

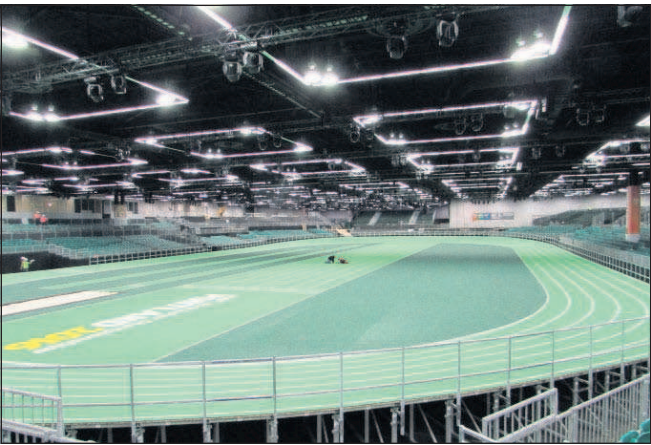
Pro Track & Field

Portland readies to host the track and field championships

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Oregon is about to become the hub of elite track and field leading to the Rio Games. The U.S. indoor championships open Friday at the Portland Convention Center, and next week the venue will host the world championships. Then the attention shifts to Eugene for the U.S. Olympic Trials in July. In between, Eugene also will host the NCAA championships and the Prefontaine Classic, the only Diamond League international meet in the United States. “One of the great things about this is, Portland is the first stop on the road to Rio,” said Vin Lananna,

president of TrackTown USA President and U.S. Olympic men’s head coach, as he surveyed the indoor track. Lananna was instrumental in bringing the indoor worlds to Portland, and he also mounted the successful bid to bring the outdoor World Championships to Eugene in 2011. This week construction workers were putting the finishing touches on the banked 200-meter oval track in the cavernous convention hall. The track is ringed by temporary stands for 7,000 spectators. Special sand for the long and triple-jump pit was brought in from Idaho. “It (the track) was constructed in a warehouse and then it was taken apart, in 1,400 pieces, and shipped



AP Photo/Anne M. Peterson
In this photo taken Monday, March 7, 2016, workers put the finishing touches on the track at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

over here to be put back together,” Lananna said. “It was like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.” The nationals, set for Friday and Saturday, will have a very Oregon feel. Portland’s Galen Rupp is among the athletes who will compete at nationals, running in the 3,000 meters on Friday night. Rupp has

already earned a spot on the U.S. team for the Rio Games with a first-place finish last month in the marathon trials. Rupp is the American record holder in the indoor 3,000 with a time of 7 minutes, 30.16 seconds. Ashton Eaton, the reigning Olympic gold medalist in the decathlon, plans to compete in the 60 and the long jump. Eaton, an Oregon native who was a standout for the Ducks, holds the world records for both the decathlon and indoor heptathlon. Fellow former Duck Matthew Centrowitz is among those entered in the 1,500, while Oregon alum Laura Roesler, who won the 2014 Bowerman Award, is entered in the women’s 800. The top two finishers in each event at nationals will represent the United States at worlds. “What we’ve tried to do is really make this an athlete focused meet, and we’ve done everything we can to create an athlete directed event where they’ll have a great competition, great warmup, great crowd,” Lananna said. “It’s been 36 months of work by a lot of people.” Some high-profile U.S. athletes are skipping the indoor championships, including sprinters Allyson Felix and Tyson Gay, as well as middle-distance runner Nick Symmonds. Because it is an Olympic year, many athletes prefer to focus on the outdoor season.

College Basketball
Weber State edges Portland State

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Ryan Richardson scored 21 points and top-seeded Weber State edged No. 8 seed Portland State 78-74 in a Big Sky quarterfinal game on Thursday. The Wildcats (24-8) will face the winner of fourth-seeded Idaho State and No. 5 seed North Dakota in a semifinal game on Friday. Richardson was 7 of 9 from the field, including 5 of 7 from beyond the arc, with five rebounds and four assists. Jeremy Senglin scored 16 points while Joel Bolomboy and Zach Braxton added 12 points apiece. Weber State shot nearly 58 percent and was 11 of 23 on 3-point attempts. Cameron Forte led Portland State (13-18) with 25 points and seven rebounds. De’Sean Parsons added 18 points. Weber State led 46-37 at intermission, but the Vikings chipped away to tie at 60 with 8:48 to go. It was tight from there, and Senglin’s layup with 58 seconds left gave the Wildcats a one-point lead. On the next possession, Bolomboy blocked a layup attempt and Weber State held on to advance.

Big Sky


Weber St.
78


Portland St.
74

DUCKS: Second half gets rough

Continued from 1B
against Washington on Feb. 28, when Cook scored 26 points in the 86-73 victory. The Huskies put a dent in their NCAA Tournament hopes by limping to the finish, but kept a glimmer of hope alive with a rout over Stanford in the tournament’s opening round. Washington got off to fast start against the Cardinal and kept rolling against Oregon, hitting 10 of its first 13 shots — four of those 3s — to go up 26-14. Oregon was ragged early, forcing shots and passes in traffic, riling coach Dana Altman with numerous defensive breakdowns. The Ducks settled down and started flying, harassing the Huskies into difficult shots, scoring in transition after turnovers and misses during an 11-0 run that helped them take a 39-38 halftime lead. But after all the 3-pointers and soaring dunks, the second half turned into a defensive wrestling match, with bodies hitting the floor nearly every trip. The Ducks gained a little separation midway through, when Dorsey hit a 3 and Dwayne Benjamin scored on a three-point play to put Oregon up 64-54.

BEAVERS: OSU takes lead with 7 minutes left

Continued from 1B
Oregon State, scoring 15 points in the first half. Cal stretched the lead to 10 early in the second half, only to get sloppy and allow the Beavers to rally and keep it close. The Beavers took the lead with about 7 minutes left after Bruce found Payton in the corner for a 3-pointer, setting up a back and forth finish. Raab had the biggest baskets to put Cal ahead and Mathews added a 3-pointer from the corner. TIP INS Oregon State: Bruce was 7 for 11 from the floor, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range. ... The Beavers made 9 of 16 from the arc. Cal: Jaylen Brown, the Pac-12’s freshman of the year, had eight points on 1-of-6 shooting.



AP Photo/John Locher
Oregon State forward Olaf Schaftenaar, right, and California center Kameron Rooks vie for a rebound during the first half Thursday.

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