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from The Columbian and
news services

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HORSE RACING

TALKING POINTS
What's the buzz from the world of sports? Here are some items that will have people talking:

1

Baseball teams usually play six games a week, and there are many weeks during the season when they play every day. So not getting a hit for three days is kind of a big deal for a major league team. That's what happened to the Houston Astros.

2

In Ed Hochuli we trust. The NFL officiating crew does a fantastic job. Ed Hochuli officiating would be a good move. He acknowledged that he...
shape of circles and squares, but there were nasty scars that might need more than a few days to heal.

Holmes was joined by Boo Weekley, two of the six Ryder Cup rookies on an American team that has not won the Ryder Cup since that raucous rally Sunday at Brookline in 1999. Chad Campbell, who became a father 10 days ago, rapped a few putts on the ninth green.

The matches began Friday, and there is little doubt who is favored to win.

Europe is on its longest winning streak since this exhibition began in 1927, having won the last three. Its dominance stretches even further, capturing the cup eight of the

She turned pro in 2005 and a year later had at least a share of the lead on the back nine of three majors. Her career went into a tailspin shortly after that, partly because of wrist injuries. She has not won any tournament since the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in 2003, at age 13.

We have played well at Mission Hills, where she was ninth in the Kraft Nabisco in 2003, fourth the next year, then 14th in 2005.

In 2006, playing the event for the first time as a pro, she missed a 10-foot putt on the 72nd hole that would have put her in a playoff with Lorena Ochoa and eventual winner Karrie Webb.

Clark:

From page B1

in his new position.

He has maintained a long relationship with Clark, which he calls "the best kept secret in the city of Vancouver."

He coached his basketball team early in his career and maintained close contact with the school as he moved to positions at Washington, Western Washington, Wyoming, Stanford and Weber State. He also served on the board of the Penguin Athletic Club, during which he developed a respect for Knight's leadership and the school's accomplishments with limited resources.

Those connections give Huston an intimate understanding of the athletic department's unique challenges and needs.

"He is very well respected and connected in the athletic community," Knight said in an e-mail correspondence. "I don't think I could find a better pick. The positive comments I have received around the

community after naming him the interim AD appear to confirm my perception of Denny."

Huston sees the opportunity as more than a temporary management position, though. It is also a chance to directly affect and change the program from within — something with which Knight said he has asked for Huston's assistance.

After a decade of instability — with athletic directors seemingly coming and going every other year — Huston sees his time with the school as a chance to help the program reconnect with the community and local coaches.

He also sees an opportunity to start restructuring a department whose coaches often have to work full-time jobs outside the college. It's a much different situation than Huston had as a Clark student, when O'Neill was a constant presence on campus.

"Skeet was my mentor," Huston said. "He was here all the time. And when you don't have that individual here, we're missing a big piece of the mentoring process that coaches can do for athletes."

So Huston hopes to find ways for the

athletic department to offer its coaches dual appointments, allowing them to work in other capacities at the school — either as teachers or staff members — in addition to their coaching duties.

Currently, only two of Clark's eight coaches hold dual appointments.

Huston admits it will take time to fulfill that goal — most likely much longer than he will be around as athletic director. Knight said he hopes to have the position filled by the end of the fall quarter, which ends in mid-December.

And while Knight said he would consider him for the full-time job, Huston suggested that a return to retirement will likely take precedence.

His purpose in the position, Huston said, is more to "keep the ship going in the right course, and then get the right person here and then let me exit left."

But for now, Huston is engaging in a labor of love that both allows him to give back to his alma mater, and influence its path for the future.

"I owe this institution a lot," Huston said. "And whatever I can do to help it, I'm always available."

Kentucky prepares to regulate whips in racing

State racing regulators are preparing to impose new restrictions this month on the use of whips in harness racing, and changes could follow at thoroughbred meets after a Kentucky track finishes an experiment on different types of whips. A safety and welfare panel voted to outlaw certain whips and riding crops that have a snapper — strands of material at the end that can leave welts on horses.

It also recommended restrictions on the way in which a driver can hit a horse.

In Poland, and in the overall lead,