

PREP SOFTBALL

Bend High players are All-Americans

A pair of Bend High softball players were named to the Underclassmen MaxPreps All-American Softball Teams on Thursday.

Addisen Fisher (first-team pitcher) and Gracie Goewey (second-team infielder and pitcher) were the only Oregonians to be named to the 34-person teams made up of only freshmen and sophomores. Bend High was also the only team to have two players named to the underclassmen all-American team.

"You have a big season and the awards keep coming," said Bend High softball coach Tom Mauldin. "They are unique talents and work really hard. They are two of the hardest working kids I know and they are wonderful teammates."

There may need to be a larger trophy case built for Fisher considering all the awards she's won following her freshman campaign with the Lava Bears.

She was first-team all-state as a pitcher, the Oregon Softball Gatorade Player of the Year, and was recently named Oregon's USA Today Softball Player of the Year, as well as the state's Rising Star of the Year among all Oregon high school athletes.

She finished the year with a 9-0 record in the circle, 127 strikeouts in 56 innings, and a 0.25 earned run average.

The sophomore Goewey, also first-team all-state and a finalist for the Oregon Softball Gatorade Player of the Year, set several Bend High records in the batter's box: 10 home runs, a .574 batting average, and 39 RBIs in 19 games. She also struck out 46 batters and finished with a 0.62 ERA in 22½ innings of work as a pitcher.

Though no postseason was played due to the pandemic, the Lava Bears were arguably the state's top softball team after finishing the season 18-1.

—Bulletin staff report

NBA

Bucks celebrate title with parade

MILWAUKEE — Thousands of fans lined downtown Milwaukee streets on Thursday to catch a glimpse of their beloved Bucks in a parade to celebrate the city's first NBA championship in half a century.

The procession included a hook-and-ladder fire truck, occasionally blaring its horn, and open-air buses and flatbed trucks carrying Bucks stars including Finals MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jrue Holiday, as well as the trophy they captured Tuesday night with a Game 6 victory over Phoenix.

Antetokounmpo held his son, 1-year-old Liam, atop a bus as fans along the route chanted "MVP!" "Milwaukee, we did it baby! We did it!" Antetokounmpo said to a cheering crowd in the Deer District, the area outside the Bucks' Fiserv Forum.

Neil and Rachana Bhatia, both 34 and from suburban Waukesha, brought 1-month-old son Zain to the Deer District.

"It unifies the city and puts the city on a global stage," said Neil Bhatia. "It's just bringing everybody together to celebrate something that hasn't happened in 50 years," he said.

—Associated Press

Basketball

BY CHRIS HANSEN • The (Eugene) Register-Guard

EUGENE — The last time Maarty Leunen was back on campus, the Oregon men's basketball team still played in McArthur Court and Ernie Kent was the coach.

That's pretty much how Tajuan Porter remembers it as well.

So when those two joined former teammate Bryce Taylor on the court at Matthew Knight Arena earlier this week for the first practice with the Always Us alumni team, it took some getting used to.

"It's like a foreign country here because I've never seen all of this," said Porter, the No. 6 scorer in Oregon history.

"These guys are spoiled now," smiled Redmond's Leunen, the Ducks' No. 2 all-time rebounder. "They have no idea what we had to go through at Mac Court. ... But it's well-deserved. The program is at a very high level and I kind of feel like we were a huge part of starting this whole process. This was being talked about when we were playing, so to see it first hand is pretty sweet."

Leunen, Porter and Taylor, who were all starters on the 2007 Elite Eight team, are teammates once again as they join nine other former Ducks on a team that will play in The Basketball Tournament (TBT), a \$1 million winner-take-all single-elimination event that begins for Always Us at noon Sunday in Peoria, Illinois.

Always Us is the No. 4 seed in the 16-team Illinois regional and will open against the No. 13 Peoria All-Stars.

Also on the team are Casey Benson, Dwayne Benjamin, Shakur Juiston, Elijah Brown, Jalil Abdul-Bassit, Johnathan Loyd, Mikyle McIntosh, Paul White and Mike Moser, who is in his first season as an assistant coach on the Oregon women's team.

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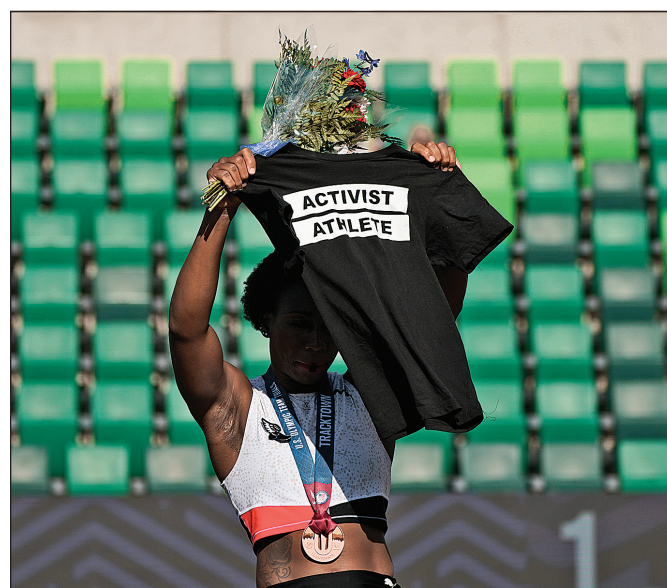
Redmond's Maarty Leunen joins Oregon alumni team in The Basketball Tournament, a \$1 million winner-take-all single-elimination event

Submitted photo

Redmond's Maarty Leunen has played professional basketball in Italy for the past 11 years. He is joining other former Oregon Ducks players on a team that will play in The Basketball Tournament (TBT), which begins for the Oregon alumni team Always Us at noon Sunday in Peoria, Illinois.

OLYMPICS

Smith, Carlos, Berry demand change in Olympic protest rule



Charlie Riedel/AP file

Gwendolyn Berry holds her Activist Athlete T-shirt over her head during the medal ceremony after the finals of the women's hammer throw at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene in June.

BY EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

TOKYO — Tommie Smith, John Carlos and Gwen Berry are among the more than 150 athletes, educators and activists who signed a letter Thursday urging the IOC not to punish participants who demonstrate at the Tokyo Games.

The five-page letter, published on the eve of the Olympics, asks the IOC not to sanction athletes for kneeling or raising a fist, the way Smith and Carlos did at the 1968 Mexico City Games.

Berry, the American hammer thrower who triggered much of this debate, has said she intends to use her Olympic platform to point out racial inequality in the United States. She turned away from the flag when the national anthem

played while she was on the medals stand at the Olympic trials last month.

The IOC has made changes to its Rule 50 that bans political demonstrations at the Games, and has said it will allow them on the field, so long as they come before the start of action. Players from five Olympic soccer teams took to their knees Wednesday before their games on the opening night for that sport.

But the IOC did not lift the prohibition on medals-stand demonstrations, and has left some of the decision-making about punishment up to individual sports federations.

"We do not believe the changes made reflect a commitment to freedom of expression as a fundamental human right nor to racial and social

justice in global sports," said the letter, which was posted on the website of the Muhammad Ali Center and also signed by Ali's daughter, four-time boxing world champion Laila Ali.

The letter disputed the IOC's long-held position that the Olympics should remain neutral, arguing that "neutrality is never neutral."

"Staying neutral means staying silent, and staying silent means supporting ongoing injustice," it said.

The letter also took issue with an athlete survey conducted by the IOC athletes' commission that found widespread support for Rule 50. The commission cited the survey as a central reason for making the recommendation to largely keep the rule intact.

See **Protest** / B5

Sounds of the Games: NBC does not plan on adding crowd noise

BY JOE REEDY

Associated Press

One of Molly Solomon's favorite memories from the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics was watching Lindsey Vonn in the start house.

Cameras would focus on the skiing great, with microphones picking up her breathing while she listened to final instructions.

With no spectators in the stands during the Tokyo Games, Solomon is hoping to pick up on more of those moments.

The NBC Olympics executive producer said that the network will not add additional crowd noise to its coverage. The hope is that fans will hear the Games as they haven't been

"We've pivoted to know that we've got access to all of these fields-of-play microphones. So, we really feel like we can enhance the sounds of the Games. You'll hear it as the athletes hear it."

— Molly Solomon, NBC Olympics executive producer

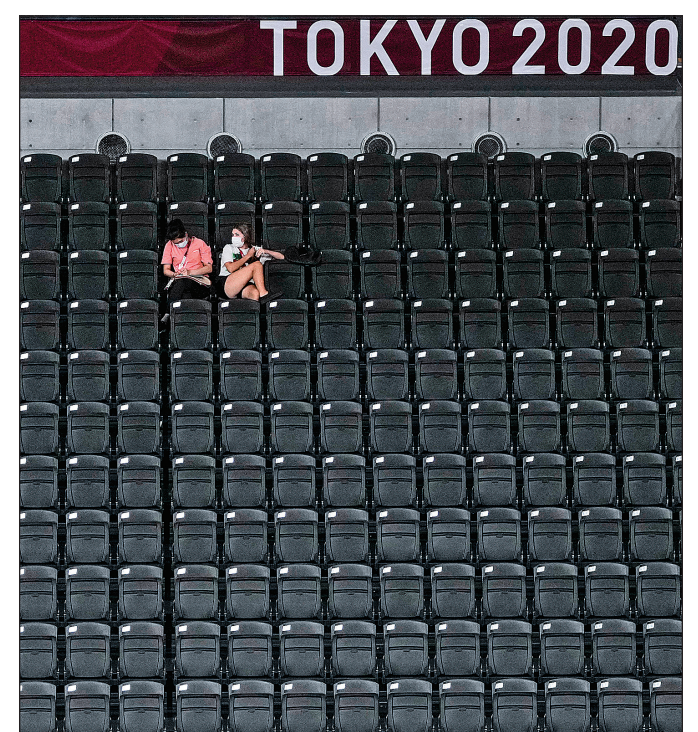
able to before, whether it is the action in the pool during swimming or conversations between competitors and coaches during gymnastics.

"You look at gymnastics and think about the distinctive intricacies of each apparatus, and we really feel like we'll be able to bring the viewer closer to the athlete's experience here in Tokyo than ever before," said Solomon, who is working her 11th Olympics for NBC.

The only crowd noise that viewers may hear is ambient crowd noise that venues might use to generate atmosphere for the athletes.

With more than 300 events at the Olympics, it would be a logistical nightmare for NBC and Olympic Broadcasting Service, which provides the world feed, to layer in crowd noise, especially with each sport having its own cadence and pace.

See **Sounds** / B5



Manu Fernandez/AP

People sit in an empty tribune during a volleyball team training session at Ariake Arena at the 2020 Summer Olympics Thursday in Tokyo, Japan.