

MLB

M's pitcher gets 10-day suspension

NEW YORK — Seattle Mariners pitcher Héctor Santiago became the first player disciplined under Major League Baseball's crackdown on grip-enhancing foreign substances, given a 10-game suspension Tuesday.

Michael Hill, the former Marlins general manager who is senior vice president for on-field operations, announced the penalty two days after Santiago was ejected from a game at the Chicago White Sox. Santiago also was fined an undisclosed amount.

He appealed the decision to MLB special adviser John McHale Jr., and the suspension will be delayed until the appeal is decided.

Santiago, a 33-year-old left-hander, is in his 10th major league season, his first with the Mariners.

Under a crackdown that started June 21, all pitchers are being checked by umpires during games and Santiago was examined as he exited in the fifth inning.

Crew chief Tom Hallion said then that Santiago was ejected for "having a foreign substance that was sticky on the inside palm of his glove." The pitcher said what the umpires found was a combination of rosin and sweat.

Santiago started this season at Triple-A and made his big league season debut with the Mariners on June 1. He is 1-1 with a 2.65 ERA in nine games.

Seattle will not be allowed to fill Santiago's spot on its 26-man roster during a suspension and will play a man short while a penalty is served.

Baseball officials, concerned about offense that dropped to its lowest level in 50 years, first mentioned the crackdown on June 3, and Commissioner Rob Manfred announced the start date on June 15.

—Associated Press

WIMBLEDON

Williams out after injuring leg

WIMBLEDON, England — Serena Williams is out of Wimbledon after she stopped playing her first-round match in the first set Tuesday because of a left leg injury.

The 23-time Grand Slam champion was serving in the fifth game at Centre Court when she lost her footing near the baseline while hitting a forehand against Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Williams winced and stepped gingerly between points, clearly troubled. After dropping that game, she took a medical timeout and tried to continue playing.

Williams was visibly upset. The crowd tried to offer support and encouragement.

But eventually, the 39-year-old American dropped to her knees, and the chair umpire came over to check on her.

Williams then made her way up to the net to shake hands with Sasnovich, conceding with the score 3-all, 15-30.

Williams raised her racket with right arm and put her left palm on her chest. Then she waved to the spectators.

Officially, it will go in the books as only the second first-round Grand Slam exit of Williams' career.

She is a seven-time singles champion at the All England Club, including most recently in 2016.

—Associated Press

Prep sports

'Bizarre' year in rearview mirror

High school sports set for a return to normal this fall

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

Players and coaches alike compared high school sports in the 2020-21 school year to a roller coaster. There were peaks, valleys, twists, turns and drops that would have any adrenaline junkie begging for another ride.

In Oregon, those in the prep sports world just wanted off.

And finally, for the first time since March 2020, when high school sports were turned upside down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a return to normalcy is coming this fall.

"We are trending toward a more normal year," Peter Weber, executive director of the Oregon School Activities Association, told The Bulletin. "Playing fall sports in the fall is a good start to getting back to normal."

The prep sports year that will likely never be replicated can be put to rest, as it concluded late Saturday evening — well after seniors had graduated and the school year had finished.

"Bizarre is the first word that comes to my mind," said Bend High boys basketball coach Aaron Johnson after wrapping up the season this past Friday with a 59-45 loss to McNary. "Two weeks before the start of the season we weren't sure if we were going to play. We thought basketball wasn't going to happen. All of a sudden we were able to play all of our games."

In Oregon, high school sports in 2021 started later than in most other states. The "fall" sports season started with shoveling snow off the field rather than in the dog days of summer. The "winter" season came to a close on the first day of the current heat wave in Oregon, and not with snow on the ground.

The past 15 months were an eye-opener for coaches, for whom part of their profession is teaching high schoolers how to handle challenges.

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Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Bend's Ben Keown (3) drives to the basket on an attempt to score during the first quarter against McNary at Bend High on Friday. McNary defeated Bend 59-45 in the final game of the season for the Lava Bears.

NBA COMMENTARY

Trail Blazers kick away easy win in Chauncey Billups' first news conference

BY JOHN CANZANO

The Oregonian

The Trail Blazers suffered their first loss under new head coach Chauncey Billups on Tuesday.

No plays were diagrammed. No baskets were shot.

This was Billups' introductory news conference — a low-hanging 'hello Portland!' moment. The easiest win on the schedule. These kinds of events are difficult to lose but the Blazers kicked it away.

Billups sat alongside general manager Neil Olshey, hoping to set the tone for a new era of Blazers' basketball. What fans, sponsors and media badly needed was a unifying, reassuring performance. The news conference should have overflowed with authenticity, accountability and transparency.

It didn't have any of that.

The new Blazers coach was accused of sexual assault in 1997. He was never charged. He settled a civil case out of court in 2000. This news conference was a perfect opportunity for the Blazers and Billups to put what they repeatedly called, "the incident of 1997," to rest.

Instead, they tripped all



Craig Mitchell/Dyer/AP

Neil Olshey, right, and Chauncey Billups talk to media after Billups was announced as the head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers at the team's practice facility in Tualatin on Tuesday.

over themselves.

Olshey called the incident "consensual" in his opening remarks. There are a limited number of people who know exactly what happened in 1997. Olshey is not one of them. True or not, with or without a financial settlement, that word should have never been used in association with a rape allegation.

Portland's GM offered that the organization conducted a thorough vetting of Billups, including an independent investigation into the rape accusation. Who did inves-

tigators talk with? What did they learn? What in the investigation made the Blazers feel good about hiring Billups? When asked for clarity about the investigation Olshey bristled and called it "proprietary" information.

Added Olshey: "You're just going to have to take our word."

There have been some wild moments over the years around here when it comes to introductory news conferences for Portland head coaches.

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COLLEGE SPORTS

Oregon college athletes to be compensated for NIL starting on July 1

BY JAMES CREPEA

The Oregonian

College athletes in Oregon will be permitted to receive compensation for their name, image and likeness starting on July 1.

Gov. Kate Brown signed Senate Bill 5, the state bill addressing college athlete NIL rights, into law Tuesday morning, according to a spokesman.

SB 5, which passed in the state Senate (23-6) and state House (51-7) earlier this month, will allow Oregon college athletes to earn compensation from their name, image and likeness and retain an agent for such opportunities beginning July 1.

That's the same date similar laws or executive orders are to go into effect in Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio and Texas with Nebraska and Oklahoma also having passed NIL laws that can go into effect at any time, with the expectation they'll do so on July 1.

During its meeting on Monday, the NCAA's Division I Council recommended an in-

"This bill is historic. ... I wish Oregon was the first to do it. Our college athletes have not been treated fairly. We are giving our athletes back what is rightfully theirs: their name, their image, their likeness. This should have been done a long time ago."

— Sen. Peter Courtney, D-Salem, co-sponsor of Oregon's NIL bill

terim NIL policy that would suspend amateurism rules under Bylaw 12. The NCAA Division I Board of Directors is expected to approve those recommendations during its meeting on Wednesday.

Sens. Peter Courtney, D-Salem, and James Manning Jr., D-Eugene, co-sponsored the SB 5 and led it through the three-month long legislative process.

"This bill is historic. ... I wish Oregon was the first to do it," Courtney said in a statement.

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