

Sports

Basin sports schedule: March 24

COLUMBIA BASIN — Those interested in catching local sports matchups can head out to support high school athletes at the events below:

March 24

- 4 p.m. Wahluke varsity and JV soccer vs. Connell at Wahluke High School, 505 N. Boundary Rd., Mattawa
- 4 p.m., Othello varsity and JV softball vs. Shadle Park at Shadle Park High School, 4327 N. Ash St., Spokane
- 4 p.m. Royal boys junior varsity soccer vs. Cascade at David Nielsen Memorial Field, 955 Ahlers Road NW, Royal City
- 4 p.m. Othello boys and girls track, Best in the Basin meet at Quincy High School, 403 Jackrabbit St. NE
- 4 p.m. Ephrata boys and girls track, Best in the Basin meet at Quincy High School, 403 Jackrabbit St. NE
- 4 p.m. Wahluke boys and girls track, Best in the Basin meet at Quincy High School, 403 Jackrabbit St. NE
- 4 p.m. Quincy boys and girls track, Best in the Basin meet at Quincy High School, 403 Jackrabbit St. NE
- 4 p.m. Royal boys and girls track, Best in the Basin meet at Quincy High School, 403 Jackrabbit St. NE
- 4 p.m. Quincy boys varsity soccer vs. Chelan at Chelan High School, 215 W. Webster Ave.
- 5:45 p.m. Quincy boys JV soccer vs. Chelan at Chelan High School, 215 W. Webster Ave.
- 6 p.m. Royal boys varsity soccer vs. Cascade at David Nielsen Memorial Field, 955 Ahlers Road NW, Royal City
- 6:30 p.m. Warden boys varsity soccer vs. College Place at College Place High School, 1755 S. College Ave., College Place



REBECCA PETTINGILL/COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD

1960 Moses Lake High School graduate Ron Omori has gone on to become a pro baseball and softball player, international officiator and coach in his time since leaving MLHS.

By REBECCA PETTINGILL  
Staff Writer

**MOSES LAKE** — Ron Omori, a Moses Lake High School graduate, recently paid a visit to his hometown after leaving Moses Lake to go on to become a pro baseball player, international officiator and coach.

“I’ve been lucky,” Omori said.

Omori is an assistant coach with the Edmonds College baseball team who took on Big Bend Community College in a tournament this past weekend. The tournament, held in Moses Lake, brought the 1960

graduate back to his roots.

Omori’s family moved to Moses Lake when he was about 5 years old. His family was originally from Yakima but was moved to a Japanese-American internment camp, Omori referred to as a relocation camp, in Wyoming during the early 40’s at the same time Omori was born due to Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt due to distrust of Japanese-Americans in the wake of the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

His family was there for about four months before they were cleared by the FBI to

leave and moved to Spokane. After only a couple of years in Spokane his family moved to Moses Lake, where he spent the rest of his adolescent years.

While a student at Moses Lake High School, Omori was a three-sport athlete. He played football, basketball and baseball. It turned out Omori was pretty good and received several scholarship offers. He went on to play both basketball and baseball in college at Seattle University.

He had several offers but was drafted by the Japanese professional baseball team in 1964 the Daiei Orions, who are

now known as the Chiba Lotte Marines, before being traded to the Hiroshima Carp, which was changed in 1968 to the Hiroshima Toyo Carp.

Omori talked about the culture shock he had moving to Japan, where he couldn’t read or understand the language and wasn’t used to the dietary differences.

“I ended up liking it. It just took some time,” said Omori.

After playing for the Carp, Omori went on to play for the Mexico City Red Devils (Diablos Rojos del Mexico) for two seasons.

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Kraken selloff lands Seattle a bounty in future draft picks

By TIM BOOTH  
AP Sports Writer

**SEATTLE** — When all the moves by the Seattle Kraken were finally wrapped up on Monday, Ron Francis went to a few key players whom he sees as part of the team’s future with a very clear message.

The general manager wanted them to know his goal is for Seattle to be a playoff contender next year, not several years down the road.

“It’s important for me and the coaches to have conversations, and I’ve already started having some this morning with some guys, just to make them aware that we didn’t do all this to draft and develop and be good five years from now,” Francis said. “We did this to give us the tools to try and be better next season and

that’s what our goal is between now and the start of next season.”

Seattle got rid of key pieces from its roster in recent days, highlighted by the trade of defenseman and team captain Mark Giordano and forward Colin Blackwell to the Toronto Maple Leafs. Seattle also dealt forwards Calle Jarnkrok to Calgary, Mason Appleton to Winnipeg, Marcus Johansson to Washington, and defenseman Jeremy Lauzon to Nashville before the NHL trade deadline Monday.

In return, Seattle got exactly two players. The Kraken acquired Daniel Sproong from Washington as part of the Johansson trade, and landed forward Victor Rask from Minnesota for future considerations. Rask is headed to Seattle’s AHL affiliate.

But Seattle also landed

a boatload of future draft picks. The trades netted the Kraken 10 future draft selections, giving them 34 picks over the next three drafts, including eight second-round picks.

So while the actual player return was negligible in this trade window, Francis believes he now owns enough assets between draft picks and salary cap room to be active in player acquisitions this summer.

“I’m not hoping to use all of those, but we do think we can get some good players for those picks,” Francis said. “And we’re hoping that we can move some of those, along with free agency, to help retool our franchise as we move into next year. We want to be every bit as competitive as any other team in the league as we start next season moving forward.”

Seattle’s 44 points through 63 games are tied for second-worst in the league and just one point ahead of Montreal. On top of all the picks in rounds 2-7, the Kraken will also be in the draft lottery this season for a chance at another high draft selection after picking No. 2 last year.

The trades also removed a bit of the uncertainty for the offseason as Seattle has only one player — forward Riley Sheahan — who is an unrestricted free agent.

The moves will also create opportunities for some younger players over the final five weeks of the season. Francis said forward Kole Lind will be with the team for the remainder of the season, and defensemen Will Borgen and Haydn Fleury will get more consistent playing time.

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117 Camelia St • Royal City  
346.7749

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205 Wild Flower • Royal City

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305 Royal Road NW • Royal City  
9am.....Worship Service  
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302 E 4th St • Mattawa

Mattawa Seventh Day Adventist  
Saturdays at Riverside Pres

Saddle Mountain Bible Church  
308 E Priest Rapids Dr • 831.9704

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Pastors David and Kenzie Garza

The Church of Christ  
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Hear Words of Encouragement

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488.7711 or 989.2350

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
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Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
640 E Elm • 488.9952

First Baptist Church  
705 E Larch • 488.2541

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
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12th Ave & Rainier (Stake Center)  
488.6437  
Othello Second Ward  
12th Ave & Rainier (Stake Center)  
488.6437  
Othello Third Ward  
611 S. Seventh Ave • 488.2801  
Othello Fourth Ward  
(Spanish Meeting)  
611 S. Seventh Ave • 488.2801

Othello Harvest Church  
705 E Juniper • 346.3312

Church of the Nazarene The Gathering Place  
835 S 10th Ave •488.5896

Bible Baptist Church  
55 South 9th Ave  
488.5911 or 764.4355  
www.BBCOthello.com

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915 E Rainer • 488.2208

Seventh Day Adventist Church  
736 E Elm • 488.2781

Bethel Assembly of God  
915 S 1st Ave, Othello, WA 99344

First Presbyterian Church  
715 E Scootney • 488.9957

United Methodist Church  
1335 E. Ash Street (509) 488-2259

COMMUNITY CHURCH

517995





REBECCA PETTINGILL/COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD  
Ron Omori, former MLHS student, currently coaches for Edmonds College. Here he is pictured coaching his team when they went up against Big Bend on March 18. His team beat Big Bend Community College twice in a double-header during the tournament.

# OMORI

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Omori quit baseball and came back to Moses Lake for a year before getting an offer to play fastpitch softball in 1969. “I’ve been lucky. You know the old saying, ‘You don’t have to be good, just be lucky.’ People took notice - of whatever (they saw in me) - at the right time,” said Omori referencing many of the situations that led him to the major opportunities he’s had throughout his life. While playing for various fastpitch softball teams across the country, Omori decided to try his hand at officiating

high school and college basketball. During his time officiating National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball, he saw the change in the Pacific Conference from the Pac-8 to the Pac-10 and finally the Pac-12. He’s also officiated internationally for FIBA, the International Basketball Federation. Omori left officiating in 2005. “I’ve been to thirty-something different countries (to officiate),” said Omori. Omori has been at Edmonds since 1998. According to the school’s website, he has been the longest-tenured coach in Edmonds College baseball history and was inducted into the Triton

Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014 as a member of the inaugural class. In 2017 the Ron Omori Assistant Coach of the Year Award was established in his honor, according to the website. His coaching career at Edmonds spans more than 20 years. Dick Deane, former mayor and city council member in Moses Lake, teacher and coach, said Omori is being considered for the Moses Lake High School Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments after graduating from MLHS, though a formal nomination has not yet been submitted. “It’s an honor,” said Omori of being considered. Rebecca Pettingill may be reached at [rpettingill@columbiabasinherald.com](mailto:rpettingill@columbiabasinherald.com).



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