

WCL
BASEBALLElks' Linscott is
Player of the Week

For the first time this season, a Bend Elk earned West Coast League Player of the Week.

Outfielder Sam Linscott was selected for that honor after scoring eight runs and driving in another nine runs on nine hits (three doubles, a triple and a home run) during a six-game stretch last week.

His .486 batting average over nine games this season tops the WCL.

At Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho, Linscott hit .295 in his last collegiate season.

Linscott has been a key part of the Elks' improvement at the plate since joining the team. The senior-to-be credited Elks' assistant coach Tyler Graham for helping him get off to a hot start in the batter's box this summer.

The Elks, coming off their first WCL series win at the Wenatchee Apple-Sox, started a three-game series on the road against the Bellingham Bells Tuesday evening.

The Elks return to Vince Genna Stadium on Tuesday, June 29, for a three-game series against the Corvallis Knights.

Knights left-handed pitcher Ethan Ross was named the Pitcher of the Week in the WCL.

The Elks were 3-9 in WCL play entering Tuesday night's game at Bellingham.

— Bulletin staff report

INSIDE

Track — Oregon distance runners Cole Hocker and Cooper Teare try to bring collegiate success to Olympic trials in Eugene. Details, **A7**.

NFL

Seahawks ready
for full capacity

SEATTLE — The Seattle Seahawks intend to have full capacity crowds at Lumen Field for the upcoming season after the team received approval from the NFL and local and state health officials to completely reopen the stadium.

Fans won't be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend games, per the state's reopening guidelines for outdoor events, but those who are not vaccinated will be required to wear masks. The team said it will not require proof of vaccination for fans.

The Seahawks played the entire 2020 season without fans at their home stadium. Seattle went 12-4 in the regular season and won the NFC West title. The Seahawks went 7-1 at home before losing to the Los Angeles Rams in the opening round of the playoffs.

Seattle's first regular-season home game is scheduled for Sept. 19 against Tennessee.

The Seahawks weren't the only football team in Washington to announce full capacity crowds for the upcoming season. Washington will have full crowds at Husky Stadium and Washington State will have the same at Martin Stadium.

The Huskies and Cougars are scheduled to open their seasons at home on Sept. 4. Washington hosts Montana while Washington State hosts Utah State.

— Associated Press

U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK & FIELD TRIALS

Surviving
the trials

Bend's Rebecca Mehra reflects on 1,500-meter final, and looks ahead to possible 800 run

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

Rebecca Mehra admitted she did not have the ideal race on Monday night, but she is buoyed by the progress she has made in the last several years.

Four years ago, the Bend runner's 1,500-meter time was 9 seconds off the qualifying mark for the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials.

On Monday night, she found herself in the 1,500 final at the trials at Eugene's Hayward Field. She finished 11th, and was disappointed — but not deflated.

"There's a weight behind the Olympic trials that I haven't experienced before," Mehra said. "To see how far I've come in five years and to be a part of this spectacular event is very cool."

Mehra, 26, said she was bummed when she crossed the finish line, as she was hoping for at least a top-eight finish. The top three runners qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, set for July 23-Aug. 8.

"I thought that it was gonna take a super magical day to be third, but I really thought realistically I could probably be top eight," Mehra said. "It's all about the kind of day you have, and I didn't realize



Bend's Rebecca Mehra competes in the women's 1,500-meter final at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene on Monday.

Christopher Pietsch/The Register-Guard

how physically draining the semifinal (on Saturday) was for me. I kind of realized that as I ran, even in the first 300 meters of the race."

Mehra finished with a time of 4 minutes, 8.47 seconds, a little more than 6 seconds behind third-place runner Heather MacLean. Elle Purrier St. Pierre won the race in 3:58.03.

Despite some disappointment, Mehra said she was proud to have reached the final.

"All you can ever really ask for is your best, and this is disappointing," Mehra said.

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U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK AND FIELD TRIALS

Bend runners

Thursday, 7 p.m., women's 800 meters first round: Rebecca Mehra, Sadi Henderson and Angel Piccirillo.

Thursday, 8:47 p.m., women's 3,000-meter steeplechase final: Mel Lawrence.

Television: NBC Sports Northwest, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday.

TOKYO GAMES

U.S. Olympic skateboarding team unveiled, rolling toward Tokyo

BY GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The 12 members of the first U.S. Olympic skateboarding team stepped on their boards and skated through a corridor of tall American flags in a joyful pack, headed toward an outdoor stage to meet the world together.

It was an appropriate introduction for a bunch of world-

class skaters who will represent the best aspects of this American-born sport in Tokyo: No leaders, no followers — and plenty of love and support for the whole crew.

"I don't know if any of us imagined we would ever be up here getting ready to skate in the Olympics," said Nyjah Huston, the five-time world champion and California native recognized as the high-

est-paid skater in the sport's history.

"But we've all been working for this from a young age, even before it was possible.

"I love skateboarding because it's the funnest thing on Earth, not only if you're one of us getting ready to skate in the Olympics, or just a kid out there skating in your skate park," Huston added.

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Richard Vogel/AP

Members of the first U.S. Olympic skateboarding team arrive on their boards for a news conference in downtown Los Angeles on Monday. Skateboarding is an Olympic sport for the first time in Tokyo, and the Americans are expected to be a strong team.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conference finalists Bucks, Hawks seeking to end long droughts

BY STEVE MEGARREE

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — There's more than a berth in the NBA Finals at stake when the Milwaukee Bucks and Atlanta Hawks square off for the Eastern Conference championship.

The winner of the series that starts Wednesday also will end decades of frustration.

Milwaukee won its lone NBA title in 1971 and last reached the Finals in 1974. The Hawks won their only championship in 1958 and lost in the Finals in 1957, 1960 and 1961 — and that's when they were still playing in St. Louis.

"This is obviously a great chance, a great opportunity for us," Bucks center Brook Lopez said. "But what is it, you can't

put the cart before the horse or whatever? We've got a lot of business to take care of still. We've got to go get Game 1."

The Bucks got here by sweeping the Miami Heat and surviving a seven-game series with the second-seeded Brooklyn Nets. Atlanta beat the New York Knicks in five games and knocked off the top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers in seven.

Both the Bucks and Hawks ended their second-round series by earning their first Game 7 road victories ever.

It's been an impressive turnaround for the Hawks, who were 14-20 and 11th in the East standings when they fired coach Lloyd Pierce at the beginning of March. The Hawks closed the regular season by

going 27-11 under Nate McMillan and have followed that up with an 8-4 playoff record.

Trae Young has led the way by scoring 29.1 points per game in his first postseason.

"I think our guys have done a really good job of just locking in to that particular game and not thinking about what happened in the past and not thinking about anything other than what we need to do in that game," McMillan said.

The Hawks are in the playoffs for the first time since 2017. The Bucks are more accustomed to this stage.

Milwaukee posted the league's best regular-season record in 2019 and 2020 but couldn't translate that success to the postseason. The Bucks

blew a 2-0 lead to Toronto in the 2019 East finals and lost in the second round to Miami last year.

"I try not as much to focus on the past and what happened," Bucks forward and two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "I learn from it and I just move on. This is a totally different series, different scenario, different players, different time. It's going to be hard. It's not going to be easy."

Budenholzer vs. Hawks

Mike Budenholzer coached the Hawks from 2013-18 before leaving for Milwaukee. Budenholzer led the Hawks to their last Eastern Conference finals appearance in 2015, though they were swept by

LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers.

But the Hawks have changed quite a bit since Budenholzer's departure. John Collins is the only Hawk who played for Budenholzer in Atlanta.

"This is about the Bucks and Hawks," Budenholzer said. "Our players have got to be ready to play. Coaches coach. At this stage, this time, it's just about playing and finding a way to win and compete and do whatever it takes. That's really all this is about."

Home vs. road

Of the 16 teams that reached the postseason, only the Bucks have gone undefeated at home during the playoffs.

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