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# SPORTS

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Knappa boys dominate City Christian

PORTLAND — The Knappa Loggers tuned up for Thursday's showdown against No. 1-ranked Columbia Christian with a 94-43 win over 39th-ranked City Christian in a Northwest League boys basketball game Monday in Portland.

Colton Weirup hit five of his seven 3-pointers in the first quarter, and teammate Dale Takalo scored 19 of his 31 points in the third, when the Loggers outscored the Lions 29-9.

Weirup finished with 23 points and Timber Engblom added 15 for Knappa.

### Knappa girls fall to City Christian

PORTLAND — City Christian's Shasta Faria and Emilee Owen combined to score 31 points Monday night to lead the Lions past Knappa 49-22 in a Northwest League girls basketball game.

Faria led all scorers with 17, as City Christian built a 26-8 half-time lead.

Madelynn Weaver scored eight points for the Loggers, to go with 11 rebounds. Paris Vanderburg had six boards, three assists and three steals.

— *The Daily Astorian*



Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Alabama wide receiver Devonta Smith runs into the end zone for a touchdown after catching a pass past Georgia defensive back Malkom Parrish during overtime of the national championship game in Atlanta on Monday. Alabama won, 26-23.

# Alabama beats Georgia in OT for national title

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — To add another championship to the greatest dynasty college football has ever seen, Alabama turned to its quarterback of the future, and Tua Tagovailoa proved that his time is now.

The freshman quarterback, who had played mostly mop-up duty this season, came off the bench to spark a comeback and threw a 41-yard touchdown to DeVonta Smith that gave No. 4 Alabama a 26-23 overtime victory against No. 3 Georgia on Monday night for the College Football Playoff national championship.

Tagovailoa entered the game at halftime, replacing a struggling Jalen Hurts, and threw three touchdown passes to give the Crimson Tide its fifth national championship since 2009 under coach Nick Saban.

"He just stepped in and did his thing," Hurts said. "He's built for stuff like this. I'm so happy for him." The Tide might have a quarterback controversy ahead, but first Alabama will celebrate another title.

For the third straight season, Alabama played a classic CFP final. The Tide split two with Clemson, losing last season on a touchdown with a second left.

What was Saban thinking as the winning pass soared this time?

"I could not believe it," he said. "There's lots of highs and lows. Last year we lost on the last play of the game and this year we won on the last play of the game. These kids really responded the right way. We said last year, 'Don't waste the feeling.' They sure didn't, the way they played tonight."

Smith streaked into the end zone and moments later confetti rained and even Saban seemed almost giddy after watching maybe



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Alabama head coach Nick Saban holds up the championship trophy after overtime of the national championship game against Georgia, Monday.

the most improbable victory of his unmatched career. A few hours later, Alabama was voted No. 1 in the final AP college football poll for the 11th time, three more than any other program.

After Alabama kicker Andy Papanastos missed a 36-yard field goal that would have won it for the Tide (13-1) in the final seconds of regulation, Georgia (13-2) took the lead with a 51-yard field goal from Rodrigo Blankenship in overtime.

Tagovailoa took a terrible sack on Alabama's first play, losing 16 yards. On the next he found Smith, another freshman, and hit him in stride for the national championship.

Tagovailoa was brilliant at times, though he had a few freshman moments. He threw an interception when he tried to pass on a running play and all his receivers were blocking. He also darted away from pass rushers and made

some impeccable throws, showing poise of a veteran. Facing fourth-and-goal from the 7, down seven, the left-hander moved to his left and zipped a pass through traffic that hit Calvin Ridley in the numbers for the tying score with 3:49 left in the fourth quarter.

He finished 14 for 24 for 166 yards. The winning play was, basically, four receivers going deep.

"After the sack, we just got up and took it to the next play," Tagovailoa said. "I looked back out, and he was wide open. Smitty was wide open." Freshmen were everywhere for the Alabama offense in the second half: Najee Harris at running back; Henry Ruggs III at receiver; Alex Leatherwood at left tackle after All-American Jonah Williams was hurt. It's a testament to the relentless machine Saban has built.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian  
 Giovanni Savarese

### Savarese formally introduced as new Timbers coach

PORTLAND — When Giovanni Savarese was interviewed to be the Portland Timbers' new head coach, he brought along a scouting report as if he was going to face that team.

Team owner Merritt Paulson appreciated that and on Monday, Savarese was formally introduced as the team's coach. The 46-year-old former player had been coach of the North American Soccer League's New York Cosmos since 2012. He led the team to three Soccer Bowl championships in five seasons.

"With Gio it was — I hate to use the proverbial cliché, 'check the boxes' — but the off-the-field, on-the-field philosophy, the way he thinks about the game, it was pretty seamless," Paulson said.

— *Associated Press*

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

**TODAY**  
**Girls Basketball** — Astoria at Estacada, 4:30 p.m.; Cascade at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Portland Christian at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Jewell at Livingstone Adventist, 5:30 p.m.  
**Boys Basketball** — Astoria at Estacada, 6 p.m.; Cascade at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.; Portland Christian at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Ocosta at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.; Naselle at Firm Foundation, 7 p.m.  
**Swimming** — Astoria at Tillamook, 4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Wrestling** — Seaside/Tillamook at Astoria, 5:30 p.m.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
 Knappa 94, City Christian 43  
 Knappa 30 15 29 20—94  
 City C. 12 15 9 7—43  
**KNA (94):** Dale Takalo 31, Weirup 23, Engblom 15, E. Takalo 6, Goodman 5, Ramvick 4, Phillip 4, Green 2, Vanderburg 2, Hunt 2, Hoover.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
 City Christian 49, Knappa 22  
 Knappa 4 4 6 8—22  
 City C. 14 12 13 10—49  
**KNA (22):** Madelynn Weaver 8, Carlson 5, Vanderburg 3, Ramvick 2, Tischer 2, Strain 2, Miller, Hendrickson, Inman.  
**CC (49):** Shasta Faria 17, Owen 14, Castillo 8, Ishibashi 5, Cruz 4.

## On to 2018: College football story lines for next season

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
*Associated Press*

Congratulations to 2017 national champion Alabama. While the Crimson Tide celebrates, it's on to 2018 for the rest of college football. Here are some of the numerous story lines to follow next season:

### Quarterback competitions

This is as much a story of the off-season as the season, but no doubt the ramifications will be felt all the way through 2018.

Three playoff teams, including the two that played for the national title, will have returning starting quarterbacks. None of those players are locks to start next season.

Jalen Hurts has led Alabama to two straight championship games in his first two college seasons, but it was Tua Tagovailoa who came off the bench Monday night to beat Georgia

for the national championship.

Jake Fromm led Georgia to the national title game as a freshman, but five-star recruit Justin Fields will be practicing with the Bulldogs this spring. And where does that leave Jacob Eason, the former five-star who was relegated to backup-up behind Fromm?

At Clemson, Kelly Bryant will have to fend off both sophomore Hunter Johnson and five-star incoming freshman Trevor Lawrence. Miami's Malik Rosier is also likely to face a challenge from N'Kosi Perry, who will be a redshirt freshman and Notre Dame's Brandon Wimshush will have to reclaim his job after Ian Book led the Fighting Irish to a bowl victory.

Elsewhere, Ohio State will likely turn the team over to Dwayne Haskins. Can incoming freshman Tate Martell be a factor. Texas A&M transfer Kyler Murray is the heir apparent

to Baker Mayfield at Oklahoma.

### Can the Pac-12 rebound?

The West Coast's conference was a dud in 2017, missing out on the playoff for the second time and then crashing in the postseason with a 1-8 bowl record. Bowl records can be deceiving, but it is compounded by the fact that the conference is having a hard time keeping pace with the other Power Five conferences in revenue and exposure.

Washington should still be a national contender and Stanford can be relied upon for consistent top-20 performance. But coaching changes at UCLA, Oregon and the Arizona schools, in addition to USC trying to replace Darnold, means the Pac-12 could again have a hard time putting a team in the playoff.

### Who for Heisman?

Baker Mayfield is gone. So is

Lamar Jackson, Saquon Barkley and Rashaad Penny. That's four of the top five Heisman Trophy vote-getters.

Also, flashy quarterbacks such as San Darnold and Josh Rosen, who were trendy picks going in this past season, are on their way to the NFL.

So who is the favorite going into 2018? Runner-up Bryce Love of Stanford would be good pick, though the junior could go pro. Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor, who ran for nearly 2,000 yards as a freshman, could easily surpass that in 2018. Still, it's become a quarterbacks' award, with 15 of the last 18 going to QBs.

The top quarterbacks? Keep an eye out for some of those newcomers and possible first-year starters. Of the established players, Penn State's Trace McSorley steps out of Barkley's shadow and Oregon's Justin Herbert could be the guy with the NFL draft buzz.