

Oregon State Women Look To Rebound Against South Dakota State

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Oregon State went from the high of winning the Pac-12 regular-season title for the first time ever to the low of getting ousted quickly from the conference tournament.

With an impressive resume overall, the Beavers (26-4) will still host an NCAA Tournament sub-regional starting Friday in Corvallis. Third-seeded Oregon State will open with No. 14 South Dakota State, followed by No. 11 Gonzaga against No. 6 George Washington.

Oregon State hopes to learn from the stumbles of the recent past. The Beavers had their perfect home record broken in the final week of the regular season with a loss to Stanford. The team was forced to put off its celebration of the season title until a victory over Cal in the finale.

Then, after an opening-round bye for the conference tournament, Oregon State was defeated 68-65 by Colorado.

Coach Scott Rueck said he hoped his team would learn from the roller coaster.

"Anytime you lose, you certainly need to look at things, no question," he said "You have a choice of making it a positive or a negative. This group has always turned those into a positive. That's just obvious life lessons. So we've got to look at this and understand, hey, postseason basketball. These guys are fighting for their lives."

South Dakota State (24-8) finished the season with an eight-game winning streak to capture the Summit League Tournament title and earn the conference's automatic NCAA berth.

Gonzaga (24-7) won an at-large bid after winning the West Coast

Conference regular-season title, but, like Oregon, stumbled in the conference tournament, losing in the semifinals to BYU.

George Washington (29-3) set a school record for most wins in a season and claimed the Atlantic 10's automatic berth for the team's first appearance in the tournament since 2008.

Some other things to know about this weekend's games in Corvallis:

JONES JAMS: George Washington forward Jonquel Jones hails from the Bahamas, before she became something of a basketball prodigy at Riverdale Baptist High School in Maryland. Jones was named the Atlantic 10's Player and Defensive Player of the year, averaging 15.5 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. She averaged 17 points, 12 rebounds and 2.7 blocks in the conference tournament, earning MVP honors.

According to the Bahamas Tribune, Jones is just the third Bahamian woman to earn a Division I scholarship out of high school, joining Yolett McPhee-McCuin (Florida Atlantic/Rhode Island) and Waltiea Rolle (North Carolina).

OREGON STATE HONORS: In addition to winning the Pac-12's regular-season title, Rueck earned conference Coach of the Year honors and Ruth Hamblin was named the league's Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. Hamblin averaged 12.8 points and 8.9 rebounds per game, and ranked eighth in the nation with 111 blocks.

STREAKING ZAGS: Gonzaga is riding a bunch of streaks into the NCAA Tournament. The Zags are making their seventh straight trip to the Big Dance after clinching their ninth straight 20-win season and their 11th straight West Coast

Conference regular-season title.

FAMILY TIES: Gonzaga junior guard Ellie Tinkle is the daughter of Oregon State men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle, who took over the Beavers this season and led the team to a surprising 17-14 record after having to hold open tryouts in the fall to fill out his roster. The family came to Corvallis from Missoula, Montana, where Tinkle was coach of the Grizzlies for eight seasons.

UNDAUNTED JACKS: South Dakota State has faced Oregon State once before, back in 2004 at the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands. The Beavers won 85-68. But the Jacks aren't letting that prior win, or the Beavers' dramatic rise over the last two seasons, concern them. "It's not who we play, it's how we play," said senior forward Mariah Clarin, who is averaging 11.6 points and 6.7 rebounds.

Back In The Tournament, Zags Look For A Longer Stay

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — It's a rite of March: Gonzaga in the NCAA Tournament.

It's another rite of March: Gonzaga out of the NCAA Tournament by the end of the first weekend.

The second-seeded Bulldogs (32-2) begin their 17th straight appearance in the tournament with a South Region game against No. 15 North Dakota State (23-9) on Friday.

The bigger goal for the West Coast Conference champs is to advance to the second weekend, something they haven't done since 2009. The last five years have all resulted in exits in their second game, including 2013, when coach Mark Few's team was a No. 1 seed but lost to Wichita State, which ended up making the Final Four.

"Every year, we went into it trying to win as many games as we possibly can," Few said. "It's not about me, it's about serving this particular group. You want to make their dreams come to fruition and take them as far as they can. And when it's over, it's over."

Asked to look back on any seasons that came to particularly disappointing endings, because of effort or otherwise, Few focused on last year, when the Zags, then eighth-seeded, had every right to get beaten badly — and did just that. They fell 84-61 to top-seeded Arizona, a game that got ugly early, after guard Kevin Pangos went down with an ankle injury.

"A lot of that was due to Arizona, how good they were and how great they were playing," Few said. "Last year's team did as good a job as any I've coached of hitting the ceiling of what they're capable of."

This year's team is aiming higher. At one point, the Zags won 22 in a row, a school record. The biggest change was the addition of Kyle Wiltjer, who left Kentucky after the 2013 season, not so much because he was unhappy there, but because he didn't see an opportunity to be the player he could be. At Gonzaga, he has thrived — gotten stronger, honed his skills and become an inside-outside threat that most teams don't have an answer for.

He averages 16.7 points and six rebounds. At 6-foot-10, he shoots 46 percent from 3-point range but also is second on the team in rebounds and blocks. Wiltjer was part of the 2012 championship run at Kentucky, where such things are expected.

At Gonzaga?
"No one really expects us to make it all that way," he said.

SOMEWHAT SIMILAR

When they look across the court, the Zags will see an up-and-coming program that looks a little like theirs did once. North Dakota State's arena is currently under renovation. The Bison, of the Summit League, have practiced in five different spots this season, including a high school, the minor-league hockey arena where their games are played, and a warehouse. They lift weights in what used to be a grocery store. "I don't know that there's another team in the country that can say they lift in a grocery store and work out in a warehouse," said swingman A.J. Jacobson. "But we've just tried to eliminate excuses and get better from having that" circumstance.

SOME EXPERIENCE

The Bison beat Oklahoma in the first round last year, but outside of the winning DNA, this team doesn't look much the same. Three starters from that roster are gone, as is coach Saul Phillips, who left for Ohio. The un-

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JOHN DAVIS/BERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS

Parker's Zach O'Keefe, center, tries to twist around White River's Justin Folkers, left, as O'Keefe drove to the basket during Thursday night's game at the South Dakota Class B Boys Basketball Tournament at Wachs Arena in Aberdeen. In the background for White River is Justin Prue.

Parker

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proud of our guys. They got down by 14 in the first half, and they could have given up. But they didn't, just as they haven't all year. They came back to cut White River's lead to one point in the fourth quarter."

Marshall was proud of his team as well for holding off the Parker rallies during the game. Parker outscored White River 12-5 in the third quarter, but the Tigers never trailed in the game.

"Was it our best performance? No, it wasn't," Marshall said. "But this one is done, and now we have to get ready for the next one. We have to be mentally and physically prepared not just for 16 minutes, but 32."

After Parker got the lead down to one point in the fourth quarter, several White River players made key plays:

- Young made a three-point play.
- Justin Prue made a three-point play.
- Folkers made four free throws in a row.

Parker made a mini-run at the Tigers in the final 36 seconds when they outscored White River 8-4. Included in that Parker run was a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Ryan John.

"We came out strong, but we didn't finish as strong as we needed to," said Folkers, who led White River with 24 points, eight rebounds and two blocked shots. "Tomorrow night, we need to come back and focus on ourselves and control what we can control."

White River also got 22 points and nine rebounds from Prue. Tucker got nine rebounds as well while Justice Morrison dished out six assists. Young contributed seven points, four rebounds and two steals.

Parker got 20 points and four steals from O'Keefe. Landon Leberman added nine points and five assists. Cody Knock eight points and 10 rebounds and Zack Anderson eight points and six rebounds. The Pheasants also got seven points, four rebounds and two blocked shots from Kelby Peters.

Folkers said he and his teammates are excited to have won its first-round State B game after losing it last year. "It is great to be a senior and to be back in the semifinals like we were in my sophomore year."

PARKER (17-7)

Ryan John 2-4 0-0 5, Kelby Peters 3-7 0-0 7, Zack Anderson 4-5 0-0 8, Zach O'Keefe 7-23 5-7 20, Landon Leberman 3-9 1-3 9, Jayden Korhals 0-0 0-0 0, Cody Knock 4-8 0-0 8, Totals 23-56 6-10 57.

WHITE RIVER (22-2)

Justin Prue 6-13 7-13 22, Link Tucker 0-2 2-4 2, Justice Morrison 2-5 0-0 6, Nicholas Young 3-5 1-1 7, Justin Folkers 8-15 8-10 24, Tommy Wilcox 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 19-40 16-28 61.

Parker

.....15 30 42 57

White River

.....23 40 45 61

Three-pointers — Parker 5-14 (John 1-3, Peters 1-4, O'Keefe 1-5, Leberman 2-2); White River (Prue 3-5, Tucker 0-1, Morrison 2-4). Fouls — Parker 21; White River 10. Fouled out — Parker, O'Keefe, Turnovers — Parker 11; White River 13. Rebounds — Parker 31 (Knock 10); White River 33 (Prue 9, Tucker 9). Assists — Parker 9 (Leberman 5); White River 11 (Tucker 6). Steals — Parker 8 (O'Keefe 4); White River 5 (Young 2). Blocked shots — Parker 4 (Peters 2); White River 2 (Folkers 2).

State

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basketball tournament.

Park had 15 points and 13 rebounds in a dominating win by the Patriots (19-5), who outscored Watertown 32-8 inside.

Lincoln shot 46 percent while holding the Arrows (12-12) to 28 percent.

Malik Dunn had 13 points. Kaleb Johnson 11.

Watertown got three 3-pointers and 16 points from Nate Davis. He was the only Arrow in double figures.

Class A

Little Wound 60, Clark-Willow Lake 54

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Shilo Tallman had 13 points as Little Wound held off Clark-Willow Lake for a 60-54 win Thursday at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

team needed him most.

Baylor (24-10), which got 18 points and 15 rebounds from reserve Taurean Prince, did not score after going up 56-44 on two free throws with 2:54 remaining.

The junior guard's steal and layup trimmed Baylor's lead to 56-53, and he drained an NBA-range 3 for the win after the Bears' Kenny Chery missed the front end of a 1-and-1 that could have put the game away for the Bears.

Hunter finished with 16 points on 5-of-12 shooting.

Arizona 93,

Texas Southern 72

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 23 points, 16 in the first half, along with 10 rebounds for second-seeded Arizona.

Pac-12 freshman of the year Stanley Johnson added 22 points for the balanced Wildcats (32-3), who led by as many as 27 points.

Madariou Gibbs had 15 points for 15th-seeded Texas Southern (22-13), which won an automatic bid as the winner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament.

Brandon Ashley added 14 points for Arizona, which won its 12th straight. Texas Southern was making its second straight appearance in the

tournament.

Xavier 76, Mississippi 57

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Matt Stainbrook scored 20 points and Dee Davis added 17 for the sixth-seeded Musketeers.

The 6-foot-10 Stainbrook took advantage of his size in the post, making 8 of 10 shots in the paint and adding nine rebounds and five assists. Davis hit 4 of 9 shots from 3-point range for Xavier (22-13).

Mississippi's guard tandem of Stefan Moody and Jarvis Summers finished a combined 5 of 26 from the field. Moody led the Rebels (21-13) with 14 points.

The Rebels exerted significant energy in overcoming a 17-point deficit to beat BYU in the First Four in Dayton, Ohio, about 43 hours earlier.

Ole Miss missed 18 of its first 27 shots, with most of those by Moody and Summers.

Ohio St. 75, VCU 72, OT

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points and rallied 10th-seeded Ohio State from an early 12-point deficit for the overtime win.

Russell regrouped from a blow that sent blood streaming down the left side of his face near the end of regulation.

Three-Class Shootout March 28

SALEM — The 28th annual 3-Class Shootout basketball all-star games will be held on Saturday, March 28, at the McCook Central auditorium in Salem.

Play begins at 2 p.m. with the 'AA' girls against the 'A' girls, with the winner playing

the 'B' girls at 3:30 p.m.

Boys' games begin with the 'B' boys against the 'A' boys at 5:15 p.m., with the winner playing the 'AA' boys at 7 p.m. A slam dunk contest will be held between the two boys' games.

Rosters will be announced in the coming days.

Winner 54,

St. Thomas More 42

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Winner used a big third quarter to pull away from St. Thomas More and beat the Cavaliers 54-42 at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

The Warriors (22-1) outscored the Cavaliers 20-9 in the third quarter on Thursday and kept a comfortable lead the rest of the way.

Brendan Harter had 17 points and nine rebounds for Winner, which shot 41 percent

and held St. Thomas More (13-10) to 26 percent. Nathan Galbraith added 14 points and Sam Naasz 12.

Jake Satter had 14 points and PJ Freidel 13 for St. Thomas More.

Aberdeen Roncalli 48, Lennox 37

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Aberdeen Roncalli rode a 12-1 run to start the fourth quarter to a 48-37 win over Lennox Thursday at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

The top-seeded Cavaliers (21-2) trailed 32-31 after three quarters but put together a long streak to move into the semifinals.

Daniel Holmstrom had three 3-pointers and 13 points for Roncalli. He also had seven rebounds and five steals. Zach Hammerich added 10 points.

Jacob Hinker led the Orioles with 17 points. He had three 3-pointers and 15 rebounds.

NCAA

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around and hit the glass again — staying on the back rim for a moment — before falling through. That sent the Bearcats celebrating while officials reviewed the play to make sure Capuain did beat the buzzer.

In overtime, DeBerry scored four of his 13 points helping Cincinnati take a lead it wouldn't lose again.

Vince Edwards' would-be tying 3 hit off the rim at the buzzer for the Boiler-makers (21-13).

The Bearcats (23-10) will play either No. 1 Kentucky or Hampton on Saturday in the Midwest Region.

West Region

North Carolina 67, Harvard 65

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Justin Jackson hit a tying jumper in the final minute and then had a fast-break dunk to help fourth-seeded North Carolina edge 13th-seeded Harvard.

The Tar Heels (25-11) wasted a

16-point, second-half lead and briefly trailed before Jackson came to the rescue.

Siyani Chambers' four-point play put Harvard ahead 65-63 with 1:15 remaining. It was the only lead of the game for the Ivy League champions.

Jackson finished with 14 points and Marcus Paige had 10.

Chambers misfired on a pair of 3-pointers in the closing seconds, and the Crimson's final chance for victory — Wesley Saunders' shot from beyond the arc — bounced off the back of the rim.

Saunders led Harvard (22-8) with 26 points.

Georgia St. 57, Baylor 56

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — R.J. Hunter kept firing away, eventually lifting Georgia State over Baylor and knocking his father right off his seat.

Hunter's 3-pointer with 2.7 seconds remaining capped a comeback from a 12-point deficit and lifted the 14th-seeded Panthers over the third-seeded Bears.

With Ron Hunter working the sideline in a rolling chair less than a week after tearing his left Achilles tendon celebrating Georgia State winning the Sun Belt Conference championship, R.J. shrugged off a poor shooting performance to lead through when his



AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Friday, March 20

7:40 am Vermillion Chamber (Nathan Welch)

8:20 am United Way (Lauren Hanson)