

## Ducks keep dancing, top Bulldogs to reach Final Four

By Anne M. Peterson  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Off to Oregon's first appearance in the Final Four, guard Sabrina Ionescu set the theme for the second-seeded Ducks.

"All I gotta say is we're not done yet," Ionescu said after she had 31 points, eight assists

and seven rebounds in Oregon's 88-84 victory Sunday over top-seeded Mississippi State.

Satou Sabally had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Ducks (33-4), who head to Tampa, Florida, to face the winner of Monday's game between top overall seed Baylor and Iowa.

At the final buzzer, Ionescu

jumped into teammate Ruthy Hebard's arms and coach Kelly Graves flashed an "O" with his hands to the crowd. The Ducks had been eliminated in the Elite Eight the past two seasons.

As Ionescu cut down a piece of the net, fans at the Moda Center chanted "One more year!" at the junior guard, who has been

dogged by rumors she may skip her final year to go pro.

Teaira McCowan had 19 points and 15 rebounds in her final game for the Bulldogs (33-3), who had played in the NCAA title game for the past two seasons. Two of Mississippi State's losses this season were to Oregon, and the first one was a true

road game in Eugene.

It certainly had the feeling of an away game for Mississippi State, even though the Bulldogs wore their home whites. Attendance at the Moda Center was announced at 11,534, with the vast majority cheering on the Ducks — a tough draw for a top seed.

See **Ducks** / Page 8A



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Union/Cove shortstop Kaylin Nowak extends to catch a popup during the third inning of Saturday's game against Colton. Union/Cove won all four games of the Union Spring Bash, including a 10-0 victory over the Vikings.

## 'Cats cap perfect weekend

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Friday, the Union/Cove Ladycats softball team won a pair of squeakers.

Saturday was a dominant effort that resulted in two blowout wins.

In all, it was a 4-0 weekend for the Ladycats at the annual Union Spring Bash, giving the team some momentum heading into an upcoming showdown with Grant Union/Prairie City.

"We learned a lot from this weekend and (we have) a lot to work on, but going 4-0 was really nice," Union/Cove Head Coach Paul Phillips said, summing up his team's play. "The kids not allowing a run (Saturday) in two games was great."

### Friday UNION/COVE 13, BONANZA 12

The Ladycats opened Friday by surviving a fierce late rally by the Bonanza Antlers and overcoming seven errors to win a shootout.

Bonanza, which trailed 9-4 after five innings, surged to a 12-11 lead with four runs in both the sixth and seventh innings.

But Union/Cove escaped in the bottom of the seventh. Callie Glenn hit a one-out RBI double to tie the score, and scored two batters later when Harley Creech hit a walk-off sacrifice fly.

The top of Union/Cove's order did major damage for the Ladycats, with Glenn, Kaylin Nowak and Creech

combining to go 8-for-13 with two home runs — back-to-back shots by Nowak and Creech in the sixth — and nine RBIs.

The big game from Creech was the beginning of a strong weekend for the sophomore catcher, who also homered Saturday. She said she has been working to "fix" her swing.

"I was taking too long to get to the ball. I spent a (lot of) time hitting off of tees and figured my swing out," she said.

Union/Cove hit four doubles to take a 4-2 lead in the first inning, with RBI doubles from Creech and Taylor Daggett and a two-run double by Kylie Bruce accounting for the runs.

Daggett singled home a run to break a 4-4 tie in the third and trigger a five-run inning. Glenn and Nowak added two-run singles later in the frame to put the Ladycats up by five.

Daggett and Bruce both added two RBIs and two hits. Glenn pitched a complete game and was charged with 12 runs, but four were unearned. She also struck out eight batters.

### UNION/COVE 4, NORTH DOUGLAS 3

The Ladycats won their late game Friday behind what Phillips said may have been the highlight of the weekend for him as Union/Cove posted four runs in the fifth against North Douglas Warriors' ace Nicki Derrick. Union/Cove, in fact, scored more runs in the inning than North Douglas has

allowed in any other game this season.

"(Derrick) is just a really good pitcher. We put together some quality at bats, but we struggled a little bit putting the ball in play," Phillips said. "I was proud (of how) the girls stayed focused and just took care of business."

Derrick struck out 11, and got some help when North Douglas scored three times in the top of the fifth for a 3-0 lead.

But Union/Cove loaded the bases with nobody out in the home-half of the frame before Kylie Marriott scored on a passed ball to get the Ladycats on the board. Glenn followed with a two-run double to even the score, and Creech drove in Glenn with a single for the lead.

Glenn made the lead hold up to earn the win, striking out four and allowing just one earned run on seven hits. Union/Cove committed five errors in the win, but was able to limit the damage.

### Saturday UNION/COVE 10, WARRENTON 0

Union/Cove cleaned up the defense and continued its strong offensive play to score two more victories, starting with a 10-0, five-inning win over the Warrenton Warriors Saturday.

Daggett pitched a one-hit shutout and struck out three batters for Union/Cove, and the offense got rolling right away. Creech hit a first-inning RBI

See **Ladycats** / Page 7A

## Tiger softball goes 4-0 in National Guard Classic

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers softball team ran its record to a perfect 7-0 by winning all four of its games — all against Idaho schools — Friday and Saturday at the National Guard Spring Break Classic in Nampa, Idaho.

### Friday LA GRANDE 11, MIDDLETON 5

The Tigers broke open their first game by scoring six runs in the second inning and adding on five runs in the third as they routed the Middleton Vikings.

Jayce Seavert homered and drove in three runs, and both Alaina Carson and Kara Gooderham had a pair of RBIs for La Grande.

Two Middleton errors with the bases loaded allowed the first two runs to score in the second inning. Gooderham was then walked, Seavert was hit by a pitch, and Allie Brock was walked — each with the bases loaded — to force in three more runs before Seavert scored on a wild pitch for a 6-0 lead.

In the third, Carson hit an RBI single, Lexee Gomes scored on a wild pitch, and another error led to a run before Seavert hit a two-run home run for an 11-1 lead.

Brock tossed 2-2/3 innings for the win, striking out four, walking one and allowing two runs — one earned — on two hits.

### LA GRANDE 1, RIDGEVUE 0

Brock struck out eight as she tossed a six-hit shutout — her third of the season — and Seavert provided all the offense necessary as the Tigers edged the Warhawks in a pitchers' duel.

Seavert hit a fourth-inning solo home run to left field for the only run of the game.

Brock held the lead, and got out of a two-on, no-out jam in the seventh for the win, aided by Seavert throwing out a would-be base stealer. Seavert, in fact, threw out two base runners in the game.

Carson had two of La

Grande's four hits in the win.

### Saturday LA GRANDE 9, GOODING 3

Two big early innings gave La Grande the margin it needed as it opened Saturday with a win over the Gooding Senators.

Carson, Seavert and Brock each had two hits and combined to collect six of La Grande's seven RBIs. Jaiden Hafer also had two hits.

RBI singles by Seavert and Brock gave the Tigers a 2-0 first-inning lead, and an error allowed two more runs to score in the frame. In the second, Seavert hit a two-run double, and Brock and Hafer both collected RBI singles to double the lead to 8-0.

Carson's RBI double in the third gave the Tigers a 9-0 lead.

Brock tossed the first two innings before turning it over to the bullpen. She struck out six batters while allowing just one hit.

### LA GRANDE 4, MERIDIAN 2

Brock and Seavert both homered, and Brock tossed another gem in the pitcher's circle as the Tigers finished with a win over the Meridian Warriors.

Seavert's RBI double in the first scored Carson with the game's first run, and she followed with a solo home run — her third of the weekend — in the third inning for a 2-0 lead.

An error in the fourth allowed Hafer to score, and Brock capped the scoring for La Grande in the fifth with a solo shot.

Brock took a perfect game into the seventh inning, retiring the first 18 batters she faced, before Sam Deslover hit a home run to get the Warriors on the board. Abigail Gagnon homered later for Meridian, but Brock finished off the win.

The junior pitcher struck out 10 and allowed the two runs on three hits.

La Grande (7-0 overall) faces Pendleton in its home opener Wednesday.

See **Roundup** / Page 7A



Nicole Cathey

Reed & Associates for  
excellent service **LOCALLY!**



An Independent Insurance Agency  
**Reed & ASSOCIATES**

Medicare, Auto, Home  
insurance and Annuities



Kevin Reed

10106 N. 'C' • Island City

**541-975-1364**

Toll Free 1-866-282-1925

[www.reed-insurance.net](http://www.reed-insurance.net)

# CHECK OUT THE Local Sports Report... ON THE Johnny Ballgame Show

## THE OBSERVER

Tune into the Johnny Ballgame Show for the Local Sports Report with Observer Sports Editor Ronald Bond at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

Twitter  
@lgoBond



Listen to the Johnny Ballgame Show from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday on SuperTalk 1450 AM.



Twitter  
@JBG\_Show