

Men's College Basketball

Beavers bounced from tournament by Rams

By KURT VOIGT
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY—New coach or not, the same old tournament-tested Virginia Commonwealth showed up for the NCAA Tournament.

The experienced Rams showed why they were the favorites in their first-round game against seventh-seeded Oregon State, despite entering the game as a No. 10 seed.

With JeQuan Lewis totaling 21 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, VCU (25-10) — led by first-year coach Will Wade — held off a furious second-half charge to defeat the Beavers 75-67 on Friday.

It was the sixth straight NCAA appearance for the Rams, a streak that started with the school's Final Four run in 2011.

Rather than reveling in their run of postseason success, VCU entered Friday more focused on making amends for first-round losses the last two years. And they certainly played like it in the second half, recovering after a 10-point lead.



VCU
75



Oregon St.
67

“These guys have been through it,” Wade said. “And you’ve got to roll with them, and that’s what we did today.”

Mo Alie-Cox added 20 points and was 7 of 8 from the field in the win, while Melvin Johnson finished with 12 points. It was Lewis, though, who made the biggest impact when the Rams needed it the most — scoring 14 of his 21 points in the second half and finishing 7 of 11 from the field, including 3 of 5 on 3-pointers.

The junior helped the team’s seniors stick around for at least one more appearance on the national stage.

“Coming into the game, I told him, ‘I don’t have many of these left,’ and if he could do me a favor, it would be for him to be aggressive,” Johnson said. “And he was extremely aggressive.”

While VCU celebrated its continued run of postseason success, Oregon State was



Virginia Commonwealth guard Melvin Johnson (32) goes to the basket between Oregon State guard Gary Payton II (1) and Stephen Thompson Jr. (2) in the first half of a first-round game in the NCAA Tournament, Friday in Oklahoma City.

AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

left feeling its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 26 years didn’t last long enough.

Gary Payton II scored 19 points to lead the Beavers (19-13), while Derrick Bruce finished with 15 and Drew Eubanks 13, but they were unable to control VCU’s inside attack and win their first NCAA Tournament game since 1982.

“I’m very happy for our guys’ fight that we showed, but it’s going to stick in

our craw for a little bit,” Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. “We’re competitive; we weren’t happy just making an appearance.”

After leading by eight at halftime, VCU appeared in control as it extended the lead to 47-37 early in the second half — with Ahm Hamdy Mohamed scoring five straight points.

However, the Beavers didn’t go away quietly.

With Bruce connecting on a pair of 3-pointers and

Payton II throwing down a pair of dunks and scoring another basket on the fast break, Oregon State went on a 14-2 run to take a 51-49 lead. It was the first time the Beavers had led since a 20-19 edge in the first half.

The charge was short-lived, though, as the Rams regained their composure and stretched the lead to as many as 10 points before holding on for their first tournament win since a first-round victory over Akron in

2013. “I wish it was longer, but we had a good run,” Payton II said.

TIP-INS

VCU: The Rams finished the game with 46 of their 75 points coming near the basket, and they shot 48.2 percent (27 of 56) from the field.

Oregon State: The Beavers played without freshman Tres Tinkle, who also missed Oregon’s State’s four previous games with a right foot injury. The 6-foot-8 forward, playing for his father, entered the game averaging 13.1 points per game.

DUNK CITY

Three of Alie-Cox’s seven field goals came on dunks against the Oregon State zone defense, including one that helped turn momentum to VCU for good. After the Rams fell behind 51-49, Johnson and Lewis hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put them up 55-52. That’s when Alie-Cox added his third dunk of the game, a powerful one-handed dunk that led to a three-point play that put VCU up by six points, a lead that never was less than that again.

Women's College Basketball

Double-doubles from Hamblin, Wiese lead Beavers past Troy

Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Ruth Hamblin had 18 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks as Oregon State dominated early and cruised to a 73-31 win over Troy in the first round of the women’s NCAA Tournament on Friday.

Sydney Wiese added 10 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Beavers (29-4), the No. 2 seed in the Dallas Regional. Oregon State has won 19 of its last 20 games.

Kristen Emerson had nine points, eight rebounds and four blocks for the



Troy
31



Oregon St.
73



AP Photo/Timothy J. Gonzalez

Oregon State's Jamie Weisner, center, drives past Troy's Ashley Beverly Keley in the first half of a first round game in the NCAA Tournament in Corvallis on Friday.

Oregon State had used every player on its roster by halftime, and pushed the lead to 40-14 at the break.

The third quarter ended with the Beavers ahead 54-21.

TIP INS

Troy: The Trojans, from Troy, Alabama, won the Sun Belt tourney as the No. 4 seed, and made their second tourney appearance.

Their first was in 1997. . Troy averaged 81.8 points per game and forced 21.8 turnovers per game, and both marks were good for sixth in the nation. The Beavers had 18 turnovers on Friday . Beverly Kelley, the lone senior on the roster for the Trojans, was the Sun Belt’s

leading scorer at 20.3 points per game.

Oregon State: The Beavers, who claimed a share of the Pac-12 regular season title and won the conference tourney, have made the NCAA Tournament three straight years. Last season, Oregon State was a three-seed, but fell to Gonzaga in the second round. . Weisner, the Pac-12 Player of the Year, had two points on Friday. She led the Beavers with 17.3 points per game this season.

UP NEXT

Oregon State plays the winner of the No. 7-seed Oklahoma State versus No. 10 St. Bonaventure game on Sunday.

Pro Track & Field

Bromell holds on to win 60-meter final

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

PORTLAND — There was no doubt Trayvon Bromell won. The American even ran backward down his lane in his exuberance.

Still, he had to wait and wait some more for it to become official.

Bromell captured the 60-meter title at the world indoor track and field championships Friday night in a race that was so close that it took several minutes to determine the rest of the medalists.

Bromell finished in 6.47 seconds and had the flag draped around him as he waited to see who would join him in celebration. When everything was sorted out, Asafa Powell of Jamaica was moved up to second and Ramon Gittens of Barbados third. A nearly 40-year-old Kim Collins was originally announced as the runner-up before slipping to eighth in

a field that was missing big names such as Usain Bolt and Justin Gatlin.

Those two were absent by choice. The Russians weren’t here because of pending doping and corruption charges. The absence of one of track’s top nations could be a glimpse of what the Rio Olympics might be like, should the country not be reinstated.

Brianne Theisen-Eaton of Canada had the race of the night, making up major ground in the 800 meters to win pentathlon gold. Theisen-Eaton and her husband Ashton Eaton are hometown favorites given their ties to the University of Oregon, where they met. Eaton leads the heptathlon after the first day, but is slightly off his world-record pace.

In other finals, Nia Ali of the U.S. defended her title in the 60-meter hurdles by holding off teammate Brianna Rollins, while Brittney Reese

of the U.S. used a powerful final leap to capture the long jump. Tomas Walsh of New Zealand won the shot put, ending an American domination in the event at world indoors that began in 2004.

Bromell is a rising talent in a deep U.S. sprinting pool. He captured a share of the bronze medal at the world outdoor championships last season in Beijing.

“I felt comfortable and I just kept going,” Bromell said. “I was going to run into the Portland sign (at the end of the track) so I could win this race.”

Powell thought he had silver, but had to wait for it all to be sorted out.

“I was just confused,” he said.

It was a little bit of a heartbreaker for Collins, who tumbled from a silver medal all the way to last place after the review. He still became the oldest male to make the final at world indoors.

Prep Roundup

Bucks, Dawgs finish top five at The Dalles golf tournament

East Oregonian

THE DALLES — The Pendleton Buckaroos and Hermiston Bulldogs boys golf teams began their 2016 seasons on Friday as they participated in a 10-team tournament The Dalles Country Club.

The Buckaroos team had the stronger day of the two, finishing in second place with a combined score of 341 and sitting just four shots behind the first place team Clackamas with a 337.

Leading the Buckaroos individually was junior Sam Kung with an 83, which was good enough for fifth place for the tournament. Reilly Hegarty, Nathan Som, and Brayden Pulver each shot an 86, and Jared Geyer finished with a 96 to round out the Bucks competitors.

Hermiston finished the tournament in fourth place with a team score of 373, and were led by the tournament’s second-place medalist in Anders Lind with an 81.

Kaden Meechum shot an 90 for the Bulldogs, and Jared Thacker shot 93. Thacker holed a couple of birdies on the round, but had two or three balls go out of bounds, Lind said, hurting his score. Dylan Martin shot 109 and Tyler Cameron carded a 124 in his first big tournament, according to Lind.

“We knew going in, you have to control the ball,” Lind said of the course, adding that though the scores are high, it’s not the worst thing. “Frustration level? It’s not there. (The Dalles) is a hard place to start. Everyone took something out of it.”

Pendleton’s next tournament is on April 1 at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Bend, while Hermiston will participate on March 21 at Sunnyside (WA).

ECHO — The Nixyaawii Golden Eagles boys golf team and the Heppner Mustangs girls team each scored team victories at the Echo Hills Tournament on Friday afternoon.

Nixyaawii finished with a team score of 402, led by Riley Lankford and Blake Kannier who each shot an 86 to tie with the lowest score of the tournament. Nixyaawii’s other scorers were Lennox Lewis (109), Justin Wells (121) and Wilbur Oatman (123).

Pendleton’s junior varsity team finished second with a 426, led by Trevor Reyes with a 97, followed by Kyle Curtis (102), Sawyer Powell (108), Kaden Murphy (119), and Gaven Sayles (133).

Hermiston’s junior

varsity was third with a score of 428 led by Brandon Cox with a 96 and followed by Eli Kerrigan (109), Blue Blackhurst (110), and Ty Knutz (113).

On the girls side, Heppner notched a team score of 497 led by Amanda Rea with a 98 to take home the first place medal. Other Mustang scorers were Madison Combe (123), Claire Grieb (141), Rian Dompier (145), and Caitlyn Scrivner (135).

Pendleton’s junior varsity was the only other school with a full roster, scoring a 519 for the tournament. Miah Ruber was the teams’ low-scorer with a 117, a three-stroke improvement from her best score of the 2015 season. Also scoring for Pendleton was Deshon Dick (133), Alyssa Treloar (138), Trinity Treloar (161), and MacKenzie McLeod (131).

Softball

SCIO 14, WESTON-MCEWEN 4 — At Pilot Rock, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots dropped its second-straight game to open the season, falling to the Scio Loggers in game one of a Friday double-header.

The TigerScots (1-2) led the Loggers early in the game as they piled on four runs and three hits in the bottom of the first inning to grab a 4-1 lead. In that inning, Jessica Lambert and Peal each tallied RBI singles while Jordyn Lambert ripped an RBI double to left field to add the fourth run in the inning.

But then the TigerScots bats went quiet.

Scio allowed just two hits from that point on as pitcher Kelsey Pollard mowed the TigerScots lineup down for the remaining four innings. Overall she struck out two and walked one over the five innings pitched.

SHS	170	42	—	14	14	1
W-M	400	00	—	4	5	2

Pollard and Unaru. Hillmick, Je. Lambert (2), Jo. Lambert (4) and Peal. W — Pollard, L — Hillmick.

2B — Phillips, Cooper, Nikolas (SHS). Jo. Lambert (W-M). HR — Pazoo (SHS).

WESTON-MCEWEN 13, CENTRAL LINN 1 — At Pilot Rock, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots rebounded for a blowout win in game two of their Friday doubleheader, knocking off Central Linn to pick up their first win of the season at the Pilot Rock Tournament.

“I was glad to see us regroup for the second game,” said TigerScots coach Jeff Griggs. “We made some nice plays in the field, ran the bases well, and made solid contact at the plate.”

Jessica Lambert got the start on the mound for the TigerScots (1-2), and

pitched a solid five innings allowing just three hits and one run with five strikeouts.

Weston-McEwen was led at the plate by Lambert, Sydney Peal and Isabelle Dillow as each tallied two hits in the game. Dillow and Peal each also added two RBIs apiece.

The team tallied seven runs total in the first inning to make a statement and put the game out of reach behind and RBI double from Lambert to score Bailey Hillmick and two-RBI double from Dillow.

Weston-McEwen will play twice today at the Pilot Rock Tournament, first facing off against Enterprise at 1 p.m. and then facing Pilot Rock at 5 p.m.

W-M	721	03	—	13	11	1
CLS	000	01	—	1	3	4

Lambert and Peal. Buckridge and catcher. W — Lambert, L — Buckridge.

2B — Dillow, Je. Lambert, Peal, Jo. Lambert (W-M).

Tennis

STANFIELD 3, CONDON 3 — At Stanfield, the Stanfield tennis team went 3-3 against the Condon Knights on Friday in Condon.

In the only contested girls doubles match, Candida Rojas and Briana Cornejo swept Lacy Aamodt and Margeret Campbell 6-4, 6-0 in the No 3 match. Condon defaulted at No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4.

Condon took both girls singles matches with Paige Ackerman beating Yakima Guzman 4-6, 7-5 (7-4), needing a tiebreaker. Condon’s Prema Nissinen had less trouble with Natalie Cornejo, winning 6-0, 6-1.

From Thursday

WESTON-MCEWEN 7, UMATILLA 1 — At Umatilla, the Weston-McEwen tennis teams opened up 2016 competition with wins over the Umatilla Vikings on Thursday afternoon.

In boys singles, the TigerScots went 2-1 against the Vikings, with No. 1 player Caleb Olson defeating Douglas Gomez 6-0 and then No. 3 match Ryan Schmidtgal winning 7-6 in a tiebreaker over Edgar Madrigal. The lone loss was in the No. 2 match with Umatilla’s Junior Coria defeating Kellen Fairchild 6-2.

In girls singles action, the TigerScots went 3-1, with wins by Johanna Albert (6-2 over Mey Lopez), Emma-line Irvine (7-5 over Aly Munoz), and Hannah McIntyre (6-4 Daisy Garcilazu). Umatilla’s lone win was in the No. 4 match where Jenny Vazquez defeated Krysta Calvert 6-0.

Weston-McEwen also swept all five matches in boys and girls doubles action to roll to the wins.