

NCAA Basketball



Oregon's Joseph Young is hoisted by fans after Oregon defeated No. 9 Utah 69-58 in the NCAA basketball game at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene, Ore., Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015. Young scored 14 points in the game.

AP Photo/The Register-Guard, Andy Nelson

Tourney berth not out of question

Victory over Utah has UO on cusp

By STEVE MIMS
The-Register Guard

EUGENE — Oregon's win over ninth-ranked Utah on Sunday moved the Ducks into most NCAA Tournament projections.

The Ducks were the last team in the bracket forecasted by ESPN's Joe Lunardi as a No. 12 seed on Monday, while Jerry Palm of CBSSports.com has Oregon as a No. 10 seed.

Oregon (20-8) still needs to win a few more games to get the call on Selection Sunday in less than three weeks, but few expected the Ducks to be in the mix for a third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament this late in the season. After an off-season when three players were kicked off the team and two others transferred to leave the Ducks with three returning players, coach Dana Altman acknowledged he didn't know if Oregon would be around for March Madness.

"You like to be optimistic, but I'm a realist," Altman said after Sunday's 69-58 win over the Utes. "When you have only three guys back and two that really played, other than talent, experience is the next most important thing so I was really worried just about our experience level. I think that showed early, but I have been really, really pleased with the way guys stuck together and stuck with me."

Altman said he has been tough on his team in recent weeks as they won seven of nine games to move into third place in the Pac-12 Conference at 10-5.

"It hurts a coach when you give up

easy baskets, so I probably got on them more the last month," he said. "I call it encouragement, they call it getting on them, because I knew it was there. I knew it was in them."

Oregon senior guard Joseph Young said he also knew the Ducks could have a successful season even after they were picked to finish eighth in a preseason Pac-12 media poll.

"Going back to where they had us in the conference, we used that as confidence," Young said. "What they thought we'd be because of our lack of size, we put that to the side and came together as one team. We fight adversity all around us, all the people criticizing us, and keep getting better."

With Oregon on the outside of the NCAA bubble last week, Young made a bold proclamation, telling reporters, "We are going to the tournament." Young downplayed the importance of those remarks after the win over Utah.

"That's just the confidence I have in this team," Young said. "We put a lot of work in and day in and day out we have to go 100 percent so we can keep that statement. We're not really worried about it, that's why I put the statement out there early."

Oregon jumped up 12 spots to No. 44 in the RPI rankings following the upset of the Utes. Oregon is on the road for the rest of the regular season beginning with a trip south this week to play at California on Wednesday and Stanford on Sunday.

"Where this team has come from the beginning to now and all the work we put in, but it's still not done," Young said.

Young was Oregon's only returning starter entering the season.

After scoring 18.9 points per game last season he has boosted his scoring

average to 19.8 points per game. He's also improved on last year's totals with 4.5 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game. Six other players average at least five points per game.

"I said at the beginning of the season, it's not Joe Young, I've got a squad with me," Young said. "I can't play everything by myself on the court and they understand that. Everyone needs to step up and make the extra play, not just me. They are going to deny me and keep the ball away from me. It is not just about offense. I feel like when I don't score, it is a big deal to people. I like to play defense too, I play the game."

Young was just 5-for-16 from the field against Utah and scored 14 points, but he made a jumper just before halftime that gave Oregon a 32-27 lead and he added a three-pointer in the final two minutes that put Oregon ahead 62-55.

"Joe didn't have as good of a shooting night, but he hit a huge one when we needed it," Altman said.

Freshman Dillon Brooks scored 19 points — including 11-straight Oregon points down the stretch — to lead the Ducks over Utah.

"Dillon was aggressive taking the ball to the hole," Altman said. "Take away a couple bad turnovers he had and it was an exceptional game. He had seven rebounds and I thought he played really well."

Brooks was nominated for conference player of the week after having 33 points and 13 rebounds in a sweep of Colorado and Utah.

"Dillon is not a freshman anymore and I told him that," Young said. "He is a sophomore and he has to make that transition. He did well at the end of the game. He stepped up big time."

NFL

Two members of Congress write Goodell about domestic violence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two members of Congress asked NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Tuesday to clarify whether teams can lose draft picks if they do not properly address domestic violence.

In a letter sent to Goodell, Sen. Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawaii, and Rep. Jackie Speier, a Democrat from California, wrote: "We urge you to create accountability at all levels of the NFL, particularly among team owners, who have the most direct financial incentives to avoid long-term suspensions and quickly get players back on the field."

The letter noted that the league has docked clubs draft picks in the past, such as when the Saints were investigated for a bounty system and when the Patriots were caught videotaping an opponent's sideline signals.

"We support this potential disciplinary action as a significant indication that the NFL takes these issues very seriously and intends to hold teams responsible for allowing cultures of violence and abuse," Schatz and Speier wrote.

The NFL did not respond immediately to a request for comment from the AP.

Domestic violence became a major topic of discussion during last season for a series of cases involving players, notably former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice.

He punched his then-fiancee — now wife — in a

casino elevator and originally was suspended for two games by Goodell, a punishment widely criticized as too lenient. When video of what Rice did emerged, Goodell changed it to an indefinite suspension. Eventually, though, that second punishment was erased by an arbitrator when Rice appealed.

During a Senate Commerce Committee hearing in December about domestic violence in pro sports, lawmakers — including Schatz — pressed representatives of the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball and their players' unions on matters such as whether they conduct their own investigations into episodes of domestic violence, independent of police; whether coaches or other team personnel are required to report instances of illegal conduct to law enforcement; and what sort of help is provided for abuse victims.

None of the four leagues' commissioners was present at that hearing.

Schatz and Speier wrote Goodell last year about the issue. They told Goodell on Tuesday that in a letter he wrote last month he did not mention the possibility of taking away draft picks "as a penalty for teams that do not address domestic violence and sexual assaults properly."

They continue: "Please provide further clarification on whether the removal of draft picks will be used as a penalty for teams that do not appropriately address domestic violence and sexual assault."

Pro Rodeo

Peebles healthy again, scores big in San Antonio

Semifinals begin

By SUSAN KANODE
PRCA Media

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — When Steven Peebles left the AT&T Center last February, he was sporting a new championship buckle for having won the San Antonio Stock Show Rodeo bareback riding title.

The Redmond resident was the big money winner at \$21,770 and that put him on pace to qualify for his sixth consecutive Wrangler National Finals Rodeo where he was a serious contender for a world title — until disaster struck.

Peebles broke his back early in the competition and was only able to participate in three of the 10 rounds at the WNFR. The last time he got on a bucking horse was in Las Vegas on Dec. 6 prior to coming to this year's rodeo here Feb. 22.

The first horse he rode after his injury was Muffled Cries from The Calgary Stampede's bucking string — a horse that has a reputation for getting contestants to the pay window, but is not easy to ride, especially for a rider who is just coming back from a broken back.

When the judges added up their totals, Peebles had an 84 by his name, earning \$2,281. He was out of breath when he got off, but his back was feeling good.

"I'm pretty excited about how well this went," he said. "I haven't been able to work on my cardio, so I'm a little out of shape and out of breath, but my back feels good."

Peebles has been swimming and doing therapy to get back in shape. He got on his second horse on Sunday night and scored 78 points finishing in a tie for fourth place.

Semifinals: Just one year after winning the saddle bronc riding championship, Wade Sundell is on pace to do it all over again at the San Antonio Stock Show Rodeo. Sundell made his first of two appearances in the first semifinals on Tuesday night in the AT&T Center. With an 87 point ride on Summit Pro Rodeo's Big Fork, he took command of the leaderboard. The Coleman, Okla., resident

Semifinals Qualifiers
Bareback Riding
Group 1: 1. Austin Foss, \$5,703; 2. Steven Dent, \$4,277; 3. Richmond Champion, \$2,851; 4. Anthony Thomas, \$1,996.
Group 2: 1. Seth Hardwick, \$4,847; 2. Orin Larsen, \$3,422; 3. Clint Cannon, \$2,281; 4. Evan Jones, \$4,562; 5. Caleb Bennett, \$3,421; 6. Winn Ratliff, \$2,851; 7. Jesse Davis, \$1,710.
Group 3: 1. Bobby Mote, \$4,562; 2. (tie) Brian Bain and Will Lowe, \$3,992 each; 4. Colin Adams, \$1,710.
Group 5: 1. Clint Yate, \$5,703; 2. Steven Peebles, \$3,707; 3. Tanner Aus, \$3,422; 4. Chase Erickson, \$2,851.

Steer Wrestling
Group 1: 1. Cole Edge, \$3,992; 2. Trevor Knowles, \$3,136; 3. Sean Mulligan, \$2,566; 4. Jake Rinehart, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. K.C. Jones, \$4,562; 2. Cody Cabral, \$2,566; 3. Tanner Milan, \$2,281; 4. Cody Cassidy, \$1,711.
Group 3: 1. Casey Martin, \$3,992; 2. (tie) Bray Armes and Wyatt Smith, \$3,136 each; 4. Sean Santucci, \$2,281.
Group 4: 1. Clayton Moore, \$3,422; 2. Jason Thomas, \$2,851; 3. Olin Hannum, \$2,566; 4. Hunter Cure, \$2,471.
Group 5: 1. Blaine Jones, \$3,422; 2. (tie) Stockton Graves and Rhett Kennedy, \$2,561; 4. Seth Brockman, \$2,281.

Team Roping
Group 1: 1. Charly Crawford/Shay Carroll, \$3,992 each; 2. Derrick Began/Cly O'Brien Cooper, \$2,851; 3. Brandon Beers/Cody Doeschler, \$2,851; 4. Jake Stanley/Russell Cardoza, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. Ty Blasingame/J.W. Borrego, \$3,992 each; 2. Drew Horner/Jake Smith, \$2,851; 3. David Key/Martin Lucero, \$2,851; 4. Nathan McWhorter/Cole Davison, \$2,281.
Group 3: 1. Adam Rose/York Gill, \$4,562; 2. (tie) Tyler Wade/Kinney Harrell and Travis Tryan/Dugan Kelly, \$3,422 each; 4. Kaleb Driggers/Travis Woodard, \$2,281.
Group 4: 1. Coleman Proctor/Jake Long, \$3,422; 2. Levi Simpson/Jeremy Buhler, \$3,136; 3. (tie) Jake Cooper/Justin Wade Davis and Turtle Powell/Dakota Kirchenschlager, \$2,281 each.
Group 5: 1. Nick Sartain/Rich Skelton, \$4,562; 2. Clay Tryan/Jade Corkill, \$3,992; 3. Brock Hanson/Twister Cain, \$2,851; 4. Jake Barnes/Junior Noguiera, \$2,281.

Saddle Bronc Riding
Group 1: 1. Sterling Crawley, \$5,703; 2. Dean Wadsworth, \$4,562; 3. Tyrel Larsen, \$2,281; 4. Taos Muncy, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. Tyler Corrington, \$4,562; 2. Rusty Wright, \$4,562; 3. Tyrell Smith, \$3,992; 4. Jesse Bail, \$1,996.
Group 3: 1. Cody DeMoss, \$5,418; 2. (tie) Allen Boore, and Zeke Thurston, \$2,281; 4. Bradley Harter, \$1,996.
Group 4: 1. (tie) Wade Sundell and Jake Wright, \$3,707 each. 3. (tie) Chad Ferley and Cort Scheer, \$3,136 each.
Group 5: 1. Isaac Diaz, \$4,847; 2. Spencer Wright, \$4,277; 3. (tie) John Redig and Justin Caylor, \$2,566 each.

Tie-Down Roping
Group 1: 1. Ryan Watkins, \$3,422; 2. Rhen Richard, \$2,281; 3. Monty Lewis, \$2,281; 4. Michael Otero, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. Cody McCartney, \$5,132; 2. Chant DeForest, \$2,851; 3. Cory Solomon, \$2,566; 4. Tyson Duffey, \$1,711.
Group 3: 1. Cimarron Boardman, \$3,422; 2. Jesse Clark, \$2,851; 3. (tie) Clint Cooper and Chase Williams, \$2,281.
Group 4: 1. Tuf Cooper, \$5,132; 2. (tie) Riley Pruitt and Ace Stone, \$3,422 each; 4. J.C. Malone, \$1,711.
Group 5: 1. Adam Gray, \$4,562; 2. Marty Yates, \$2,566; 3. Cody Ohl, \$3,422; 4. Timber Moore, \$2,281.

Barrel Racing
Group 1: 1. Victoria Williams, \$5,132; 2. Kennis Squires, \$4,562; 3. Sarah Kickhefer, \$3,422; 4. Britany Diaz, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. Sarah Rose McDonald, \$6,843; 2. Ann Scott, \$2,281; 3. Carley Richardson, \$2,281; 4. Kimmie Wall, \$1,711.
Group 3: 1. Sarah Rose McDonald, \$6,843; 2. Ann Scott, \$2,281; 3. Carley Richardson, \$2,281; 4. Kimmie Wall, \$1,711.
Group 4: 1. Kelly Tovar, \$5,132; 2. Jana Bean, \$3,422; 3. Alexa Lake, \$2,851; 4. Mary Walker, \$2,281.
Group 5: 1. Fallon Taylor, \$5,703; 2. Shelly Anzick, \$3,992; 4. (tie) Kaley Bass and Justin Little, \$2,851 each.
Bull Riding
Group 1: 1. Joe Frost, \$3,992; 2. Nile Lebackron, \$2,851; 3. Chandler Bownds, \$2,281; 4. Dalee Mason, \$2,281.
Group 2: 1. Parker Beed, \$6,273; 2. Garret Smith, \$2,566; 3. Cody Trell, \$2,281; 4. Bobbey Welsh, \$2,281.
Group 3: 1. (tie) J.W. Harris and Ty Wallace, \$3,992 each. 3. (tie) Jeff Bertus and Sage Kinnzey, \$2,281 each.
Group 4: 1. Reid Barker, \$4,277; 2. Bart Miller, \$2,281; 3. Dylan Vick, \$1,996; 4. Beau Schroeder, \$1,711.
Group 5: 1. Dalton Votaw, \$4,562; 2. Tyler Smith, \$3,422; 3. Casey Huckabee, \$2,281; 4. Caleb Sanderson, \$1,141.

James passes Pippen for most assists by forward

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Showing off his all-around game, LeBron James broke Scottie Pippen's NBA record for career assists by a forward when he found Kevin Love for an open 3-pointer against the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Pippen had held the top mark of 6,135 since taking it from John Havlicek in 2004.

James tied that with an alley-oop pass to Timofey

Mozgov early in the second quarter.

Three minutes later, he added No. 6,136 with the pass to Love, who finished with eight 3-pointers for 24 points in the Cavaliers 102-93 win. James finished with 11 assists giving him 6,142 for his career.

Larry Bird and Kevin Garnett fill out the top 5.

James also holds the single-season record for assists by a forward with 651 in 2009-10. He broke Havlicek's record of 614.



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) drives on Detroit Pistons center Andre Drummond (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 in Auburn Hills, Mich.

AP Photo/Carlos Osorio

Video shows Hernandez fiancee's removing box from home

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Prosecutors in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez on Tuesday played video surveillance that showed his fiancee removing a trash bag from the home and putting it in a car the day after the victim was killed.

Hernandez is charged with the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of his fiancee, Shayanna Jenkins. Also charged are two Hernandez acquaintances, Carlos Ortiz and Ernest Wallace, who have pleaded not guilty. Ortiz and Wallace will be tried separately.

On several video clips played for the jury Tuesday, Jenkins is seen leaving the basement of the home with the trash bag that contains what looks like a large box. She puts down the bag and rearranges what appears to be clothing on top. Then she walks through the backyard and is shown putting the box in the trunk of her sister's car.

The .45-caliber Glock



Former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez bites his fingernail during testimony at his murder trial at Bristol County Superior Court in Fall River, Mass., Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015.

that investigators say was the murder weapon has never been found. Ortiz told police Hernandez put guns in a box in his basement after the killing, and prosecutors have said Jenkins disposed of a box from the basement after receiving a coded text message from Hernandez.

Jenkins' sister, Shaneah, previously testified that Shayanna had asked to borrow her car the day after the killing so she could go to the bank to get cash to pay the housecleaners. But this

week, the housecleaners testified that Shayanna did not pay them cash that day. Instead, one testified, she paid by check.

One of the housecleaners, Carla Barbosa, cried Tuesday after she saw surveillance video of herself moving her car so Shayanna Jenkins could leave. She said Shayanna was gone for a while, then came back and seemed normal. A little while later, she said, she saw her speaking on the telephone and looking out the

window.

"She was crying. She was nervous, and she was walking back-and-forth," Barbosa said through a Portuguese translator.

Also Tuesday, Lloyd's mother, Ursula Ward, repeatedly mouthed the words "my baby, my baby" as photos of her son's body in the morgue were shown in court. She finally broke down and had to leave the courtroom after photos of her son's bare back with several bullet holes were shown. Shaneah Jenkins, who was sitting with Ward, also cried and wiped her eyes.

It's the third time Ward has had to leave the courtroom when viewing photos of her son's body. When she testified earlier in the trial, the judge warned her not to cry.

Earlier Tuesday, she cried as the bloodstained shirts he was wearing the night he died were shown to jurors by a Massachusetts state trooper, who pointed out where the bullets had made holes. At least one juror occasionally glanced at Ward as she reacted to the evidence.