Men's College Basketball

Ducks' rise on national stage highlighted by top seed

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

In the preseason when questions swirled about how Oregon would replace guard Joseph Young, coach Dana Altman was asked how the Ducks could achieve the recognition enjoyed by the school's football team.

"We just have to do our part: We have to grow, we have to play an exciting brand of basketball, we have to win. We've got to continue to get better," Altman said at Pac-12 media day.

It's certainly looks like the Ducks have done their part this season. The Ducks (28-6) are the No. 1 seed in the West Region for the first time in school history.

On Friday they'll make their fourth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, opening with the winner of Wednesday's First Four game between Holy Cross (14-19) and Southern (22-12). If the Ducks win, they'll face either No. 8 seed Saint Joseph's or No. 9 seed Cincinnati.

"Let's go make something really special happen here guys," Altman told the team after the seeding was announced, "and have a lot of fun doing it."

The historic seeding follows a season of superlatives.

Oregon, which rose to No. 5 in the AP Top 25 this week, won both the Pac-12 regular season title and the Pac-12 Tournament championship, downing Utah 88-57 on Saturday.

The Ducks' regular-season record was the best in 77 years. The team went undefeated at home for the fifth time in school history and the first time since the 2001-02. Dating back to last season, Oregon's home winning streak has stretched to school-record 25 games.

AP Photo/John Locher, File

In tis Saturday, March 12, 2016, file photo, Oregon head coach Dana Altman celebrates while cutting down the net after his team defeated Utah 88-57 in an NCAA college basketball game in the championship of the Pac-12 men's tournament in Las Vegas. On Friday The Ducks will make their fourth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, opening against Holy Cross.

The last time the Ducks broke into the top 10 was the 2006-7 season, when they were ranked as high as No. 7 and went on to win the Pac-12 Tournament and advance to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

Oregon popped into the rankings early in the season, but stumbled with losses to UNLV and Boise State in December. The team then opened conference play with a loss at rival Oregon State.

But the Ducks rebounded, with the highlight coming on Jan. 28 when they snapped Arizona's 49-game home winning streak with an 83-75 win in Tucson. Oregon finished 14-4 in conference.

It was Oregon's sixth-straight season with at least 20 wins, coinciding with Altman's arrival in Eugene.

Going into the season, the Ducks were projected to finish fourth in the Pac-12's preseason poll. They were faced with replacing Young, who averaged 19.8 points, 4.5 rebounds and 3.7 assists last season and was named the Pac-12 Player of the Year.

With Young, the league's top scorer, Oregon finished 26-10, and beat Oklahoma State to open the NCAA Tournament before falling to Wisconsin.

Altman said at the beginning of this season that he was looking for more balanced scoring. And, in a sense, that's what happened. Sophomore Dylan Brooks emerged to lead the team with an average of 16.7 points, including a 10-game stretch during conference play with 20 or more points a game.

But the Ducks also got key contributions from senior Elgin Cook, the Ducks' second-leading scorer at 14.3 points per game with a team-high 44 steals, and promising freshman Tyler Dorsey, who averages 13.8 points.

The Ducks' claimed the conference season title for the first time in 14 years.

"They really battled all year, overcome any adversity they faced, and really have been unselfish," said Altman, named the repeat Pac-12 coach of the year. "When we're together, we're a great tough out for a lot of people. And I think we can continue to build on that."

At the watch party for Selection Sunday, Altman wouldn't make any "bold predictions" about Oregon's chances in the tournament.

"But we will play hard and we will work hard," he said. "These guys have been wining away all year, and I anticipate they will continue to do that and play as a team."

HEEHN: Three-point specialist receiving interest from four-year schools

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Heehn was a huge part of the Titans' payback plan, and started the team off hitting all six of her three-pointers in the first half to help the Titans to a 43-33 halftime lead.

She finished the game 6 for 8 from beyond the arc for 18 points and added six rebounds.

"I don't really know I was just kind of zoned in," she said of her stellar first half. "I don't really now what happened, I just felt like it was may last game so I wanted to play my best."

Heehn made her first five 3-point attempts, the fifth put Lane up 19-6 with 5:41 remaining in the first quarter.

"Once shooters get in rhythm, we want the ball because we know we're on fire," she said. "And, the more confident we are, the more likely we're going to make everything we put up."

The Pirates made runs to trim the lead, but never fully recovered from the early deficit.

The title was the fifth for Lane since 2006 under coach Greg Sheley.

"We kind of started off hitting on all cylinders," Sheley said. "Gabby got off early and that really helped open up things for (sophomore) Shelby (Snook). Shelby was a little rusty early on, but she finished strong for us."

Snook scored 17 of her game-high 23 points in the second half, and was named the Tournament's MVP. Heehn was named the Most Inspirational Player for her efforts. She also was named to the All-South Region second team.

Photo courtesy of NWAC

Lane Community College sophomore Gabby Heehn, right, poses with teammate Shelby Snook after they were named Most Inspirational Player and Tournament MVP, repsectively, at the NWAC Women's Basketball Championships on Sunday in Everett, Wash.

Her 75 percent three-point shooting in the championship was a high for the season, and she averaged 12.9 points and three rebounds a game. Her highest point total of the season came on Feb. 24 when she hit 9 of 16 three-pointers in a 30-point effort against Linn-Benton.

She finished her Titans career with 209 made three-pointers at a 34.1 percent clip.

Pendleton's all-time career three-point record holder with 190, Heehn said she owes a lot of her success to her father, David.

"My dad ever since I was little he taught me how to shoot," she said. "He never let me shoot like when little kids just go out there and chuck it up, he never let me do that. My dad showed me form, and form is everything."

But form can only take a player so far, and Heehn said her coaches as Lane have been great tutors of the game.

"Coaching made me the player that I am now because when I came in as a freshman I had a lot to learn," she said. "I got a lot stronger mentally, and just being able to stay in the flow of the game and not getting down. I have more a basketball IQ I would say when I went in there."

With her days as a Titan nearly wrapped up, Heehn said she's fielding a few offers from four-year schools in California and one from West Virginia that will allow her to continue her playing career.

She said there are many things she'll remember from her time at Lane, but two stand out.

"All the friendships that I made, those are going to last for years," she said. "And the coaches yelling at me. At the championship game I missed my (two-pointer) and the coaches yelled at me jokingly, 'Why can't you just do your job and make a shot?'"

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ALL-STATE: Four locals named to honorable mention list

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tournament appearance.

Four area players also found their names on the honorable mention list, as Stanfield's Dylan Grogan, Weston-McEwen's Shaw Broncheau, and Heppner's C.J. Kindle and Logan Grieb earned the selections with tremendous seasons for their respective teams.

Vernonia head coach David Weller was selected as the Coach of the Year for leading the Loggers to their first state championship since 1978, while Toledo senior guard Isaiah Marchant was selected as the Player of the Year.

Player of the Year: Isaiah Marchant, Toledo
Coach of the Year: David Weller, Vernonia

First team
Isaiah Marchant, sr., Toledo
Fredy Vera, sr., Irrigon
Sam Nieslanik, sr., Regis
Trace Tiller, sr., Burns
Tristan Davidson, sr., Bandon
DeMonte Malloy, jr., City Christian

Second team
Bryce Piete, jr., Regis
Brett Elliot, jr., Vernonia
Joel Snyder, jr., Oakridge
Clay Sullivan, soph., Vernonia
Patrick Collins, sr., Heppner

Third team
Simeon Hess, jr., Western Mennonite
Colby Williams, sr., Western Mennonite
Bishop Mitchell, jr., Kennedy
Kyle Otis, jr., Toledo
Trace Van Cleave, sr., Imbler

Honorable Mention
Brett Elder, sr., Nestucca
Chase Houck, sr., Union
Austin Smith, sr., Bandon
Ty Hueckman, sr., Burns
Zeke Quinlan, jr., Life Christian
Tyler Tresch, sr., Reedsport
Andrew Taylor, sr., Lost River
Jesse Young, sr., Oakland
Allen Hess, sr., Bonanza
Brandon McGilvray, sr., Imbler
Austin Moore, jr., Bandon
C.J. Kindle, sr., Heppner
Dylan Grogan, jr., Stanfield
Logan Grieb, jr., Heppner
Dale Takalo, soph., Knappa
Shaw Broncheau, jr., Weston-McEwen

SINGER: Football wouldn't allow fewer refs for state

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level, and I think we can all agree that college basketball is still plenty physical.

The extra person can also be crucial for deciphering which team last touched a ball before going out of bounds. With two officials, they are sometimes out of position to be able to see which player the ball went off, or if the ball was deflected before leaving the court.

Imagine if for football games, only a few leagues had the full amount of officials and the rest of the leagues played with one less side judge or a back judge, and then everybody had to play without the full amount for the state championships. The amount of criticism from fans would increase, and there would probably be numerous missed penalties which would derive more anger from coaches and players.

And we don't want more complaining, do we?

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SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL
Today
Riverside at Irrigon, 3:30 p.m.
Union at Stanfield (DH), 4/6 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Weston-McEwen, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Joseph at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Dufur at Umatilla (DH), 2/4 p.m.
Pendleton at Hanford (WA) (DH), 3/5 p.m.
Central Catholic at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Weston-McEwen at Dayton (WA), 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL
Today
Union at Echo, 3 p.m.
Riverside at Irrigon, 3:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Heppner, 4:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Central Linn at Pilot Rock, 9 a.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Scio (at Pilot Rock), 11 a.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Central Linn (at Pilot Rock), 1 p.m.
Liberty at Hermiston (DH), 3/5:30 p.m.
Kamiakin (WA) at Pendleton (DH), 3/5 p.m.
Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.
Saturday
Scio at Pilot Rock, 11 a.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Enterprise (at Pilot Rock), 1 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD
Today
Pendleton, Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Umatilla, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Pilot Rock, Irrigon, Heppner, Helix at Buck Track Classic, Noon

PREP TENNIS
Today
Helix, Weston-McEwen at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Hermiston boys at AC Davis (WA), 3:30 p.m.

PREP GOLF
Today
Heppner at Willow Creek, 2 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Milton-Freewater, 2:30 p.m.
Friday
Pendleton, Hermiston boys at The Dalles, 10 a.m.

PREP RUGBY
Saturday
Valley Rams at EO Sasquatch, 1:30 p.m.

PREP LACROSSE
Friday
Ridgeview at Hermiston, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
Selah at Hermiston, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Saturday
PBA at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.
Sunday
Olumpic at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Friday
North Idaho at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4 p.m.
Saturday
Spokane at Blue Mountain (DH), Noon/2 p.m.

Basketball

NCAA
NCAA Tournament
First Four
Tuesday
No. 16 Florida Gulf Coast 96, No. 16 Fairleigh Dickinson 65
No. 11 Wichita State 70, No. 11 Vanderbilt 50
Wednesday
No. 16 Holy Cross 59, No. 16 Southern 55
No. 11 Michigan 67, No. 11 Tulsa 62
First Round
Today
EAST REGIONAL
Indiana (25-7) vs. Chattanooga (29-5), 4:10 p.m.
North Carolina (28-6) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (21-13), 4:20 p.m.
Kentucky (26-8) vs. Stony Brook (26-6), 6:40 p.m.
Southern Cal (21-12) vs. Providence (23-10), 6:50 p.m.
SOUTH REGIONAL
Colorado (22-11) vs. UConn (24-10), 10:30 a.m.
Kansas (30-4) vs. Austin Peay (18-17), 1 p.m.
Miami (25-7) vs. Buffalo (20-14), 3:50 p.m.
Arizona (25-8) vs. Wichita State (25-8), 6:20 p.m.
MIDWEST REGIONAL
Texas Tech (19-12) vs. Butler (21-10), 9:40 a.m.
Iowa State (21-11) vs. Iona (22-10), 11 a.m.
Virginia (26-7) vs. Hampton (21-10), 12:10 p.m.
Purdue (26-8) vs. UALR (29-4), 1:30 p.m.
Utah (26-8) vs. Fresno State (25-9), 4:27 p.m.
Seton Hall (25-8) vs. Gonzaga (26-7), 6:57 p.m.
WEST REGIONAL
Duke (23-10) vs. UNC Wilmington (25-7), 9:15 a.m.
Baylor (22-11) vs. Yale (22-6), 11:45 a.m.

NIT
First round
Tuesday
No. 1 South Carolina 88, No. 8 High Point
No. 1 Valparaiso 84, No. 8 Texas Southern 73
No. 2 San Diego State 79, No. 7 IPFW 55
No. 2 Florida 97, No. 7 North Florida 68
No. 2 St. Mary's 56, No. 7 New Mexico St. 54
No. 3 Washington 107, No. 6 Long Beach St. 102
No. 3 Ohio State 72, No. 6 Akron 63 (OT)
No. 4 Florida State 84, No. 5 Davidson 74
No. 4 Creighton 72, No. 5 Alabama 54
Wednesday
No. 8 Wagner 79, No. 1 St. Bonaventure 75
No. 3 Georgia 93, No. 6 Belmont 84
No. 1 Monmouth 90, No. 8 Bucknell 80
No. 4 George Washington 82, No. 5 Hofstra 80
No. 3 Virginia Tech 86, No. 6 Princeton 81, OT
No. 4 Georgia Tech 81, No. 5 Houston 62
No. 2 BYU 97, No. 7 UAB 79

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	45	21	.682	—
Boston	39	29	.574	7
New York	28	41	.406	18½
Brooklyn	19	48	.284	26½
Philadelphia	9	58	.134	36½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	39	28	.582	—
Atlanta	39	29	.574	½
Charlotte	38	29	.567	1
Washington	32	35	.478	7
Orlando	29	38	.433	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	48	19	.716	—
Indiana	36	31	.537	12
Detroit	34	34	.500	14½
Chicago	33	33	.500	14½
Milwaukee	29	39	.426	19½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	57	10	.851	—
Memphis	39	29	.574	18½
Houston	34	34	.500	23½
Dallas	34	34	.500	23½
New Orleans	25	42	.373	32

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	46	22	.676	—
Portland	35	33	.515	11
Utah	32	35	.478	13½
Denver	28	40	.412	18
Minnesota	22	46	.324	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Golden State	61	6	.910	—
L.A. Clippers	43	24	.642	18
Sacramento	26	41	.388	35
Phoenix	18	49	.269	43
L.A. Lakers	14	54	.206	47½

y-clinched division

Wednesday's Games
Cleveland 99, Dallas 98
Oklahoma City 130, Boston 109
Washington 117, Chicago 96
Charlotte 107, Orlando 99
Atlanta 118, Detroit 114
Minnesota 114, Memphis 108
L.A. Clippers 122, Houston 106
New Orleans 123, Sacramento 108
Golden State 121, New York 85
Today's Games
Toronto at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Memphis at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 6 p.m.

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	70	39	22	9	87	198	171
Boston	71	39	24	8	86	215	191
Tampa Bay	70	40	25	5	85	191	167
Detroit	70	34	25	11	79	176	186
Ottawa	71	33	30	8	74	205	220
Montreal	71	33	32	6	72	191	200
Buffalo	71	28	33	10	66	169	193
Toronto	69	24	34	11	59	164	202

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Washington	69	50	14	5	105	221	161
N.Y. Islanders	68	38	21	9	85	194	170
N.Y. Rangers	69	39	23	7	85	197	181
Pittsburgh	69	37	24	8	82	190	174
Philadelphia	69	34	23	12	80	181	185
Carolina	70	31	26	13	75	171	188
New Jersey	70	33	30	7	73	154	178
Columbus	69	28	33	8	64	180	215

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	71	41	21	9	91	229	208
St. Louis	72	41	22	9	91	191	185
Chicago	71	41	24	6	88	197	176
Nashville	70	35	22	13	83	192	179
Colorado	71	36	31	4	76	191	199
Minnesota	70	32	27	11	75	184	175
Winnipeg	70	29	36	5	63	182	209

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	69	42	22	5	89	190	156
Anaheim	68	38	21	9	85	174	160
San Jose	69	39	24	6	84	206	181
Arizona	69	30	32	7	67	185	211
Vancouver	69	27	30	12	66	167	200
Calgary	70	30	35	5	65	193	218
Edmonton	73	28	38	7	63	177	216

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

Wednesday's Games
Montreal 3, Buffalo 2, OT
Philadelphia 3, Chicago 2
Edmonton 6, St. Louis 4
Calgary 4, Winnipeg 1
Colorado 3, Vancouver 1
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, late finish
Today's Games
Minnesota at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
Detroit at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Florida at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
San Jose at Arizona, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

Tennis

BNP Paribas Open
Wednesday
At The Indian Wells Tennis Garden
Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: Men: $7.04 million (Masters 1000); Women: $6.84 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Fourth Round
David Goffin (15), Belgium, def. Stan Wawrinka (3), Switzerland, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (5).
Marin Cilic (10), Croatia, def. Richard Gasquet (8), France, 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.
Milos Raonic (12), Canada, def. Tomas Berdych (6), Czech Republic, 6-4, 7-6 (7).
Gael Monfils (13), France, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.
Rafael Nadal (4), Spain, def. Alexander Zverev, Germany, 6-7 (8), 6-0, 7-5.
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Feliciano Lopez (18), Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Women
Quarterfinals
Agnieszka Radwanska (3), Poland, def. Petra Kvitova (8), Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (3).
Doubles
Men
Quarterfinals
Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut (7), France, def. Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin, France, 6-1, 7-5.
Women
Quarterfinals
Julia Goerges, Germany, and Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Vania King, United States, and Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, 6-4, 6-3.
Sara Errani, Italy, and Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, def. Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka (4), Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 10-5.

Transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with G Evan Mathis on a one-year contract.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed OT Tom Compton and LB LaRoy Reynolds.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed TE Jim Dray.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed LS Aaron Brewer to a one-year contract.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Re-signed DT Pat Sims.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Terminated the contracts of LB Karlos Dansby and WR Dwayne Bowe. Signed LB Demario Davis.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed S Antonio Allen.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed OT Kelvin Beachum to a two-year contract.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Re-signed QB Matt Moore. Signed DE Andre Branch.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Re-signed RB Matt Asiata.