

## PREP SOFTBALL

## Bend's Fisher is Oregon POY

She was named the All-City Pitcher of the Year, was selected to the Class 6A all-state first team, and now, Addisen Fisher is the Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year.

Not a bad high school debut season for the Bend High freshman.

"It has been a really exciting week," Fisher said. "I never thought I would be at this point. I was surprised I got the award because I knew that a lot of the finalists are really good players. I was surprised to get that email."

Both in the pitcher's circle and in the batter's box, Fisher was a driving force in the Lava Bears' 18-1 record this past spring. Fisher is the first Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year from Bend High.

Fisher went 9-0 with a 0.25 ERA, struck out 127 batters and threw three no-hitters (two perfect games). She batted .574 and hit six home runs for the Lava Bears.

Of all 50 softball players of the year around the country, Fisher was the only freshman to receive the award.

— Bulletin staff report

## NBA

## Ime Udoka to be next Celtics coach

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics have hired Brooklyn Nets assistant Ime Udoka to be their new coach, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The hiring was first reported by ESPN.

Udoka, 43, played a total of 316 games over seven seasons with five NBA teams before retiring in 2012 and joining Gregg Popovich's staff in San Antonio as an assistant coach.

He was with the Spurs for seven seasons, including in 2013-14, when they won the NBA title.

Udoka, who was born in Portland and played part of his college career at Portland State, joined the Philadelphia 76ers in 2019 and was with the Nets last year.

Udoka takes over a Celtics team that reached the Eastern Conference finals in three of the previous four seasons before plummeting to the No. 7 seed this year and losing in the first round to Brooklyn.

After the five-game loss to the Nets, basketball boss Danny Ainge retired and coach Brad Stevens gave up his spot on the bench to replace him.

Once primed to compete for a spot in the finals, the Celtics seem to be losing ground in the East.

Although Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown have emerged as stars, the team has struggled to find additional pieces that can challenge the assembled stars in Milwaukee, Philadelphia and now Brooklyn and Atlanta.

Stevens' first major move since taking over the front office was to trade injured point guard Kemba Walker to Oklahoma City for big man Al Horford, giving up the team's first-round draft pick to save salary cap space.

— Associated Press

## PREP BASKETBALL

## NBA player surprises Panthers in final week

Central Oregon high school teams are wrapping up their seasons

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

Skyler Jones did not know who the 6-foot-8-inch athlete was who walked into the gym at Redmond High on Wednesday afternoon.

He and the rest of the Panthers boys basketball team would soon realize that it was Indiana Pacers forward Doug McDermott dropping by to give advice to the young players.

"It was a really cool experience because you don't get to meet an NBA player every day," Jones said. "Being able to talk to him on a personal level and get advice from him was really special."

McDermott, an All-American at Creighton and a lottery pick in the 2014 NBA draft, was in Central Oregon to play in a golf tournament. Redmond coach Reagan Gilbertson was able to pull some strings with one of his friends who went to school with McDermott to bring the NBA player to their practice prior to the Inter-mountain Conference semifinal game against Hood River Valley on Wednesday night.

"We came to wish us good luck; we have been playing a little tight," Gilbertson said. "He chatted about keeping it loose, having fun and leaving it all on the floor. The kids enjoyed it, their eyes went to him

and off of me."

McDermott even drew up an out-of-bounds play for the Panthers.

"Really cool play," Jones said. "We lined up in a fashion we hadn't done before. Just going through the motions, you could tell it would get some open shots for any team."

The 2020-21 high school sports season, which was upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, ends on Saturday with the completion of the culminating week. And many Central Oregon basketball teams are taking full advantage of the lost time by playing during the culminating week, including Redmond.



Courtesy Jed Keene

NBA player Doug McDermott, center, stopped by Redmond's basketball practice Wednesday afternoon to talk with the team and draw up an in-bounds play. McDermott was in Central Oregon for a golf tournament.

The Panthers were looking to advance to Friday's IMC championship game with a victory over the Eagles. IMC girls teams are also playing in a district tournament this week.

The three Bend-area boys teams, after not playing the Sa-

lem schools during Mountain Valley League play, will close out the season with games against Salem-area teams. The Bend, Mountain View and Summit girls seasons ended last week.

See **Basketball** / A6

## CYCLING | TOUR DE FRANCE

## A new role for Froome

4-time champion feels like 'neo-pro' at Tour comeback

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN • Associated Press

As the finest Grand Tour rider of his generation, Chris

Froome is used to honors, awards and accolades.

One thing he is not used to at the Tour de France — the race he dominated over the past decade and made him famous — is carrying water bottles for others.

In cycling jargon, it's called being a "domestique," and the sight of a former four-time champion in that role will be something quite unusual at cycling's biggest event.

But a bit more than two years after a horrific, career-threatening crash that left him on the side of a road with multiple serious injuries, Froome is ready to play the sideman part.

With the mindset of a rookie.



Christophe Ena/AP file

Britain's Chris Froome, left, and countryman Geraint Thomas, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, climb Col d'Aspin pass during the 19th stage of the 2018 Tour de France. Froome, a four-time Tour champion, is making his return at the Tour de France for the first time in three years. Now riding for the Israel Start-Up Nation team, Froome will ride in support of leader Michael Woods. Froome missed the last two editions of the three-week race following a career-threatening crash.

"Typically, going into the Tour de France I obviously got a lot of pressure on my shoulders, as a (top) contender. That's not the case this time around. This time around, I'm only ... trying to do the best job possible to support the guys around me."

— Cyclist Chris Froome

"I'm really excited for this year's upcoming start," the 36-year-old Froome said ahead of Saturday's opening stage in the western port city of Brest.

"Brest was where I first discovered the Tour de France back in 2008 as a neo pro. I'm heading to the Tour de France this year with a very similar

mindset as back in 2008. I'm looking to gain something through racing the Tour de France."

For the first time since 2013, the year he won his first Tour, Froome won't be on the starting line with personal ambitions. He has been tasked with a role of road captain at his new

Israel Start-Up Nation team and will work in support of leader Michael Woods.

"Typically, going into the Tour de France I obviously got a lot of pressure on my shoulders, as a (top) contender," Froome said. "That's not the case this time around. This time around, I'm only ... trying to do the best job possible to support the guys around me. For almost the last decade I had been going to the Tour de France with a team that was doing a similar job for me. It feels great to be on the other side now, and give back a little bit."

See **Froome** / A6

## GOLF | WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

## Yuka Saso goes for another LPGA major with limited expectations



Jeff Chiu/AP file

Yuka Saso plays her shot from the 10th tee during the final round of the U.S. Women's Open at The Olympic Club in San Francisco on June 6. Fresh off her first major at that tournament, Saso heads to Atlanta Athletic Club for a shot at another in the Women's PGA Championship.

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. — Yuka Saso has come a long way in a short time. One week after winning the U.S. Women's Open, she turned 20. Now it's time for another major test in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, and there is still so much to learn.

For starters, winning the Women's Open gave her a five-year membership on the LPGA Tour, a great surprise to her.

And then there's this matter of a pro-am. Saso had never played in one.

It was only one year ago this week the Filipino made her debut as a Japan LPGA Tour member. Saso tied for fifth, won her next two events and is No. 4 on the money list. Be-

cause of COVID-19 restrictions, however, there were no fans and no pro-ams in Japan.

She played her first one at Atlanta Athletic Club, and Saso said later she could only hope she had the score right. The format was a scramble.

For now, the expectations of the newest star in women's golf haven't changed.

"I don't really expect anything," Saso said. "I'm just more focusing on what I have to do with my game. I'm trying to improve every day to be a better golfer, to be a better person. I'll just do my best, and let's see the result."

Her game figures to be tested plenty at Atlanta Athletic Club in the third LPGA major of the year. The Highlands course is where David Toms

laid up on the closing hole and made par to beat Phil Mickelson in the PGA Championship in 2001, and Keegan Bradley overcame a three-shot deficit down the stretch and beat Jason Dufner in a playoff 10 years later.

It's keeping with a Women's PGA that has taken a big step in stature by raising the prize money (\$4.5 million) and going to historic golf courses, such as Hazeltine and Olympia Fields. Still to come is Congressional next year and Baltusrol the year after that.

South Korea has the top three players in the women's world ranking, though parity is getting stronger on the LPGA as evidenced by the list of winners.

See **Golf** / A7