

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

**Murphy wins 800 in huge upset**

EUGENE — Clayton Murphy won the 800 meters at the U.S. Olympic trials to lead a field that will not include the reigning world champion Donavan Brazier.

Murphy, the bronze medalist at the Rio Games, finished in 1 minute, 43.17 seconds. Isaiah Jewett and Bryce Hoppel grabbed the other two spots.

Brazier, who won world championships two years ago in Doha and was considered a favorite in this race, came in eighth.

It was the second big upset at the trials in the span of 10 minutes, coming on the heels of Jenny Simpson's 10th-place finish in the women's 1,500.

It was 94 degrees at Hayward Field when the starting gun went off. An NBC thermometer on the track showed the mercury pushing 120.

Also on Monday at the Olympic trials:

Elise Cranny used a late kick to pull away for the win the women's 5,000 meters and make her first Olympic team.

Joining her in Tokyo will be Karissa Schweizer and Rachel Schneider.

Cranny, who went to college at Stanford after winning state titles as a high schooler in Colorado, finished in a season-best 15 minutes, 27.81 seconds.

Chris Nilsen was a surprise winner in the pole vault, edging two-time world champion Sam Kendrick.

The 23-year-old Nilsen cleared 19 feet, 4¼ inches to earn a spot at the Tokyo Games. He held off Kendrick and KC Lightfoot, who tied for second after both missed three times at Nilsen's height.

Kendricks captured the bronze medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. He also won the world title in 2017 and '19.

Curtis Thompson captured the javelin title.

Thompson's top throw was 271 feet, 7 inches (82.78 meters) to beat runner-up Michael Shuey, whose top throw was 260 (79.24). Riley Dolezal finished third with a throw of 252-10 (77.07).

The Olympic standard in the event is 278-10 (85).

—Associated Press

## YOUTH SOCCER

**Deadline for rec soccer is July 1**

The deadline to register for the 2021 Bend Unified Recreational Soccer League (BURSL) fall season is July 1.

Jointly run by the Bend Park and Recreation District and the Bend FC Timbers, the program is open to all boys and girls in Central Oregon entering first through eighth grade in the 2021-22 school year.

Fall soccer is Bend Park and Recreation District's most popular youth sport, according to a news release. The park district is anticipating high registration numbers again this year.

Grouped by school and divided by grade, teams practice twice a week and play games on Saturdays. The league runs Sept. 7 through Oct. 30. The league also offers opportunities for adults to serve as volunteer coaches.

For more information, visit [bendparksandrec.org](http://bendparksandrec.org) or contact Rich Ekman, BPRD sports coordinator, at [rich@bendparksandrec.org](mailto:rich@bendparksandrec.org).

—Bulletin staff report

## U.S. Olympic Track &amp; Field trials

## LEGIT CONTENDER



Photos by Christopher Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Bend's Mel Lawrence (No. 4) competes in the first round of the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase on Sunday night at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene.

*After a successful prelim, Bend's Mel Lawrence is ready to run for a spot in Tokyo in the women's steeplechase finals*

BY MARK MORICAL  
The Bulletin

Emma Coburn, Courtney Frerichs and Colleen Quigley have been the fastest American women's steeplechasers over the past several years.

But Quigley is not competing at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Eugene's Hayward Field due to an injury, leaving that third Olympic spot for the Tokyo Games wide open.

Bend's Mel Lawrence hopes she can take it on Thursday in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase finals.

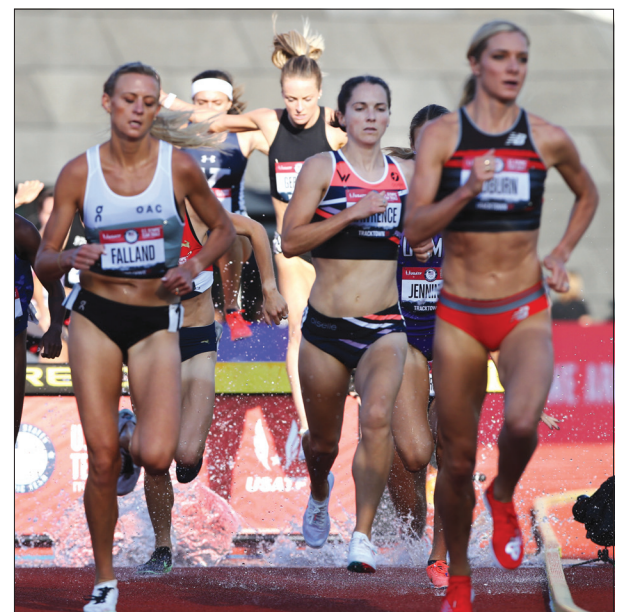
"Courtney and Emma have run 9-flat and 9:02, so they're on this step-up level," Lawrence said on Monday. "But I really think there will be five or six of us gunning for that third spot. It's gonna be intense."

Lawrence stayed with leaders Coburn and Leah Falland for much of her preliminary race on Sunday night at Hayward, easily qualifying for the finals by finishing third in her heat.

Lawrence, 31 — who runs for Littlewing Athletics in Bend and ran collegiately for Washington — finished with a time of 9:29.30. Her personal best is 9:27.34, which she will need to break to make the team for Tokyo.

"I think the final will be a lot like my prelim," Lawrence said. "I think it will be faster in the beginning, because so many steeplechasers this year have started off slow and closed hard, and a lot of athletes have shown they can do that. So I think it's gonna be something that goes out fast, and then, it's just who can hang on."

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Bend's Mel Lawrence (center) competes in the women's steeplechase on Sunday night at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Bird, Taurasi earn spots on fifth U.S. Olympic basketball team**

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi will try and become the first five-time Olympic gold medalists in basketball as they lead the U.S. women's team at the Tokyo Games.

The duo was selected for their fifth Olympics on Monday, joining Teresa Edwards as the only basketball players in U.S. history to play in five. Edwards won four gold medals and a bronze in her illustrious Olympic career.

"It's just been a tremendous journey when you think about playing for that long," Taurasi said. "We're trying to take it to the next generation. Focused on what we have to do to come home with gold. Tremendous competition like no other because of COVID, the delay of the Olympics. We're really focused on winning gold."

There have been five international basketball players to play in five Olympics: Spain's Juan Carlos Navarro, Brazil's Adriana Moises Pinto and Oscar Schmidt, Australia's Andrew Gaze and Puerto Rico's Teofilo Cruz.

The 40-year-old Bird and 39-year-old Taurasi will lead a veteran group in Japan, including 6-foot-6 Sylvia Fowles, who will be playing in her fourth Olympics. Tina Charles will be in her third while 6-8 Brittney



Jessica Hill/AP file

Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi will try to become the first five-time Olympic gold medalists in basketball as they lead the U.S. women's team at the Tokyo Games.

Griner and Breanna Stewart are back for a second time.

There will also be six newcomers to the Olympic stage led by reigning WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson. The Las Vegas Aces star helped the U.S. win the World Championship in 2018 in Spain. Others making their Olympic debuts are Skylar Diggins-Smith, Chelsea Gray, Ariel Atkins, Jewell Loyd and Napheesa

Collier.

"Happy for the roster we have. There's a great mix of very experienced players to first-time Olympians," said Dawn Staley, who will be the first Black head coach of the team. "You need a good mix especially if you're going to take care of winning a gold medal today and what the future looks like."

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## MLB | COMMENTARY

**Mariners really know how to enjoy close games**

BY MATT CALKINS

The Seattle Times

When did you know that the Mariners had the game won?

Was it the second the ball came off Shed Long's bat?

Was it the moment it appeared out of right fielder Manuel Margot's reach?

Or was it before that? Has this team managed to convince you that, when it's close, they'll end up with the cigar?

Sunday's 6-2 win over the Rays marked the Mariners' fourth come-from-behind victory in as many games. When Long ripped a two-out grand slam in the bottom of the 10th, it spawned Seattle's third walk-off celebration in four contests. The M's extra-innings record this season? That'd be 8-1. And their 38-36 record marks the first time they've been two games over .500 since May 8.

You can point to an array of areas to explain their recent success (they've won seven of their past eight and just completed a four-game sweep of the reigning American League champs). But perhaps the main reason the Mariners can still dream of a playoff berth at this point in the season is because of their ability to convert winning opportunities into actual wins.

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