



AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw holds up part of the net after Notre Dame defeated Baylor 77-68 in a regional final in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament, Sunday in Oklahoma City.

McGraw appreciates Notre Dame women's run more than ever

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — It would be easy to forgive Muffet McGraw if she started taking Final Four appearances for granted.

After all, the Notre Dame women's coach has become a regular of sorts on college basketball's biggest stage — reaching her fifth straight Final Four with a 77-68 win over No. 2 seed Baylor Sunday night.

Despite the top-seeded Fighting Irish's wild success, their longtime coach has only grown more appreciative of the ride as the wins have piled up.

In fact, McGraw — likely because this season's success was less expected than some of the others — encouraged her youthful group to enjoy every part of this week leading up to next weekend's clash with fellow top-seed South Carolina (34-2) in Tampa, Florida.

"I'm planning on cele-

brating it a little bit more because they need that," McGraw said. "They need to understand how special this is, and I will enjoy watching the freshmen enjoy it because for them it's the first time, and it's going to be a really special one."

Sunday's win was Notre Dame's 21st in a row, a remarkable achievement given an off-season roster turnover that resulted in the Fighting Irish playing only one senior against a Lady Bears (33-4) team set on atoning for an Elite Eight loss a year ago.

Point guard Lindsay Allen continued her emergence as the perfect back-court complement to all-everything guard Jewell Loyd, finishing with 23 points as Notre Dame rallied from nine points down in the first half. The sophomore was 10 of 16 from the field and continually left the Baylor defense without an answer

— a game after she had a career-high 28 points in a win over Stanford.

Allen finished a combined 19 of 33 from the field in the two games in Oklahoma City, a two-game display she said was the best of her career.

"This weekend was just a really great weekend," Allen said.

While the weekend was one McGraw wanted the Fighting Irish to remember for Allen and the rest of her teammates, Notre Dame's recent Final Four disappointments were impossible to ignore amidst the celebration.

None as fresh as last season's national championship game loss to Connecticut, a 79-58 defeat that ended Notre Dame's hopes of completing an undefeated season — and winning the school's first national championship since 2001.

The Fighting Irish have reached the Final Four sev-

en times, all since McGraw took over in 1987. They are now 7-0 in the Elite Eight, though losing in three of the last four national championship games led to a more big-picture approach than normal for the only women's coach to lead Notre Dame to the NCAA Tournament.

"We have been there a number of times and not been able to finish," McGraw said. "Each year, we feel like maybe this will be our year, but I think (we're) definitely celebrating this whole week of what we accomplished all year long because only one team is going to win."

While Notre Dame was left to celebrate its continued run of Final Four appearances, the Lady Bears once again fell just short of returning to college basketball's final weekend for the first time since winning the national championship in 2012.

Rams sweep Warriors

The Daily Astorian

STAYTON — Warrenton scored the first run in each game, but Regis answered with a lot more to post a 14-2, 8-3 doubleheader sweep over the Warriors Friday, in a nonleague twin bill at Regis.

The Rams were scheduled to play a single game at Warrenton Saturday, but the teams decided to play two at Regis Friday.

Regis built a 12-2 lead through three innings of the opener, while pitcher Blake Minten limited Warrenton to just three hits.

Tim Frith had a home run for the Rams, and teammate JaVon Logan added a double and a triple.

Logan and Nate Joyce gave up just two Warrenton hits in Game 2, and the Rams scored runs in five of their six at-bats.

Brock Johnson had a double in Game 1 for the Warriors, who host Tillamook for a single game Wednesday.

11-1, as Bryce Rehwinkel finished the game for the White Buffaloes with an inside-the-park grand slam in the bottom of the sixth inning. Rehwinkel was 4-for-4 with four RBIs for Madras, which led just 3-1 heading into the bottom of the sixth.

"The score wasn't indicative of the game," said Seaside coach Joel Dierickx, "or of how hard we played, and how much these guys have improved."

Michael Lewis went 4-for-4 at the plate for the Gulls.

Crook County 7, Seaside 0

Crook County's Dylan Wilson tossed a perfect game to lead the Cowboys to a 7-0 win over the Gulls Friday.

"Twenty-one up, 21 down," said Seaside coach Joel Dierickx.

Wilson also drove in two runs, while Kyle Smith and Jared McGuire both doubled and singled for the Cowboys. Trevor Slawter added a triple and two RBIs.

Madras Tournament

MADRAS — The Seaside baseball team went 0-for-3 in the Madras Tournament over the weekend, with losses to North Valley, Crook County and Madras.

In Saturday's final game, Madras defeated the Gulls

North Valley 7, Seaside 5

Seaside opened the tournament with a 7-5 loss to North Valley, which had to overcome a 3-0 deficit.

Brent Walsh was 2-for-3 for Seaside, while teammate Michael Lewis had a two-run double.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE	
TODAY	
Softball — Astoria at Corbett, 4:30 p.m.	
TUESDAY	
Baseball — Astoria at Rainier, 4:30 p.m.; Estacada at Seaside (2), 4 p.m.; Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.	
Softball — Seaside at Estacada, 5 p.m.; Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.	
Girls Golf — Seaside at Catlin Gabel, 1 p.m.	
WEDNESDAY	
Baseball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.; Tillamook at Warrenton, 3:30 p.m.	
Softball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.	
Track — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 3:30 p.m.; Scappoose/Tillamook at Seaside, 3:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Christian, 3:30 p.m.	
Boys Golf — Astoria at Scappoose, 2 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 1 p.m.	
BASEBALL	
HIGH SCHOOLS	
Game 1	
Regis 14, Warrenton 2	
Little, Michaelson (3) and McFadden; Minten and Dailey, Schmitt (3). W: Minten. L: Little. 2B: War, Johnson; Reg, Logan. 3B: Reg, Logan. HR: Reg, Frith.	
Warrenton	110 00-2 3 6
Regis	543 2x-14 8 2
Game 2	
Regis 8, Warrenton 3	
Johnson and McFadden; Logan, Joyce (5) and Dailey. W: Logan. L: Johnson. 2B: Reg, Minten. 3B: Reg, Frith.	
Warrenton	110 001 0-3 2 2
Regis	112 202 x-8 10 0

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061.....Bankruptcy	
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060.....Babysitters, Child Care	
070.....Help Wanted	
080.....Work Wanted	
INSTRUCTION	
095.....Schools & Education	
408.....Music Lessons	
FINANCIAL	
105-106.....Business For Sale-Sales Op	
120.....Money To Lend	
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130.....Open Houses	
150-200.....For Sale	
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195.....Homes Wanted	
205-275.....Rentals	
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310.....Tools & Heavy Equipment	
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