

# Loggers fall at Heppner

The Daily Astorian

HEPPNER — Knappa coach James Nichols said, “we’re the best three-inning team in the state.”

Unfortunately for his Lady Logger softball team, games go seven innings nowadays.

Knappa has held leads in all of its last four games, but the Loggers have now lost five in a row, following losses to Heppner (13-3) and Enterprise (15-5) Thursday.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY**  
**Baseball** — Warrenton at Creswell (2), Noon  
**Softball** — Warrenton at Creswell (2), Noon

Both games took place in Heppner.

“We’re just making too many mistakes in the field,” Nichols said.

Knappa was ahead after three innings in the loss to Heppner, in which Knappa

freshman Hannah Hellburg was 2-for-2 at the plate.

The Loggers fall to 1-6 overall, but will still be a force in the Northwest League. Knappa opens the league season Tuesday at Neah-Kah-Nie.

# Pac-12 lives up to its billing in NCAA women’s tourney

By TIM BOOTH  
 AP Sports Writer

Throughout the season, the metrics kept saying the Pac-12 Conference was the best in the country.

When it came time to back it up in the NCAA Tournament, the Pac-12 delivered.

Pac-12 teams will make up 25 percent of the Sweet 16 when the women’s regional semifinals get started Friday. No. 2 seed Oregon State, No. 3 seed UCLA, No. 4 seed Stanford and No. 7 seed Washington all advanced through the first weekend of the tournament, giving the Pac-12 four teams in the final 16 for the first time in conference history. The league had never advanced more than three teams beyond the first weekend.

“It’s awesome for the Pac-12 to have four teams in the Sweet 16. We only started with five to begin with,” Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. “I think it’s a big statement. I think the win by Washington is huge. ... I think people really took care of business and that’s awesome. But we know we’ve been playing against good teams.”

Oregon State romped into the regional semis a year after



getting upset in the second round. UCLA and Stanford both held off upset bids on their home courts. And Washington pulled the surprise of the first two rounds by taking out two-time Final Four participant Maryland on the Terrapins’ home floor.

The only stumble came from No. 2 seed Arizona State, which saw its run end with a second-round loss to perennial power Tennessee.

While the Pac-12 fell on its face in the men’s tournament with six of seven teams eliminated on the opening weekend, the women’s teams are living up to their billing. The SEC is the only other conference to advance four teams to the regional semifinals.

Here’s a look at the four remaining Pac-12 teams:

**OREGON STATE:** A season ago, the Beavers were the upstarts looking to the NCAAs as the next step in their progression to becoming an elite program, only to get upset in the

second round on their home floor by Gonzaga.

The Beavers have what appears to be the easiest matchup of the remaining Pac-12 teams, facing No. 6 seed DePaul in the regional semis, but a win there would likely set up a regional final against Baylor in Dallas.

**UCLA:** The last time UCLA reached the regional semifinals was 1999, when the Bruins lost to Louisiana Tech in the regional final. The Bruins’ reward for getting this far is facing No. 2 seed Texas in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the winner likely getting a date with undefeated UConn.

**STANFORD:** Stanford has the most difficult challenge in the regional semis, facing No. 1 seed Notre Dame.

**WASHINGTON:** The Huskies are the surprise of the four after beating Maryland in the second round. It’s been 15 years since the Huskies last made the regional semifinals, but with a scorer like Kelsey Plum anything is possible with the Huskies. Plum had 32 points in the win over Maryland and will need another big game when Washington faces No. 3 seed Kentucky on the Wildcats’ home floor.

# Mighty Ducks soar over defending champ Duke

## Faces Oklahoma in West Region final Saturday

By GREG BEACHAM  
 AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Oregon Ducks took a double-digit lead early in the second half against the defending national champions, and they never flinched down the stretch.

After taking down mighty Duke with remarkably little drama, these high-flying Ducks are on the brink of the Final Four.

Dillon Brooks scored 22 points and Oregon advanced with an 82-68 victory over the Blue Devils on Thursday night in the West Region semifinal of the NCAA Tournament.

Elgin Cook had 16 points and nine rebounds for the top-seeded Ducks (31-6), who will meet Oklahoma on Saturday.

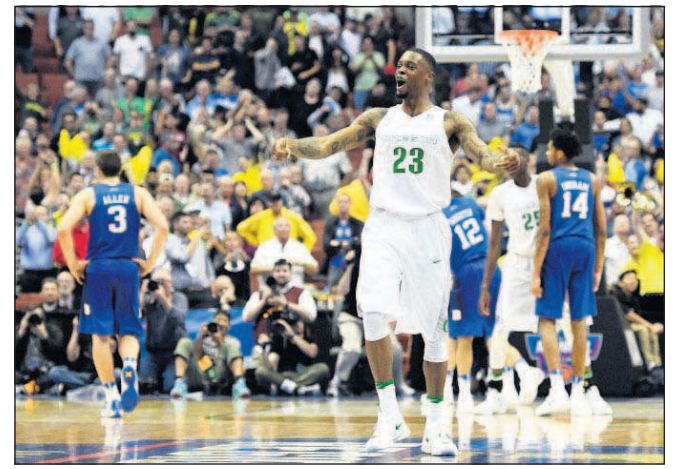
The second-seeded Sooners routed Texas A&M 77-63. After a season-long rise in the Pacific Northwest, the Pac-12 champion Ducks emphatically arrived on the national stage with a strong second-half rally to beat the Blue Devils (25-11) for the first time in school history.

“I think we don’t have a history of being a basketball school, but I think we did some great things this year to prove we deserve it,” said Jordan Bell, who had 13 points and seven rebounds. “I think we played one of our best games this year. Everybody, not just including me. I think we showed everybody we’re a good team.”

The win is a landmark for a football school making its basketball mark. But it was also remarkable for what the Ducks didn’t allow in the second half.

No nerves, no panic — and no rallies by Duke.

The Ducks didn’t take the enormity of their accomplishment for granted, even though



Mark J. Terrill/AP Photo

Oregon forward Elgin Cook celebrates after their win against Duke during an NCAA college basketball game in the regional semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, Thursday, in Anaheim, Calif.

they can’t spend much time thinking about it right now.

“Duke is a household name,” coach Dana Altman said. “Coach K, I have a great deal of respect. So yeah, our guys knew the significance of playing Duke, defending national title, all the Final Fours, all the national championships that their program has been able to win. It was a different feel to it.”

Oregon was the champion of the first NCAA Tournament in 1939, but hasn’t been back to the Final Four since. The Ducks advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2007 and the third time since 2002.

Brooks hit four 3-pointers to lead the Ducks, who also broke the school’s single-season wins record with their 31st. They’ve won 10 straight since mid-February while winning the Pac-12’s regular-season and tournament titles.

“They’re not that deep,” Brooks said of the Blue Devils. “I think (Grayson) Allen played the whole game. They’ve really only got seven guys. We knew they were bound to get tired. We just kept going and kept going, knowing they’d wear out. ... Some of them, their shoulders started to sag. Once they got tired we could see it.”

Freshman Brandon Ingram scored 24 points, but Duke fell short of its third Elite Eight trip in five years — and both coaches agreed the better team won.

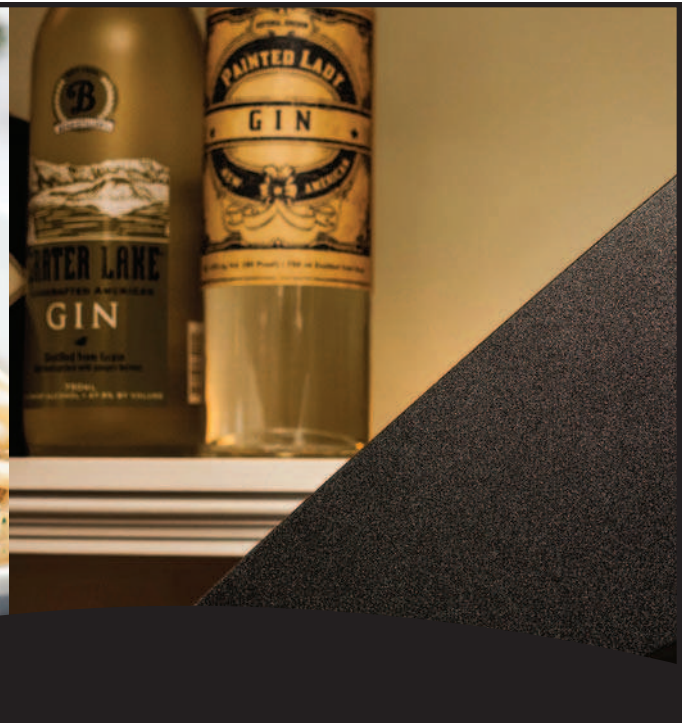
Allen, the Blue Devils’ leading scorer, got 12 of his 15 points in the second half, but Duke couldn’t make much progress in the second half.

“They’re an athletic team, and that plays into their defense,” said Allen, who went 4 for 13. “I also thought we missed some shots around the rim. Could have gone up stronger to finish, but give them credit for going up to challenge us.”

Coach Mike Krzyzewski still emerged proud of his young roster after losing five of its final 10 games.

“They were the better team, that was pretty obvious,” Krzyzewski said. “They knocked us back. They were always in control of the game. Right at the end, I thought we could do a Texas A&M (comeback) ... but then amazing things have to happen.”

Oregon jumped out to an 11-point lead after back-to-back 3-pointers by Casey Benson and Chris Boucher, and they got the arena rocking with back-to-back fast-break dunks from Bell and Cook moments later.



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