

## IN BRIEF

Ravens' assistant named  
49ers' next head coach

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Baltimore defensive coordinator Mike Nolan accepted the San Francisco 49ers' head coaching position Monday and began to negotiate a contract to take over the team that held the NFL's worst record last season.

Nolan, a longtime coordinator for four teams but who has never been a head coach, will replace Dennis Erickson, fired earlier in the month after going 9-23 in two seasons. San Francisco went 2-14 this season.

After wowing 49ers owner John York in an interview Thursday, Nolan accepted the offer Monday and flew to York's home in Ohio to work out a contract.

"(York) had a good strong list of candidates, and they felt that Mike was the perfect candidate to lead us into the future," 49ers

spokesman Kirk Reynolds said.

Nolan earned the chance to follow in the footsteps of his father, Dick, who went 54-53-5 in eight seasons as the 49ers' coach from 1968-75.

Mike Nolan, 45, has been in charge of the Ravens' powerful defense since 2001, following stints as the coordinator with the New York Jets (2000), Washington (1997-99) and the New York Giants (1993-96).

General manager Terry Donahue was fired along with Erickson, and Nolan will have a hand in picking Donahue's successor as York rebuilds the once-proud franchise, which will have the top pick in the next draft.

Nolan was offered the job Monday morning, beating out four other candidates: New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, thought to be Cleveland's top choice; Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis; and Tennessee coordinators Mike Heimerdinger and Jim Schwartz.

— The Associated Press

## Men's basketball

Oregon holds on to beat  
Washington State 55-52

BY JON ROETMAN  
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team rebounded from its blowout loss to No. 14 Washington on Thursday with a 55-52 victory against Washington State on Saturday at Friel Court in Pullman, Wash.

Cougar guard Thomas Kelati missed a pair of three-pointers in the game's final seconds — the first was blocked by Oregon guard Jordan Kent — as the Ducks held off a much-improved Washington State team.

"Every year there's that game that sits there and gives you an opportunity to break through," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent told 590 KUGN after the game. "Maybe this is it. Losing to Washington — getting embarrassed at times — and to regroup and play in a key game against a team playing good basketball, hopefully it will get us over the hump."

After trailing most of the game, the Ducks (11-3 overall, 3-2 Pacific-10 Conference) took a 53-52 lead on a three-point play by point guard Aaron Brooks with 41.7 seconds remaining. Oregon padded its lead when

freshman forward Maarty Leunen drilled a pair of free throws with 6.6 seconds left. Despite pulling out the late victory, the Ducks almost gave the game back to the Cougars (8-7, 3-3). With 24.9 seconds remaining and Oregon ahead by one, Washington State freshman guard Josh Akognon missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Oregon forward Ian Crosswhite grabbed the rebound and threw a bounce pass toward the official, thinking Akognon had a second free throw coming. Brooks, who was coming back to get the ball from Crosswhite, was able to keep the pass from going out of bounds and the Ducks maintained possession.

"The guy I'm most satisfied for is Ian Crosswhite," Coach Kent said. "Because if he threw that ball out of bounds and Aaron doesn't save it, he walks home. He literally walks back to Eugene because that is a veteran player having a mental lapse like that."

Crosswhite finished with six turnovers for a total of 13 giveaways in the past two games. He also finished with four points.

Freshman guard Bryce Taylor led

Oregon with a career-high 26 points on 10-of-14 shooting to rescue a sputtering Duck offense. The Encino, Calif., native connected on six of eight three-pointers in 33 minutes. It was the second consecutive game in which Taylor stepped up as the main offensive threat for the Ducks.

"I thought he was fabulous," Coach Kent said. "I told him right before the Washington game that it's time for him to get going and step up because he has a big-time package in his game. He was unreal tonight offensively."

Freshman guard Malik Hairston added 10 points on 4-of-6 shooting for Oregon, while Brooks was limited to five points on 2-of-8 shooting.

Kelati led Washington State with 15 points, while Derrick Low added 10.

"This team did a great job in a very difficult environment to play in without a lot of people here," Coach Kent said. "It's cold outside, there's snow on the ground and they knew they have a long bus ride in front of them."

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## Women: Ducks led by as many as 27 points

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Ducks a 21-18 advantage they did not relinquish for the remainder of the contest.

The Cougars trailed by five points at halftime, 28-23, and would never get closer. Oregon created separation with an 11-2 run to start the second half.

Washington State won the rebounding battle in the first half, but Oregon managed to win the war, 45-39.

Senior center Andrea Bills picked up six of her eight boards and all 12 of her points in the second half for

the Ducks.

"I felt like they were really hacking and playing aggressive," Bills said. "I had to battle through that and it finally showed in the second half."

With 2:28 remaining, the Ducks reached a 27-point lead, 67-40, after stringing together a 15-2 scoring streak.

"We're a second-half team but we can't do that anymore," Kraayeveld said. "We can't say we're a second-half team and not play the first half."

Corrie Mizusawa returned to Oregon's starting lineup after battling

the flu and dished out a game-high seven assists from the point. Freshman Gabrielle Richards recorded a career-best four blocks.

Benz, a sophomore, tallied 11 points and 10 rebounds for Washington State. Teammate Adriane Ferguson scored a team-high 13 points. As a team, the Cougars shot 29 percent in each half.

The Ducks scored 22 points off turnovers compared to the Cougars' four. Each team finished with 14 turnovers.

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## Wrestling: Boise State's last chance falls short

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pin gave Oregon the lead 25-20 and the Ducks would not look back.

"Scott (Barker) and Shane (Webster) did what they are supposed to do," Kearney said. "They wrestle consistently day-in and day-out and have provided us with a lot of leadership."

With the Broncos trailing by five going into the final match of the night, their only hope for victory was to have heavyweight Eric Smith record either a pin or a technical fall over sophomore Chris Dearmon. Although Dearmon would lose by way of a 3-2 decision, he avoided a pin or a technical fall thus preserving

Oregon's lead and giving them the win, 25-23.

Oregon captain Barker was content with the win, but said there's room for improvement.

"It was a good win," Barker said. "We still have a lot of work to do and I hope we continue to get better."

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