and 5,000 meters from running in Friday's preliminary heats until she had exhausted every appeal.

USATF stood by that premise at the end of the day, as well, but said it was comfortable taking Houlihan off the start lists since it had received official word from the Athletics Integrity Unit, which conducted the test that led to the suspension, that Houlihan had been banned for four years.

"Process is important, particularly when individuals' careers and lives are at stake," USATF CEO Max Siegel said. "The letter from the AIU, received tonight, formally notifying us of the consequences of the decision is welcomed and, in line with our processes, we will act accordingly."

Earlier this week, the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld Houlihan's



Tim Ireland/AP file

Shelby Houlihan, right, reacts after finishing a women's 5,000-meter heat during the World Athletics Championships in London in 2017. The odds of the banned runner participating in the U.S. Olympic trials in Eugene diminished Thursday after there had been some discussion about her ability to race while appeals are pending.

four-year ban for testing positive for trace amounts of the performance enhancer nandrolone.

She blamed her positive test on a pork burrito she ate 10 hours before a test in December. Contaminated meats have led to positive tests in other cases, many of which have been dismissed. But Houlihan did not receive any leniency, and her ban would keep her out of the upcoming Olympics and the 2024 Games.

There remains a sliver of hope for Houlihan, but it is very slim. The 28-year-old would have to appeal to and receive fast-track relief from Switzerland's highest federal court to conceivably be put

back in the races.

Her representatives remained quiet about their plans.

But victories in sports cases at the Swiss tribunal are extremely rare, and barring that sort of last-minute reprieve, Houlihan is considered suspended and ineligible to race under international antidoping rules.

"The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, together with USATF, can confirm that we will adhere to the (international antidoping) code and any CAS decisions that govern athlete participation in sanctioned events," USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland said late Thursday.

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