



On Saturday, March 17 at I.V. High School the I.V. Boys and Girls Club's two undefeated middle school basketball teams had a championship game. The green team was sponsored by Wheels A' Turnin and the brown team was sponsored by River Valley. The green team ended up winning 30-25. Skylar Larkin takes a shot (below).



(Photos by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Beavers knock-off Volunteers

By
Rhiannon Potkey
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Oregon State coach Scott Rueck had insulated himself from much of the media coverage leading into the women's NCAA Tournament.

But struggling to sleep at 2 a.m. Sunday morning before Oregon State faced Tennessee in the second round, Rueck stumbled upon an ESPN preview article.

He noticed a nugget about the Lady Vols having never lost at home in the NCAA Tournament and thought, "How often in life do you have a chance to do something for the first time?"

After informing his team at shoot-around about their shot at history, the Beavers went out and added another chapter to their renaissance.

Senior Marie Gulich had 14 points and 12 rebounds to lead sixth-seeded Oregon State to its third straight regional semifinal appearance with a 66-59 win over third-seeded Tennessee at Thompson-Boling Arena.

"We had an opportunity to do something today that is really special and that is a first," Rueck said. "So when the clock was ticking down right at the very end and we knew we had it, I just couldn't hardly believe how far this team has come."

Rueck can say the same for his program. The one-time Pac-12 Conference doormat has become a perennial contender with expectations to make deep tournament runs and share the stage with tradition-rich Tennessee.

The Lady Vols had been 57-0 at home in NCAA play with most of those victories coming under late Hall of

Fame coach Pat Summitt, who led the team to eight national championships. It's the second straight season that Tennessee lost in the second round of the NCAAs and will miss the Sweet 16 in back-to-back seasons for the first time in the program's 37-year tournament history.

Tennessee (24-8) and OSU (25-7) played an intense game befitting of two teams separated by only one spot in the AP poll entering the tournament.

Tennessee's swarming pressure defense flustered OSU early, forcing turnovers and contested shots. The national leader in 3-point field goal percentage, OSU started 1 for 7 from behind the 3-point line in the first half.

The Lady Vols went on an 11-2 run in the first quarter, punctuated by a Jaime Nared 3-pointer, to take a 17-7 lead. But OSU switched to a zone defense in the second quarter that slowed UT's offense and began hitting shots on the other end to claw back.

The Beavers embarked on a 13-2 run to take their first lead on two free throws by Kat Tudor with 2:44 remaining in the half. Renna Davis hit a deep 3-pointer to send Tennessee into halftime with a 26-24 advantage.

"I think it just made us stagnate," UT senior Mercedes Russell said of OSU's zone defense. "We were standing around on the perimeter a lot, not really passing and cutting and moving the defense, which we should have. We didn't really make them work defensively."

The teams battled through a physical third quarter, with OSU attacking the basket and drawing fouls to end the quarter on an 11-2 run for a 44-39 advantage. OSU grabbed two

offensive rebounds to keep a possession alive to start the final quarter, and Mikayla Pivec capitalized with a 3-pointer to set the tone.

The Beavers gradually built their lead to as large as 13 points. Tennessee made a desperate attempt to rally in the final minutes, but OSU managed to keep the Lady Vols at bay and beat Tennessee for the first time in five attempts.

After the final buzzer, the Beavers celebrated on the court as their small contingent of fans behind the bench cheered.

Senior Mercedes Russell finished with 21 points and 14 rebounds in the final game of her Tennessee career. Fellow senior Nared scored nine points on 3 of 14 shooting.

Having started the season as a young team in rebuilding mode, OSU has matured into another Sweet 16 squad ready to carry on the legacy.

"It's amazing to see this program grow. I've been a Beaver fan since I was a little girl, and once Scott got here it just got better and better," said McWilliams, a junior. "I am so happy to be able to play for this team and that we are making this Sweet 16 run again."

The Beavers were not an average No. 6 seed, and proved it. The switch to a zone defense in the second quarter changed the game for the Beavers and contained a Tennessee team that thrives on uptempo offense.

OSU advances to the Sweet 16 to play No. 2 Baylor or No. 7 Michigan in Lexington, Kentucky.



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

To paraphrase Forrest Gump, "Things happen, sometimes." This week's edition, to be frank is a disappointment. Stories fell through and we were left scrambling for content. I am not happy, and I would like to apologize to you, if I let you down.

Taking on the other paper has been a larger chore than I expected. But in time, things will settle into a flow and things will improve.

Losing our reporter Jason McMillen was a bit of a blow and we have been trying new reporters with both failures and success. That is the life of a small town newspaper. We find them, train them and then they move on. Typically about one year is the norm. I have been fortunate to have kept the writers we have, for as long as we have. If you are interested in community journalism please give me a call.

Usually when we ask for help we get a few people who want to write columns, but we need people who want to be reporters, not writers.

This time of year is generally a slow news time, so I suppose it's good that we are shorthanded.

Speaking of shorthanded, the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) overturned the counties ban on growing cannabis on parcels less than 5 acres. It appears they didn't notice the 16,000 RR-5 zoned properties as the law dictates. As for any other position that was to be argued, LUBA declined to tackle the issues, because it seemed that in their minds, since it wasn't noticed, it didn't happen. Josephine County Commissioner Lily Morgan said by phone March 16 that the board had not discussed the outcome yet, but plans to in a meeting scheduled for March 20.

As for the lengthy article about Rough & Ready, some of you may have read it in the Oregonian. I felt it was important to republish it for all to see. It's a complicated topic and a beast in length. If you start it, finish it. We gave the Phillipis a chance to respond as I felt it was the right thing to do.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper, try to enjoy it! ~djm

BEELER'S TREE SERVICE

FULLY INSURED & BONDED CLIMBING ARBORIST

**Professional Arborist
Hazard Tree Removal
Pruning and Trimming
Shaping and
Health Restoration**

Get a FREE estimate today!

**Call Sam
541-660-5963**

www.beelertreeservice.com

**H&R Block
Business Services**

- Bookkeeping
- Payroll
- Tax Preparation
- Advice

H&R Block Business Services can help your business go further. Contact your local H&R Block office for more information.

H&R Block
210 W. Lister St.
Cave Junction
592-3667
Ted Crocker, LTC
Bob Link, LTC
Licensed Tax Consultants B14914

H&R BLOCK | business services

**Available now:
Ethanol Free Supreme**

**Now open until at least 8:30 pm daily!
Oil changes and tires sales 7 days a week!**

Oregon Caves Chevron
541-592-3080

Family owned and operated for over 31 years!

**WILD BILL'S
OREGON OUTLET**

Glass Pipes & Smokin' Supplies

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

WE NOW HAVE CBD OILS!

Locally blown glass, incense, papers, candles, butane, vaporizers, pipes, jewelry, T shirts, grinders clothes and much more!

Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Monday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

202 N Redwood Hwy
Cave Junction OR 97523
541-761-9084

facebook.com/Wild-Bills-Oregon-Outlet-LLC

**Kate's
REDWOOD
BAR & GRILL**

- 5 Beers On Tap! -

New ~ Homemade Foods and BBQ!

**March 23
Indian Tacos
with all the fixins**

**All Day
Winter hours.**

**Weds thru Sat. 11:30 - 9:00.
Open Sundays at 10**

12235 Redwood Hwy - Wonder, OR 541-476-8990

The SPOT

HUMP DAY KARAOKE
w/ Jammer & Birdy
8-midnight

OPEN MIC w/ B
Thursdays @ 7

Leonard Griffie Band
SAT March 24
8-11 p.m. \$10 cover

**PHIL
KING**

**Friday, March 23
@ 5:30**

from
**Taylor's
Country Store**

**Wild River
HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE**

**Dale
Hopper**

Saturday the 24th @ 6 PM

**Every Wednesday
Open MIC Night
6 - 9 p.m.**

J Barley
Friday nights @ 6

**Saturday
Pool Tourney**
8 p.m. \$3 entry

**Sunday Funday
free pool**

**Sportsman
Tavern**

**Art's Red
Garter**

DJ Lay'D Beatz

KARAOKE
Wed & Sun nights

DJ
Fri & Sat nights

SunRose

**Friday, March 23
9 p.m. \$3**

**@
McGrew's**

Call
541-596-2202
for dinner reservations