

SPORTS

CONTACT US
Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
 ghenley@dailyastorian.com

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Brian Davies/The Register-Guard
Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu celebrates the first of her four 3-pointers against Arizona during a Jan. 12 game in Eugene.

Ionescu is about more than just those triple-doubles

By ANNE M. PETERSON
 Associated Press

EUGENE — The video scoreboard at Matthew Knight Arena showed short vignettes featuring Oregon players musing about their possible superhero names.

Sabrina Ionescu's? "Super Sabrina." Afterward, she laughed about it. "That's what it was?" she asked incredulously.

But to some, her career with the Ducks thus far has indeed been super. Ionescu holds the NCAA record for most career triple-doubles (with eight) and she's just a sophomore.

Humble about her record, Ionescu insists she's just focused on whatever it takes to help the Ducks.

"I just play, to be honest, I don't think about anything," she said. "I just go out there and play and do the best that I can in order for us to win. So if that's rebounding, passing, scoring, whatever it is. That's what I focus on. Just to win."

The Ducks are winning. They're 17-2 and 6-0 in the Pac-12, the only undefeated team left in the conference. They've won nine straight and all 12 games at home.

Oregon is coming off a 74-64 victory at home Sunday over No. 18 Arizona State. On Monday, the Ducks moved up a spot in the AP rankings to No. 7.

Oregon made history last season, going to the Elite Eight for the first time as the surprise of the NCAA Tournament.

The Ducks finished the season 23-14 overall and 8-10 in the Pac-12 to finish sixth. Then they lost to Stanford in the Pac-12 tournament title game. But they won an at-large spot in the tournament, upsetting seventh-seeded Temple, No. 2 Duke and No. 3 Maryland before they were ousted by top-seeded UConn.

Ionescu, who was named Pac-12 Freshman of the Year, averaged 14.6 points, 6.6 rebounds and 5.5 assists last season. So far this season she's averaging 19.2 points, 7.3 rebounds and 7.2 assists.

But while all her offensive numbers have gone up, she says she's been focusing on defense.

"I think everyone has to take an extra step in that direction, defensively. I think that's what's going to separate us from being an OK team from a great team," she said.



Fergus Loughran
Jerry Boisvert, center, is joined from left to right by Dan Gaffney; LCYSA President Kevin Cronin; Portland Timbers legend Mick Hoban; Jimmy Conway's wife, Noeleen; Boisvert's wife, Dodo; OYSA board member Fergus Loughran; Tammy Loughran; and longtime friend and coach Bill Patterson.

Boisvert receives lifetime award

By GARY HENLEY
 The Daily Astorian

When it comes to time devoted to local youth soccer, one name rises above all the rest — Jerry Boisvert.

"Since the inception of LCYSA (Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association) in 1984, the one constant in the program year in and year out has been Jerry," Past President Fergus Loughran wrote in a recent letter to the Oregon Youth Soccer Association.

That letter, in support of Boisvert, earned the longtime coach/volunteer/referee and field maintenance-man the prestigious OYSA Lifetime Achievement Award, which a partly surprised Boisvert received Saturday in Portland.

"I knew I was getting an award — my wife couldn't pull me off to Portland without knowing that," Boisvert said. "And I knew the OYSA was having its general meeting at the same time, so I just put two-and-two together."

"They had a table with 10 awards, and they went through all 10, and I thought, 'great, they missed me.'"

But the humble Boisvert didn't get off that easy.

It was then that the OYSA presented its Lifetime Achievement Award, named after Jimmy Conway, an original Portland Timber

and former men's coach at Pacific University and Oregon State.

Conway is a former Irish international association footballer who played professionally in Ireland, England and the United States. He also contributed as a coach and teacher at youth soccer clinics in Oregon.

"It's about the most prestigious award you could ever hope to get," Boisvert said.

Loughran and the LCYSA made the push for Boisvert to receive the award.

"He's never taken a year off," Loughran said. "Soccer and our community have always been his joy. He has been through 20 (LCYSA) club presidents and countless coaches."

Boisvert has coached at every level of the LCYSA (recreation and classic), and initiated the club's annual summer camp, which has run for more than 20 years. He also coached Astoria High School varsity boys soccer for seven years and the girls' team for four years.

Since then, it's been primarily Boisvert who takes care of the LCYSA fields on Ridge Road, in addition to coaching, officiating and helping at the summer camps.

"As a board, we have often spoke of how invaluable Jerry's knowledge and labor have been to LCYSA, and I think we all wondered what if, God forbid, something happened to Jerry," Loughran said.

And, unfortunately, something has. Early in 2017, he was diagnosed with bladder cancer.

He had the bladder removed Oct. 8 in a surgery at OHSU, and he continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments.

"The surgery went fantastic," Boisvert said. "My daughter organized a nice Thanksgiving dinner for me in Portland (complete with 31 Boisverts attending)."

"But the chemo has not been very successful," he said. "I was feeling good and getting ready to coach the U17 boys' team this winter, but I got sick the first week of January, and I told Walt (Postlewait, the current LCYSA president) that I just physically couldn't do it."

Boisvert will continue to make trips to Portland to receive treatment.

"The cancer torpedoed us all," Loughran said. "As Jerry has undergone chemo and the trials it inflicted on his body, we assembled a team of volunteers to mow and maintain the fields, line the fields, empty garbage, fertilize, spray edge, mend nets, fix leaks — the list is endless. It now takes six or seven of us to do what Jerry did by himself for years."

In his letter to the OYSA, Loughran stated, "Lifetime achievement for youth soccer in Oregon? He's an amazing candidate."

"THEY HAD A TABLE WITH 10 AWARDS, AND THEY WENT THROUGH ALL 10, AND I THOUGHT, 'GREAT, THEY MISSED ME.'"

Jerry Boisvert | longtime coach/volunteer/referee and field maintenance-man who was awarded OYSA Lifetime Achievement Award

Mariota to get third head coach in fourth NFL season

By TERESA M. WALKER
 Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans believe the potential reward from quarterback Marcus Mariota working with his third head coach in his fourth NFL season outweighs the risk of change.

Or sticking with the same coach.

So now the Titans are looking for a new coach to replace Mike Mularkey and build off the franchise's first playoff win in 14 years to make them a true NFL contender.

"There's nothing more that I want for our fans than to bring a championship here," general manager Jon Robinson said Monday afternoon. "I feel like it's my charge to put the team in the best position to do that."

The Titans fired Mike Mularkey on Monday, less than 48 hours after a 35-14 loss to New England in the AFC divisional round. Mularkey revived a team with the NFL's worst record over two seasons and led them to their first playoff victory in 14 years only to become the first coach let go after winning a playoff game since San Francisco fired Steve Mariucci after the 2002 season.

Titans controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk turned to Mularkey in November 2015 when she fired Ken Whisenhunt after 23 games. Mularkey went 2-7 down the stretch as the Titans finished 3-13 to land the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016. That



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel
Tennessee Titans head coach Mike Mularkey looks at the scoreboard during the first half of a Jan. 6 NFL wild-card playoff football game against Kansas City Chiefs, in Kansas City, Mo.

capped a 5-27 record over 2014 and 2015 that was the NFL's worst.

Mularkey led the Titans to back-to-back 9-7 records — their first consecutive winning records since 2007-08. He finished with a 21-22 record after a season in which the Titans cost themselves the AFC South title with a three-game skid in December and needed to beat the Jaguars, now in the AFC championship game, to reach the postseason for the first time since 2008.

His devotion to an offense he's known since being offensive coordinator

in Pittsburgh between 2001 and 2003 may have cost him. He said Sunday he was prepared to move "full speed" ahead after talking with Strunk. He defended offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie's play-calling, saying he was happy with Mariota's development.

Mularkey also said he didn't anticipate any changes on his coaching staff a week after Strunk issued a statement on his job security. But talk of an extension since a 22-21 comeback win against Kansas City in the wild-card round ended Monday

morning when Robinson and president and chief executive officer Steve Underwood told Mularkey he was being let go.

Strunk called it "unfortunate" that they couldn't find common ground on how to improve.

"I also view this as an important moment for our football team as we try to make that next step to sustained success on the field," Strunk said in a statement.

Now Robinson will oversee his first coaching search with the Titans the seventh NFL team to change coaches since the start of the season. He was hired two days before Mularkey had the interim title removed in January 2016.

"This boils down to doing what we think is best for the football team moving forward, taking the next step," Robinson said.

Robinson said interviews with candidates could be held as early as this week, though the Titans will confirm a candidate only after an interview is completed. The general manager declined to discuss Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, saying he couldn't comment on coaches under contract.

"This is a very attractive job for a lot of candidates," Robinson said. "I look forward to working with whoever the next head coach is. I think that they will see that myself and Amy will be unified with them in our vision for the football team."

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys basketball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 6 p.m.; Scappoose at Seaside, 6 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Life Christian at Knappa, 7:30 p.m.; Willamette Valley Christian at Jewell, 7 p.m.; Life Christian (WA) at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.; Three Rivers at Naselle, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball — Valley Catholic at Astoria, 7:45 p.m.; Scappoose at Seaside, 7:45 p.m.; Rainier at Warrenton, 7:45 p.m.; Willamette Valley Christian at Jewell, 5:30 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.; Three Rivers at Naselle, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wrestling — Astoria/Seaside at Scappoose, 5:30 p.m.