

Women's College Basketball

Start of Pac-12 play brings surprises

By STEVE GRESS
Corvallis Times-Gazette

CORVALLIS — If the first week of Pac-12 Conference play is any indication, the women's basketball season is going to be a battle each week.

Three teams made it through the first week unscathed, while they were several upsets.

UCLA got off to a fast start as the No. 15 Bruins won all three conference games they played at home, including Monday's 71-51 blowout of No. 11 Oregon State.

Arizona State, which entered the week No. 14, took it to No. 9 Stanford in a 49-31 win at home. The 31 points are the fewest Stanford has ever scored in a game.

"Third week of April we'll have a banquet and we'll look at what this team ultimately accomplishes and that will be on there," ASU coach Charli Turner Thorne was quoted as saying in an AP story. "That'll be something fun to reflect on. But right now we're just going to keep grinding. We have a lot of basketball left and I think this team is showing that they can have a big year."

The Sun Devils are 2-0 after knocking off both Bay Area teams — they topped No. 21 California,



Oregon State guard Jamie Weisner, left, attempts to drive around UCLA guard Jordin Canada, right, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Monday, Jan. 4, 2016, in Los Angeles.

57-49, to open conference play.

Speaking of the Golden Bears, they are now 0-2 after falling 47-52 at Arizona on Monday. Arizona is just 1-1 in Pac-12 play but the Wildcats are 10-4 overall after winning just 10 last season.

Utah is off to a solid start in the conference after sweeping the Washington schools. The Utes slipped past Washington State,

73-71, before edging Washington, 88-83, on Monday. Washington entered the game 2-0.

Stanford and Oregon State are both 1-1 along with Arizona. USC and Washington State are 1-2 while Oregon, California and Colorado are all 0-2.

HOME COURT: While coaches want to win every game, it's imperative to hold

court at home in the Pac-12. Then you want to get at least a split on the road. Do that and the odds of challenging for the conference title increase.

UCLA is off to a good start having won all three games last week at home. Utah and Arizona State also both held serve at home.

Stanford, Oregon State and Washington State all split on the road while Washington had a solid 2-1 record in three road games.

Arizona and USC split at home, with the Trojans losing a road game as well.

Oregon and California both were swept on the road while Colorado was swept at home.

RANKINGS: The Pac-12 has five teams ranked in this week's AP poll, with three others receiving a vote.

Monday was a showdown between four of the ranked teams and the lower-ranked teams came out on top with Arizona State and UCLA winning at home against Stanford and Oregon State.

Stanford leapfrogged the Beavers into ninth entering Monday's game while OSU dropped from No. 10 to No. 11. ASU is No. 14, UCLA No. 15 and Cal No. 21. Oregon, USC and Washington also received votes.

CENTURY CLUB:

Oregon State's Scott Rueck reached 100 victories in just his sixth season with the Beavers when they defeated USC on Saturday.

On Monday, Washington State's June Daugherty also reached that milestone with the Cougars. She has now won 100 or more games at both Washington State and Washington.

TOP SCORER:

Washington junior Kelsey Plum entered Tuesday leading the nation in scoring at 27.9 points per game. She is slightly above that average at 28.7 in Pac-12 play and had games of 33 and 35 points already.

Oregon's Jillian Alleyne is second at 24.0 in Pac-12 play with Cal freshman Kristine Anigwe third at 20.5.

THIS WEEK:

Oregon and Oregon State will face each other twice this week as the Beavers will host the Ducks at 7 p.m. Friday then head to Eugene for a noon game on Sunday.

UCLA will head to USC on Sunday to wrap up the season series with the Trojans.

Arizona and Arizona State head to Washington and Washington State this Friday and Sunday while Colorado and Utah head to California and Stanford.

Men's College Basketball

Oregon State rolling as defense picks up the pace

By JESSE SOWA
Corvallis Gazette-Times



Oregon's Dillon Brooks, left, protects the ball from Oregon State's Drew Eubanks, center, and Gary Payton II, right, in the second half of Sunday's game in Corvallis.

CORVALLIS — Oregon State came away from Sunday's home win against Oregon feeling as though it is making progress on defense.

A victory in the Pac-12 Conference opener and the first 40-minute team effort of the season was aided by the Beavers' best defensive performance so far.

The Ducks came in scoring 77.9 points per game and shooting 46.5 percent but managed just 19 of 53 (35.8) against OSU's defense — primarily zone — in a 70-57 defeat.

"It was the best we've played that zone all year long. That reminded us of how we played a year ago," said OSU coach Wayne Tinkle.

The Beavers (10-2, 1-0 Pac-12) were focused on the game plan, got to their defensive positions and made stops.

"It was great to see, and now we've got to challenge the guys to do that every time out," Tinkle added.

The next time out comes Wednesday at home against

Stanford (8-5, 1-1), which has the Pac-12's lowest-scoring offense at 71.5 points per game. The Cardinal is shooting 43.3 percent from the floor, 10th in the conference.

Oregon State is playing its best defense of the season, having held consecutive Division I opponents to under 40-percent shooting for the first time. The Beavers are playing at a faster tempo offensively than last season and holding opponents to 39.1 percent, just off the 38.6 percent they allowed for the 2014-15 season.

The Oregon game showed OSU what it's capable of doing in the Pac-12.

"Everyone was focused when it comes to executing. We were there talking on defense and that really helps," said senior forward Daniel Gomis.

The Beavers have been aided by the return of Gomis, who is playing limited minutes while still working his way back from a broken left hand he suffered during a late-October practice.

"His minutes are probably most important out of everybody because he's on that back line," Beavers senior guard Gary Payton

II said. "He's our commander back there and he gets us where we've got to go. He talks a lot. His minutes are going to rise throughout the year and hopefully his hand gets better."

Gomis has played a combined 23 minutes in three games since his return, but he's making an impact nonetheless.

"He's out there sprinting, he's talking, he's communicating. He's helping teach the young guys how important that is," Tinkle said. "Hopefully he'll continue to improve with his health, but I know just by him practicing and being around every day, the guys are getting better."

OSU senior guard Langston Morris-Walker says much of what Gomis brings to the floor goes unnoticed.

His vision from the back line of the defense gets teammates in position, identifies cutters and his 6-foot-10 frame gives players driving to the basket second thoughts.

"Just his basketball IQ on the defensive end is off the charts, and everybody loves to play with him, especially on the defensive end of the floor," Morris-Walker said.

MLB

Bonds, Clemens likely to get boost with HOF voting changes

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and other tainted stars of the Steroids Era appear likely to get a boost in Hall of Fame balloting, but not enough to enter Cooperstown this year.

Ken Griffey Jr. seems assured of election on the first try Wednesday, possibly with a record vote of close to 100 percent. Mike Piazza, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Lincecum were strong candidates to gain the 75 percent needed for baseball's highest honor.

Following the elimination of about 100 retired baseball writers from the electorate, Bonds and Clemens were on track for a 5-10 percentage point increase. After drawing about 37 percent of the ballots last year, they were in the 48 percent range this year according to www.bbhoftracker.com, which tabulated public votes adding to more than one-third of the total.

Last July, the Hall's board of directors cut eligible voters from approximately 575 to roughly 475 by purging writers who had not been covering the game for more than a decade. Previously, the electorate included people who had been active members

of the Baseball Writers' Association of America for 10 consecutive years at any point.

"We have a somewhat different electorate," John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, said Tuesday. "I think possibly the current electorate was not content to keep kicking the PED crowd down into a hole and leaving the Hall of Fame with a crater in its plaque room."

Marc Maturo, a reporter covering New York baseball for Gannett in the 1970s and '80s, was among those who lost voting rights. He said he would have voted for Bonds, Clemens, Griffey and Raines.

"The whole process I think was done too quickly, wasn't given enough thought," he said.

Now a writer for the weekly Rockland County Times, Maturo pointed out players who received one or two votes in recent years, such as Armando Benitez, Aaron Boone, Bret Boone, Darin Erstad, Kenny Rogers, J.T. Snow and B.J. Surhoff.

"They call these courtesy votes or friendship votes," he said, "That should eliminate you. They're not Hall of Famers by anyone's imagination. But people vote for them. To me, that's wrong."

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday
Umatilla at Riverside, 7:30 p.m.

Friday
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Culver, 4:30 p.m.
Heppner at Irigon, 6 p.m.
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 7:30 p.m.
Echo at Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m.
Summit at Hermiston, 3:15 p.m.
Pendleton at Lebanon, 5 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 5:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
South Wasco at Arlington, 5:30 p.m.
Horizon Christian at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.

Lone at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Echo, 5:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Helix, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday
Umatilla at Riverside, 6 p.m.

Friday
Pilot Rock at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
Heppner at Irigon, 7:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Culver, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 6 p.m.
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray (at Spray), 6 p.m.

Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.
Echo at Joseph, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Pendleton at Lebanon, 3 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Culver, 2:30 p.m.
Stanfield at Heppner, 4 p.m.
Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Horizon Christian (at Fossil), 4 p.m.

South Wasco at Arlington, 4 p.m.
Lone at Sherman, 4 p.m.
Powder Valley at Helix, 4 p.m.
Echo at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Friday
Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m.

Pendleton, Heppner, Irrigon, Riverside at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m.

Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD

Saturday
Hermiston at Bremerton (WA) meet, 9 a.m.

Pendleton, Heppner, Riverside, Irrigon at Riverside Tournament, 9 a.m.

Mac-Hi at Nampa Tournament, TBD.

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday
Pendleton, Hermiston at The Dalles meet, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 5:30 p.m.

Football

NCAA

Monday, Jan. 11
College Football Championship Game
Glendale, Ariz.

Clemson (14-0) vs. Alabama (13-1), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

NFL
Wild-card Playoffs

Saturday
Kansas City (11-5) at Houston (9-7), 1:35 p.m. (ABC/ESPN)

Pittsburgh (10-6) at Cincinnati (12-4), 5:15 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday
Seattle (10-6) at Minnesota (11-6), 10 a.m. (NBC)

Green Bay (10-6) at Washington (9-7), 1:30 p.m. (FOX)

Basketball

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	21	15	.583	—
Boston	19	15	.559	1
New York	17	19	.472	4
Brooklyn	10	24	.294	10
Philadelphia	4	33	.108	17½

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	13	.618	—
Atlanta	21	15	.583	1
Orlando	19	16	.543	2½
Charlotte	17	17	.500	4
Washington	15	17	.469	5

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	23	9	.719	—
Chicago	21	12	.636	2½
Indiana	19	15	.559	5
Detroit	19	16	.543	5½
Milwaukee	14	23	.378	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	30	6	.833	—
Dallas	20	15	.571	9½
Memphis	19	17	.528	11
Houston	17	19	.472	13
New Orleans	11	22	.333	17½

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	24	11	.686	—
Utah	15	18	.455	8
Portland	15	22	.405	10
Denver	12	23	.343	12
Minnesota	12	23	.343	12

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	32	2	.941	—
L.A. Clippers	22	13	.629	10½
Sacramento	14	21	.400	18½
Phoenix	12	25	.324	21½
L.A. Lakers	8	27	.229	24½

Tuesday's Games

Chicago 117, Milwaukee 106
New York 107, Atlanta 101
Dallas 117, Sacramento 116, 2OT
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games

New York at Miami, 4 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Cleveland at Washington, 4 p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 4:30 p.m.

Denver at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Phoenix, 6 p.m.

Memphis at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 7 p.m.

NCAA Basketball
Men's Top 25

Tuesday
8. Providence (14-2) lost to Marquette 65-64. Next: at Creighton, Tuesday.

Women's Top 25

Tuesday
22. South Florida (9-3) beat UCF 108-63. Next: vs. SMU, Thursday.

24. DePaul (11-5) beat No. 25 Seton Hall 86-74. Next: vs. Georgetown, Friday.

25. Seton Hall (13-2) lost to No. 24 DePaul 85-7. Next: at St. John's, Saturday.

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	40	24	12	4	52	111	86
Detroit	40	20	13	7	47	101	106
Montreal	41	22	16	3	47	119	103
Boston	38	20	14	4	44	118	105
Ottawa	40	19	15	6	44	114	120
Tampa Bay	40	19	17	4	42	101	98
Toronto	37	15	7	37	99	103	
Buffalo	40	15	21	4	34	92	110

Metropolitan Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	39	29	7	3	61	124	85
N.Y. Islanders	40	22	13	5	49	113	99
N.Y. Rangers	40	22	14	4	48	118	105
New Jersey	40	20	15	5	45	93	95
Pittsburgh	39	19	15	5	43	93	96
Philadelphia	38	16	17	5	39	83	105
Carolina	40	16	17	7	39	92	111
Columbus	41	15	23	3	33	105	131

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	42	28	10	4	60	146	113
Chicago	41	24	13	4	52	114	99
St. Louis	42	23	14	5	51	103	103
Minnesota	39	21	11	7	49	105	92
Nashville	40	19	14	7	45	104	106
Colorado	40	19	18	3	41	113	111
W							