

NCAA Men's Tournament

Kentucky looking to do what UNLV couldn't

Wildcats aiming for first perfect season in 40 years

By JIM O'CONNELL
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Twenty-four years ago, UNLV arrived in Indianapolis for a coronation disguised as a Final Four.

The Runnin' Rebels were a college basketball juggernaut. They hadn't lost all season. In fact, they hadn't lost for 45 straight games, a streak that started with a run in the previous season to a national championship.

UNLV, led by Jerry Tarkanian, the towel-chewing defensive genius, arrived in Indianapolis needing two wins to become the first undefeated national champion since Indiana in 1976.

This week, Kentucky arrived in Indianapolis for a coronation disguised as a Final Four.

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Kentucky, led by John Calipari, a coach who has turned recruiting into an art form, arrived in Indianapolis needing two wins to become the first undefeated national champion since Indiana in 1976.

The Wildcats face Wisconsin on Saturday in the national semifinals. That was the round in which UNLV's undefeated dreams were dashed by Duke, a team the Runnin' Rebels had beaten by 30 points in the championship game a year earlier. Duke, which plays Michigan State on Saturday, could get another



Kentucky's Trey Lyles waves after the team's 78-39 win over West Virginia in a college basketball game in the NCAA men's tournament regional semifinals, Friday in Cleveland. Kentucky advanced to face Notre Dame in the regional finals Saturday.

AP Photo/Aaron Josefczyk

chance to ruin a perfect run at the title, but that is looking way down a three-day road.

"I'll never have a group of players like this again," Tarkanian, who died on Feb. 11, said the night of the loss to Duke, a result that stunned the sports world. "You only get a team like this once in your career. This was a very special group of kids."

"I'm just sick," he said. "It meant so much to these kids. I'm just hurting inside."

When the game ended, Duke

coach Mike Krzyzewski had his own problem. He had to get his team to settle down after the upset because the Blue Devils still had a game Monday night for the national championship.

"I thought all week we had a chance but I wasn't going to be Joe Namath and say anything like that," Krzyzewski said 24 years ago. "I thought if we could fight for 40 minutes we could win, not knowing if the kids could handle it. UNLV plays with such ease and we play with so

much emotion."

UNLV won its games by an average of 26.7 points per game. Only two games were decided by less than 12 points, a 7-point win over Arkansas in a 1-vs.-2 matchup and an 8-point victory over Georgetown in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"I remember in practice, Coach K had us practicing five against seven, to get used to their speed and their quickness," Grant Hill, a freshman starter on that Duke team, said Thursday in Indianapolis where he will serve as a game analyst for CBS. "We had a game plan, we'd been in a number of close games, we won some, some we didn't, but we had that experience, and they had not been in many close games, so our thing was let's hit them early, let them know we're here, we're going to play, and let's just manage the game and keep it close, and if it's close, the pressure is going to be all on them. That was our comfort zone, how we played all year."

UNLV's starting lineup included first-round draft picks Larry Johnson, Stacey Augmon and Greg Anthony. It also had Anderson Hunt and George Ackles. All were upperclassmen.

Kentucky's roster is so deep scuba gear is recommended. Nine outstanding underclassmen who have all committed to ignoring minutes for wins and it's anybody's guess how many of them will be first-round NBA draft picks. Eight of the nine players in the rotation are averaging between 5.6 and 11.0 points per game. Eight players have been Kentucky's leading scorer in a game this season. The Wildcats did have three game decided by six or fewer points, but their average margin of victory was almost 21 points per game.

HILLMICK: Newest signee will have three years of eligibility

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versity, but transferred to EOU after one season.

While the school lacked a collegiate soccer program, Hillmick and other EOU students juggled training and the competitive tournament circuit with school work until the school announced the addition of a soccer program this past fall.

He also served as an assistant for his father Rob Hillmick on the Pendleton High School varsity team the past two seasons.

Head coach Stan Rodrigues extended Hillmick a roster spot last month after an exhibition match with a group of incoming freshman.

"I was partially sought out by him, but also partially promoting myself," Hillmick said. "I'm excited. I feel like I have a good shot to start."

Hillmick is currently one of three goalkeepers on the roster.

The physical education student has three years of eligibility remaining beginning this fall.

The inaugural Mounties soccer team will compete in the Cascade Collegiate Conference and begin competition in August.

TENNIS: Bucks boys and girls defeat Pioneers

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the season and his young career.

"He did very well," lone coach Maureen McElligott said. "It's nice to see improvement in him."

On the girls side, things were much more even. Both girls lineups were full of first-year players, creating evenly matched play.

Stanfield's No. 1 doubles team Yazzmin Chavez and Guitzel Chavez beat the No. 1 lone boys team of Tom Gould and Tim Gould 8-1. Playing as the No. 1 girls doubles team, Natalia Esquivel and Edith Ibarra had a 6-5 lead, but couldn't hold it and lost to Maia Fuchs and Katelyn Bess 8-6. Fuchs and Bess also took on Melissa Hood and Z. Z. Ruloph and won 8-2. Ione's Erica Nelson and Kelsey Van Os won an 8-7 nail-biter over Natalie Carnejo and Amanda Carillo. Stanfield earned a win from Brenna Holt and Payton Henning, who beat Reiah Waite and Natalie Grigg 8-3. IN their second match, Flynn and Nelson beat Lanessa Bautista and Brianna Carnejo 8-0.

In some girls singles matches, Rita McElligott topped Esquivel 8-6, Ione's Karina Rios knocked off Candida Rojas 8-1 and Stanfield's Nicole Hood slipped past Ione's Babali Peterson 8-5.

McElligott said many of the matches were much closer than the scores indicate, and that's tough to tell sometimes with one-set, first-to-eight matches.

But the winning and losing wasn't important to either coach. With so many players new to the game — with some even playing their first match of their

lives — it was important to get them in a match to both see where they are as players, but also to have a bit of fun in the process.

"My idea is: you do as well as you want to do," McElligott said. "I can show you and tell you what to do, but I can't do it for you. So, you have to take it that step further and have to want to do it. And I think most of them do, so that's good. And most of them have fun, so that's half the battle right there."

Stanfield plays again today at Condon at 3 p.m., and Ione heads to Umatilla on April 7 for a 3:30 p.m. date.

BOYS TENNIS

PENDLETON 5, MAC-HI 3 — At Pendleton, the Buckaroos swept Mac-Hi in four singles matches on its way to a 5-3 team victory over the Pioneers.

Gareth Haug, Jeremy Cochrane, Henry Holdman and Lincoln Johnson each won singles matches for the first time this season.

Mac-Hi took three of four doubles matches versus the undermanned Buckaroos. With only 10 players, Pendleton forced to double up Haug and Cochrane on the doubles court. The pairing was able to down Mac-Hi top doubles duo Alex Alvarez and Ulysses Zaragoza 8-1, but the match counted officially as a forfeit, as players cannot compete in singles and doubles matches.

Pendleton hosts La Grande on Monday at 4 p.m.

PENDLETON 5, MAC-HI 3
Singles
Gareth Haug (PHS) def. Allen Ng (MHS) 8-1
Jeremy Cochrane (PHS) def. Rigo Ponce 8-6

Henry Holdamn (PHS) def. Dezan Zerba (MHS) 8-4
Lincoln Johnson (PHS) def. Christian Gonzalez (MHS) 8-2
Doubles
Pendleton forfeit
Zack Lyon and Jose Abrego (MHS) def. Daniel Medina and Isaac Page (PHS) 8-3
Peter Wallace and Silas Johnston (PHS) def. Humberto Villegomez and Carlos Epifanio (MHS) 8-4
Julian Villegas and Ivan Martinez (MHS) def. Josh Mendoza and Henry Scanlan (PHS) 8-2

GIRLS TENNIS

PENDLETON 12, MAC-HI 1 — At Milton-Freewater, the Buckaroos depth overwhelmed the Pioneers, as Pendleton won all but one match in the dual.

The Bucks top six singles players and all of their doubles pairings were victorious. Top singles players Matilde Cittadini, Meagan Flanage and Sam Bixler all won with relative ease.

Sisters Keren and Keziah Hampton defeated Pioneers Anniek Kievitsbosch and Sam Tveidt 8-2 in a match of past state placers.

The Buckaroos will host La Grande Monday.

PENDLETON 12, MAC-HI 1
Singles
Matilde Cittadini (PHS) def. Elise Griffin (MHS) 8-3
Meagan Flanage (PHS) def. Jacky Reyes (MHS) 8-1
Sam Bixler (PHS) def. Maria Castillo (MHS) 8-4
Hannah Flanage (PHS) def. Ericka Landa (MHS) 8-0
Brandy Brown (PHS) def. Jessica Ibarra (MHS) 8-6
Jenna Senter (PHS) def. Karen Steele (PHS) 8-0
Izzy Lepinette (MHS) def. Minnie Seo (PHS) 6-0
Doubles
Keren Hampton and Keziah Hampton (PHS) def. Anniek Kievitsbosch and Sam Tveidt (MHS) 8-2
Kian Speri and Christina Thompson (PHS) def. Ana Rodriguez and Emily Cuellar (MHS) 8-3
Anna James and Julia Livingston (PHS) def. Sandra Peryada and Gladys Gutierrez (MHS) 8-2
Aleleia Sayre and Isabelle Chapman (PHS) def. Joci Alvarez and Jennifer Robles (MHS) 8-1
Brooke Lapp and Brooke Marshall (PHS) def. Joulin Puerco and Ivette Lopez (MHS) 8-2
Abby Williams and Denise Smith (PHS) def. Camille Riley and Stella Lee (MHS) 8-3

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Today
Riverside at Stanfield (DH), 1/3 p.m.
Vale at Umatilla (DH), 1/3 p.m.
Pendleton at Walla Walla, 3 p.m.
Union at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Hermiston at David Douglas, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Mac-Hi at Crook County (DH), 10 a.m./1 p.m.
Walla Walla at Pendleton, 11 a.m.
Stanfield at Irrigon, 11 a.m.
Dufur at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Heppner at Elgin (DH), Noon/2 p.m.
Sherman at Weston-McEwen (DH), Noon/2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Today
Riverside at Echo (DH), 1/3 p.m.
Vale at Umatilla (DH), 1/3 p.m.
Pendleton at Walla Walla (DH), 2/4 p.m.
Reynolds at Hermiston (DH), 3/4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Weston-McEwen at Union (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Heppner at Irrigon (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Yamhill-Carlton, 1 p.m.
Mac-Hi vs. Banks (at Y-C), 2:30 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Today
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Umatilla, Stanfield, Irrigon, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Ione and Helix at Mac-Hi Carnival of Speed (Milton-Freewater), 11 a.m.
Hermiston at East County Classic (Gresham), 4 p.m.
Saturday
Heppner, Weston-McEwen, Condon/Wheeler, Ione, Echo, Arlington at Sherman County Invitational (Moror), 11 a.m.
Riverside at Madras Invite, 11 a.m.

PREP BOYS GOLF

Today
Hermiston, Pendleton at Eagle Ridge (Redmond), 9 a.m.
Echo/Heppner at Pendleton CC, 9 a.m.
PREP GIRLS GOLF
Today
Echo/Heppner at Pendleton CC, 9 a.m.
Pendleton, Hermiston at Eagle Ridge (Redmond), 1:30 p.m.
PREP BOYS TENNIS
Today
Riverside at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
PREP GIRLS TENNIS
Today
La Grande at Mac-Hi, 3 p.m.
Stanfield at Condon/Wheeler, 3 p.m.
Riverside at Umatilla, 4 p.m.

PREP RUGBY

Saturday
East Oregon Sasgautch at Lentz Park Field (Portland), 1:30 p.m.
PREP LACROSSE
Today
Hermiston at Redmond, 3 p.m.

Saturday

Hermiston at Sisters, Noon

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Today
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain (DH), 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Corban (DH), 2/4 p.m.

Saturday

Eastern Oregon at NW Christian (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.

Basketball

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Atlanta	56	19	.747	—
x-Cleveland	49	27	.645	7½
y-Toronto	45	30	.600	11
x-Chicago	45	30	.600	11
x-Washington	42	33	.560	14
z-Milwaukee	37	38	.493	19
z-Brooklyn	34	40	.459	21½
Miami	34	41	.453	22
Boston	34	41	.453	22
Charlotte	32	42	.432	23½
Indiana	32	43	.427	24
Detroit	29	46	.387	27
Orlando	22	53	.293	34
Philadelphia	18	58	.237	38½
New York	14	61	.187	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Golden State	62	13	.827	—
x-Houston	52	24	.684	10½
x-Memphis	51	24	.680	11
x-Portland	48	26	.649	13½
x-L.A. Clippers	50	26	.658	12½
x-San Antonio	49	26	.653	13
Dallas	46	30	.605	16½
Oklahoma City	42	33	.560	20
New Orleans	40	34	.541	21½
New Orleans	38	38	.500	24½
Phoenix	34	41	.453	28
Utah	26	47	.373	34
Denver	28	48	.351	35½
Sacramento	20	54	.270	41½
L.A. Lakers	16	59	.213	46

Thursday's Games

Cleveland 114, Miami 88
Houston 108, Dallas 101
Golden State 107, Phoenix 106
Today's Games
New York at Washington, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Orlando at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

NCAA Men

Final Four

Saturday
Michigan State (27-11) vs. Duke (33-4), 3:09 p.m.
Kentucky (38-0) vs. Wisconsin (35-3), 5:49 p.m.

Hockey

Denver at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

NHL

Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Montreal	78	47	22	9	103	207	179
x-Tampa Bay	79	47	24	8	102	251	206
Detroit	77	40	24	13	93	223	211
Boston	78	40	25	13	93	207	200
Ottawa	77	39	26	12	90	222	205
Florida	78	36	27	15	87	198	211
Toronto	78	29	43	6	64	204	249
Buffalo	77	22	47	8	52	152	258

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
y-N.Y. Rangers	77	49	21	7	105	234	181
Washington	78	43	25	10	96	232	194
N.Y. Islanders	78	45	27	6	96	238	219
Pittsburgh	77	42	24	11	95	211	194
Columbus	77	38	35	4	80	214	237
Philadelphia	77	31	29	17	79	202	220
New Jersey	77	31	33	13	75	170	197
Carolina	77	28	38	11	67	177	214

Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Nashville	78	47	22	9	103	224	193
x-St. Louis	77	47	23	7	101	233	191
x-Chicago	77	47	24	6	100	220	177
Minnesota	77	44	26	7	95	221	189
Winnipeg	77	39	26	12	90	217	204
Dallas	77	37	30	10	84	239	248
Colorado	77	35	30	12	82	207	218

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
y-Anaheim	79	50	22	7	107	232	217
Vancouver	78	45	28	5	95	225	211
Calgary	78	42	29	7	91	230	208
Los Angeles	77	38	25	14	90	209	194
San Jose	77	38	30	9	85	217	216
Edmonton	78	23	42	13	69	188	268
Arizona	77	23	46	8	64	161	256

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

DOPING: Oregon football impacted

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program at Waterloo University in Canada when he was athletic director.

Copeland is among those who call the lack of a uniform testing program in college sports a glaring blind spot for the NCAA, which tries to regulate almost everything from recruiting, to paying players, to gambling and more.

"How ironic that the NCAA has this TV contract that brings in billions of dollars for the tournament, but no consistent rules to protect the integrity of what they're selling," said Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

The diffuse policies in play at the Final Four, and around the country, do have a few things in common:

—They have relatively limited lists of banned substances.

—They don't test blood for human-growth hormone.

—They have no means of dealing with cases that don't involve a positive test but show other evidence of drug use. That's how Lance Armstrong and several athletes implicated in the BALCO scandal lost their records.

—Most schools don't have an independent agency

to evaluate results and mete out punishment, which can put administrators at odds with their coaching staffs and athletic departments.