

SPORTS

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Oregon's Ionescu in running for player of year

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With a few weeks left in the regular season, the college women's basketball player of the year race is wide open.

Take your pick. There's a little bit of something for everyone with talented post players, guards and wings.

Usually at this point in the season, there's a clear-cut choice for player of the year. Sometimes it seems as if the top player in the country is almost a forgone conclusion — even before the season starts.

That definitely isn't the case this season.

The player of the year will be voted on by the panel that votes in the AP's weekly Top 25 poll, and will be announced at the Final Four in Tampa, Florida.

Here's a look at a few potential candidates, though there are certainly others out there:

SABRINA IONESCU: Oregon's junior guard has shattered every triple-double record in NCAA history. She has seven this season and 17 in her career — plenty more than anyone else. The Ducks are 17-0 in those contests, which include 10 against Power-5 programs. She's averaging 19.4 points, 7.4 rebounds and 8.2 assists this season.

KALANI BROWN: Baylor's senior center has been dominant on both ends of the court. She's averaging 15.5 points, 7.9 rebounds and 1.5 blocks.

NAPHEESA COLLIER: UConn's senior forward is part of an exclusive club, becoming one of only five Huskies to reach 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. She's also in the top 10 on the all-time blocks list at the school. Collier is averaging 19.6 points, 10.4 rebounds and 3.8 assists this year.

ASIA DURR: Louisville's senior guard will finish as the school's second all-time leading scorer and has developed other aspects of her game. She's averaging 20.6 points, 3.4 rebounds and 3.2 assists.

MEGAN GUSTAFSON: Iowa's senior center has already left her mark on the Iowa record book as the school's all-time leading scorer and rebounder. She has nearly 2,700 points — more than any man or woman in school history. She's averaging 27.4 points and 13.3 rebounds this season, a year after scoring 25.7 points per game. She has hit 65.5 percent of the shots in her career, even making one of her two 3-point attempts.

ARIKE OGUNBOW-ALE: Notre Dame's senior guard has followed up her historic Final Four with a stellar season. She's averaging 21.3 points, 5.0 rebounds and 4.1 assists and became the school's all-time leading scorer earlier this month.

ALANNA SMITH: Stanford's senior forward was the first international recruit ever for the Cardinal women's program. She likely won't be the last with the contributions she made. She's averaging 20.3 points, 6.0 rebounds and 2.5 blocks. She's also hit 41 percent of her 3-point attempts.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE TODAY

Washington Hardwood Classic, at Spokane
Girls basketball — 2B: Saint George's vs. Ilwaco, 7:15 p.m.; 1B: Naselle vs. Mount Vernon Christian, 12:15 p.m.
Boys basketball — 1B: Garfield-Palouse vs. Naselle, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

Boys basketball — 2A state tournament (Pendleton): Knappa vs. Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Girls basketball — 3A state tournament (Marshfield HS): Warrenton vs. Salem Academy, 8:15 p.m.

FRIDAY

Boys basketball — 4A state playoff: Sisters at Seaside, 7 p.m.; 2A state tournament: TBA vs. Knappa
Girls basketball — 3A state tournament: TBA vs. Warrenton

SATURDAY

Girls basketball — 4A state playoffs: Seaside at Baker, 4 p.m.; Marist at Astoria, 7 p.m.



Warrenton coach Nate McBride talks strategy with his team.

Warrenton boys basketball

Warrenton coach, players earn all-league honors

The Daily Astorian

Competing in a new league resulted in much better results for the Warrenton boys basketball program.

The Warriors went from a 1-23 overall record last season — and 0-16 in the old Lewis & Clark League — to 13-12 this year, 4-8 in the new Coastal Range League. It was Warrenton's first winning record since 2009-10.

Warrenton also had a player earn first-team all-league honors for the first time in six years, as senior Dalton Knight was one of five players selected to the Coastal Range League's first team, announced during the league playoffs.

Knight scored 421 points this season, 11th on the school's all-time list. His 1,111 career points tied Darcy Bjork (1970-73) for fifth all-time.

Knight made 87 3-pointers this season, breaking the previous school record of 72 by Eric Gantenbein in 2006-07. Knight's 252 3-pointers for his career broke the mark of 177 held by Christian Holt.

The Warriors had two more players selected honorable mention, in senior Ayden Stephens and junior Devin Jackson.

For his efforts, Warrenton's Nate McBride was named as a co-coach



Warrenton boys basketball
 Warrenton's two all-league seniors, Ayden Stephens, left, and Dalton Knight.

of the Year, along with Clatskanie's Deshaun Combs.

McBride joins three other Warrenton coaches who have earned league Coach of the Year honors: Gary McBride (2004), Tim Peitsch (2006) and Josh Jannusch (2010).

The Player of the Year award went to Cooper Blodgett of Clatskanie.

Clatskanie also led the way with eight all-league selections.

COASTAL RANGE ALL-LEAGUE BOYS TEAM

Player of the Year: Cooper Blodgett, Clatskanie
 Coaches of the Year: Deshaun Combs, Clatskanie; Nate McBride, Warrenton
First team
 Cooper Blodgett, Sr., Clatskanie
 Ray Darrington, Sr., Taft
 Dalton Knight, Sr., Warrenton
 Conner Rea, Jr., Rainier
 Joey Tripp, Sr., Rainier
Second team
 Andre Combs, Fr., Clatskanie
 J'Kari Combs, Jr., Clatskanie
 Dawson Evenson, Jr., Clatskanie
 Kaleb Floyd, So., Willamina
 Chance Kalawa, Sr., Willamina
Honorable mention
 Easton Crape, Jr., Rainier
 Foster Evenson, Sr., Clatskanie
 Tye Fisher, Sr., Taft
 Devion Godfrey, Jr., Rainier
 Devin Jackson, Jr., Warrenton
 Devin Jones, Sr., Clatskanie
 Jonathon Moravec, Sr., Clatskanie
 Justice Osborn, Sr., Clatskanie
 Jackson Schoenbacher, Sr., Willamina
 Ayden Stephens, Sr., Warrenton
 Kenny Tripp, Fr., Rainier

Athletes win jiu-jitsu gold in Portland

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County residents and Jiu-Jitsu competitors Michelle Johnson and Jacoby Marshall both won double gold at this year's Portland International Open, held Sunday at the Viking Pavilion in Portland.

Johnson took first in two categories, winning the adult purple heavyweight class, defeating Rebecca Louise Gonzalez in the final.

And she won the Open class as well, with a semifinal victory over Staccia Li Ann Greenwell, then a win over Kenna Benesh-Bradford in the championship.

Marshall also placed first in two divisions. He won the Master 2/super-heavy class, and he finished first ahead of Trevor Wesley in the Open class.

Marshall's first match in the Open competition was against Marcio Dos Santos from Brazil.

"He was very athletic," Marshall said. "We had a few times in the match where he kinda tossed me around. Which was fine by me. I was there to move around and have fun.



Zachary Adamson

After winning a competition last November in California, Jacoby Marshall brought home a pair of gold medals from the Portland International Open last weekend.

"When all the dust settled about two minutes into the battle, I solidified 'side-control,' and set up a 'Rickson' choke for another submission."

In the finals, Wesley outweighed Marshall by nearly 40 pounds.

"We had a few scrambles that



Zachary Adamson

Local jiu-jitsu athlete Michelle Johnson shows off the gold she won in Portland.

ended up with me in side control," Marshall said of the match. The referee stopped the bout momentarily, when Wesley's coaches claimed a scoring error.

In the meantime, "I was able to just lay on (Wesley) and rest while they straightened things out," Marshall said. "They took

two points away from me, for some reason unbeknownst to me. I knew where we were in the match, and when I saw them adjust the score, I got so focused because I was irate with his coaches.

"At that point I knew I was going to smash him and make his life miserable until he made a mistake," he said. "When he posted an arm while in side control, I locked up a 'Kimura' and finished him with plenty of time left."

Marshall had support from local sponsors, "and of course my professors/team at Adamson Brothers in Seaside," he said. "My goals are to compete a few more times this year and hopefully stay healthy enough to keep showing up every day, help my team and keep working at getting better by one percent every day."

Johnson and Marshall were both competing for Ribeiro Jiu Jitsu, and train under coaches Nathan and Zachary Adamson, who said "the whole competition team is really motivated and training hard for the Pan American Championships next month in Los Angeles."