

BEAVERS: Rueck, Auriemma coached together at national level

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team has come.
“You’re usually rebuilding something that’s there, but this was the total creation of a new program, from the ground up,” Stansbury said. “I remember having some conversations early on, when Scott first came here, about whether we were going to have to petition the NCAA to take a season off, because we didn’t have a team.
“So this is incredibly miraculous.”

The Beavers’ climb was steady and in 2014 the team reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 18 years. The ninth seed after finishing a then-school record 13-5 in Pac-12 play, the Beavers were runners-up in the conference tournament and advanced to the second round in the Big Dance. Rueck won league Coach of the Year honors and Sydney Wiese hit a Pac-12 freshman record 104 3-pointers.

The next season, Oregon State popped into the AP Top 25 for the first time since 1996, won the Pac-12 regular-season title to end Stanford’s string of 14 seasons

with at least a share of it, and again advanced to the second round in the NCAA’s.
So far this season, the Beavers have collected a first-ever conference tournament championship, and, of course, that first Final Four. Oregon State climbed to No. 6 in the poll for its highest ranking ever.
Rueck said Wednesday that there are two memories that stick out in his six-year journey. The first was from his opening season, when the underdog Beavers came back from a 20-point deficit at the half to beat the rival Oregon Ducks at home at Gill Coliseum. The box score from that game still hangs on his office wall.
The second was last season, when the Beavers clinched the Pac-12 season title with a win over Cal. It was the final game at Gill for senior Ali Gibson, one of Rueck’s first recruits.
“That was the culmination, after all the struggle, that it had actually happened here. A lot of people did tell me, and would tell you, that, ‘You probably can’t win at Oregon State.’ And that was

the day we won at Oregon State — we’re gonna raise a Pac-12 banner in this place.
“It was one of those surreal moments, when Ali Gibson gets carried off the floor on the shoulders of her teammates and there’s confetti falling on us, and you look up and you’re like, ‘I can’t believe we did it. We got here.’”
A 60-57 victory over top-seeded Baylor on Monday got them here.
UConn coach Geno Auriemma is very familiar with Rueck, who was an assistant U.S. team coach for the Pan-Am games last summer. Auriemma is the head coach of the women’s national team.
He joins VanDerveer in admiration of what Rueck has been able to accomplish.
“That coaching staff has done an incredible job with the perfect mesh of players that play his style. And the fan base has rallied around them. I watched one of their NCAA games and the crowd was really great,” Auriemma said. “They are really, really, really tough to play against. I don’t think it’s any upset that they’re here. I really don’t.”

T-WOLVES: Pitching hits wall in Game 2

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4-3 lead.
“He came inside again and I didn’t miss,” Oldham said. “I thought it was gone off the bat but it actually ended up hitting the yellow (fence top) and finally getting over so I was like, ‘Nice.’”
Coming into the game BMCC was 6-2 when scoring four or more runs, and the T-Wolves had to work to extend that record against the Knights.
Tate Spivey reached on a single and then scored on a passed ball to make it 5-3 in the fourth, then Cordiero hit a double and scored on a double by Oldham to make it 6-3 in the fifth.
But Wenatchee put two across in the sixth to end BMCC starter Brian Howell’s afternoon and make it a one-run game again.
That didn’t last long, though, and Cordiero hit a two-out single in the bottom of the sixth that scored Tyson Wicklander and Brennan Serrano for the eventual game-winning runs.
“We’ve been doing that very well,” Baker said of answering opponents’ runs right away. “We respond, win innings. That’s the type of thing where you break down into pitches, at-bats and then innings. We’ve been giving up a couple and then bouncing back.”
Oldham led BMCC in

Game 1 going 2 for 3 with five RBI and a run scored. Cordiero went 2 for 4 with three runs and two RBI, and Ross was 2 for 4 with one RBI and one run.
Howell got the win and lasted 5 1-3 with four strikeouts and three walks. He allowed five runs, all earned, on seven hits. Nathan Pena surrendered two runs on two hits in 2 2-3 innings of relief and Oldham tossed a scoreless ninth to get the save.
Wenatchee starter Zace Lewis left after four complete and allowed five earned runs on three hits, five walks and one strikeout.
The T-Wolves started Game 2 with a three strikeouts in their first at-bat, two looking, but had a chance to earn a sweep until Wenatchee took a 12-2 lead with nine runs in the fifth inning.
T-Wolves starter Brock Breshears ran into trouble when he gave up a single and a double to open the inning, then an error by Ross on a deep fly to right and a walk compounded matters to end his day.
Reliever Alex Scarver didn’t do any better. He walked the first batter he faced, hit the second and gave up a single and double before leaving without recording an out and Wenatchee suddenly up 9-2.
Cody Pedroza eventually got the T-Wolves out of the inning, but not before hitting

pair of batters and giving up three more runs.
“In those big innings it’s usually a combination of errors, bad pitches and good hitting by the other team and they got all three of those in there,” Baker said. “Our pitching has been strong all year but then two out of the last three (games) we haven’t pitched well.”
Blue Mountain only had five hits in the game and left 11 runners on base.
“I don’t think our approach stayed the same (in Game 2),” said Oldham, who went 1 for 2. “I just felt like we were letting too many fastballs go by, too many good pitches go by.”
Blue Mountain continues league play on Saturday in a doubleheader at Walla Walla that starts at 1 p.m. The T-Wolves and Warriors are two of four teams tied in third at 1-1 after Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley each swept their openers for an early lead in the standings.

Game 1					R	H	E
WVC	003002 020	—	7	9	1		
BMCC	004113 01X	—	10	10	0		
Z. Lewis, P. Rasmussen (5), K. Cooper (8) and E. Sauve, B. Howell, N. Pena (6), T. Oldham (9) and C. Labbe, W. — Howell, L. — Lewis, S. — Oldham.							
2B — K. DeHass (WVC); L. Cordiero, T. Oldham (BMCC). HR — T. Oldham (BMCC).							
Game 2					R	H	E
WVC	110190	1	—	13	11	0	
BMCC	020000	1	—	3	5	2	
K. Watts, M. Ginner (3), D. Romanowski and E. Sauve, B. Breshears, A. Scarver (5), C. Pedroza (5), A. Wilson (6) and J. Rogers, W. — Ginner, L. — Breshears.							
2B — T. Angel, T. T. Scheffler, M. Garcia (WVC); T. Oldham (BMCC). 3B — T. Schwartz (WVC).							

BRIEFLY

Pendleton baseball camp this weekend
The Pendleton Buckaroos baseball program is holding a youth baseball camp to take place on Saturday at Bob White field.
The camp is for kids 5-14 years old, and will run

from 9 a.m. until Noon, and campers will get instruction from Pendleton coaches and varsity baseball players on hitting, fielding, and base running.
The cost of the camp is \$50, which includes a commemorative camp t-shirt.

Interested persons can fill out a registration form online at BuckarooBaseball.com, or the kids can be registered on Saturday before the camp.
Any questions can be directed to T.J. Haguewood at 541-310-0885.
— East Oregonian

College Football



In this photo taken Tuesday, March 29, 2016, Oregon State defensive coordinator Kevin Clune talks to the media after spring NCAA college football practice in Corvallis, Ore.
Godofredo Vasquez/The Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP

Oregon State D getting clean slate under Clune

By KEVIN HAMPTON
Albany Democrat-Herald

Treston Decoud needs no reminders of how the Oregon State football team fared last season.
The Beavers struggled to a 2-10 record and the defense played a big part.
Decoud, a cornerback, is haunted by the team’s performance in those 10 losses.
“Every day I go to sleep, every day I wake up I think about how we went 2-10,” Decoud said. “It’s always on my mind.”
The Beavers finished 11th in the Pac-12 in scoring defense (37 points a game) and total defense (481.5 yards a game).
As far as Decoud is concerned, that means the defensive players need to improve in all aspects of the game before the fall arrives.
“I don’t think it’s one thing we need to get better in, I think we need to get better in everything,” he said. “Tackling, running, stronger, scheme, film. Every aspect of football we need to get better, so that’s what we’re trying to do.”
Building from the bottom up is the situation facing new OSU defensive coordinator Kevin Clune.
Clune was the DC at

Utah State when he was hired after Kalani Sitake left to become the head coach at BYU.
Clune said he has a very similar background to Sitake’s, but there are differences between the two coaches.
“It’s not like everything’s new, but let’s say half the stuff is new,” Clune said. “They have to be used to my style and the new way we’re kind of going through things. But it’s good to have the foundation they had last year.”
Linebacker Caleb Saulo said Clune is very detailed in his approach to the game.
“I think that’s one thing that he has is that he’s going to get on us about the little things and make sure that everything’s sharp. Just making sure that we’re assignment sound,” Saulo said. “We do a lot of drills where we emphasize on the little details like just getting your thumbs up when you punch somebody, things like that. Or just taking on a block the right way, or just run fits and stuff like that. I think he’s a sharp guy and he’s going to make a lot of us sharp.”
Clune admits to a sometimes abrasive style, but that’s just fine with Decoud, who expects a coach to get

on his case at times.
“He’s a good guy. I like coach Clune,” Decoud said. “He gets on us. I’m not saying Kalani didn’t do that, but I think he’s more on that way. He’s more meaner, I guess you want to say, and I like that. That’s how my coaches were where I come from. So I like that.”
Said Clune: “I’ll rub them the wrong way a few times and we’ll see how they react to that. I’m going to challenge them and I think as a coach and trying to find ways to motivate and get the most out of them and we’ll see. I’m sure there’s going to be days when they hate me and there’s days when they love me. So we’ll see.”
What Clune will not do is start with preconceived notions about any of his players.
When he watches tape of last fall’s games, he’s not going through a checklist on the OSU defensive players.
Every player starts with a clean slate and can prove themselves during the spring and fall.
“This is going to be the 2016 version of the Oregon State defense and not the 2015, so there’s no reason to look back and dwell on that, goods, bads, whatever,” Clune said. “We’re looking forward to the future.”

DUCKS: QB battle goes six players deep

Continued from 1B
championship, they’ve been in the Pac-12 championship, they know what steps need to be taken to get there. That’s why I chose this team.”
Prukop, who visited Alabama in December before opting to play his senior year at Oregon, will naturally be compared to Vernon Adams Jr. since both players left the Big Sky to fly with the Ducks in the Pac-12.
Despite arriving late from Eastern Washington and dealing with injuries, Adams completed 64.9 percent of his passes for 2,643 yards with 26 touchdowns and six interceptions during his one-and-done season at Oregon.
The Ducks were unstoppable with a healthy Adams behind center, but

ultimately the program began the post-Mariota era 9-4 and ranked 19th in the Associated Press poll with a historic collapse against TCU in the Alamo Bowl.
“I’m very confident in my own ability. At the same time, hat’s off to Vernon Adams,” said Prukop, who has studied all of his predecessors’ game film from last season. “He throws an outstanding deep ball. I would say two years ago when we matched up, Eastern at Montana State, he definitely threw a better deep ball than me then.
“I can’t say he throws a better one than me now. I hope he doesn’t.”
Prukop, who passed for 3,025 yards and 28 touchdowns and ran for 797 yards and 11 touchdowns at Montana State in 2015, will have to officially beat

out five other quarterbacks before the Sept. 3 opener against UC Davis.
Jeff Lockie and Taylor Alie played meaningful snaps when Adams was injured. Redshirt freshman Travis Jonsen is healthy after sitting out last season with a foot injury. True freshman Terry Wilson has enrolled early and also went through his first practice at Oregon on Tuesday. Sheldon High star Justin Herbert will join the competition for fall camp.
“He has a nice arm, he’s accurate and he looks like he’s starting to fit into the offense really well,” senior safety Reggie Daniels said of Prukop. “It’s a great change. We have a lot more competition right now, and the quarterback battle is looking good. They’re all really good players, so you never know who’s going to come out on top.”

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL	
Friday	Pilot Rock at Irrigon (DH), 11 a.m. Umatilla at Stanfield (DH), 1 p.m. Riverside at Elgin/Imbler (DH), 1 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen (DH), 2 p.m. Hermiston vs. Rex Putnam (DH), 4 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL	
Today	Umatilla vs. Heppner, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Riverside at Elgin/Imbler, 1 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Nyssa (DH), 1 p.m. Heppner at Grant Union (DH), 1 p.m. Umatilla at Echo (DH), 1 p.m. Hermiston at Reynolds (DH), TBD
Saturday	Mac-Hi vs. Yamhill-Carlton, Noon Mac-Hi vs. Banks, 2:30 p.m.
PREP TRACK & FIELD	
Friday	Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Irrigon, Helix, Echo at Mac-Hi Carnival of Speed, Noon Hermiston at Gresham, 4 p.m.
Saturday	Ione, Stanfield at Sherman, 11 a.m.
PREP GOLF	
Today	Mac-Hi at Walla Walla CC, 2:30 p.m.
Friday	Pendleton, Hermiston at Eagle Ridge GC, 8 a.m. Heppner at Pendleton CC, 9 a.m. Mac-Hi at Milton-Freewater Municipal GC, Noon
PREP TENNIS	
Today	Riverside at Umatilla, 4 p.m. Helix vs. Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m. Stanfield at Ione, 4:30 p.m.
Friday	Stanfield at Condon, 3 p.m. Pendleton (boys) at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m. Pendleton (girls) vs. Mac-Hi, 4 p.m. Ione at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.

PREP LACROSSE

Saturday

Hermiston at Mt. Spokane (WA), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Walla Walla (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 2 p.m.

Saturday

Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 2 p.m.

Basketball

NCAA Men's Tournament

FINAL FOUR

At NRG Stadium

Houston

Saturday

Villanova (33-5) vs. Oklahoma (29-7), 3:09 p.m. (TBS)

North Carolina (32-6) vs. Syracuse (23-13), 5:49 p.m. (TBS)

NCAA Women's Tournament

FINAL FOUR

At Indianapolis

Sunday

UConn (36-0) vs. Oregon State (32-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Washington (26-10) vs. Syracuse (29-7), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	24	.676	—
Boston	43	31	.581	7
New York	30	46	.395	21
Brooklyn	21	53	.284	29
Philadelphia	9	66	.120	41½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	45	31	.592	—
Miami	43	31	.581	1
Charlotte	43	31	.581	1
Washington	36	39	.480	8½
Orlando	31	43	.419	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	52	22	.703	—
Detroit	40	35	.533	12½
Indiana	39	35	.527	13
Chicago	37	37	.500	15
Milwaukee	32	44	.413	21½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	63	12	.840	—
Memphis	41	34	.547	22
Houston	37	38	.493	26
Dallas	37	38	.493	26
New Orleans	27	47	.365	35½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	52	23	.693	—
Portland	39	36	.520	13
Utah	37	38	.493	15
Denver	32	44	.421	20½
Minnesota	25	50	.333	27
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Golden State	68	7	.907	—
x-L.A. Clippers	47	27	.635	20½
Sacramento	30	45	.400	38
Phoenix	20	55	.267	48
L.A. Lakers	16	59	.213	52
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
Wednesday's Games				
Toronto 105, Atlanta 97				
L.A. Clippers 99, Minnesota 79				
Milwaukee 105, Phoenix 94				
Denver 109, Memphis 105				
San Antonio 100, New Orleans 92				
Dallas 91, New York 89				
Golden State 103, Utah 96, OT				
Sacramento 120, Washington 111				
L.A. Lakers 102, Miami 100, OT				
Today's Games				
Chicago at Houston, 4 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 4 p.m.				
Orlando at Indiana, 4 p.m.				
Denver at New Orleans, 5 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m.				
Boston at Portland, 7 p.m.				

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	76	44	27	5	93	214	182
Florida	76	42	25	9	93	218	199
Boston	77	40	29	8	88	223	209
Detroit	77	38	28	11	87	198	212
Ottawa	77	35	33	9	79	219	235
Montreal	77	35	36	6	76	205	224
Buffalo	77	31	35	11	73	185	210
Toronto	76	28	37	11	67	186	222
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Washington	76	54	16	6	114	237	177
N.Y. Rangers	76	43	24	9	95	219	199
Pittsburgh	76	43	25	8	94	219	190
N.Y. Islanders	75	41	25	9	91	210	193
Philadelphia	76	38	25	13	89	198	200
New Jersey	77	37	32	8	82	173	194
Carolina	77	33	28	16	82	187	208
Columbus	76	30	38	8	68	195	237
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	77	46	22	9	101	252	220
x-St. Louis	77	46	22	9	101	206	186
x-Chicago	77	44	26	7	95	213	192
Nashville	77	39	25	13	91	215	199
Minnesota	77	38	28	11	87	210	190
Colorado	77	39	34	4	82	205	218
Winnipeg	77	31	39	7	69	195	225
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Anaheim	76	43	23	10	96	204	181
x-Los Angeles	76	45	26	5	95	208	180
x-San Jose	77	43	28	6	92	228	199
Arizona	76	34	35	7	75	199	226
Calgary	77	32	39	6	70	213	248
Vancouver	76	27	36	13	67	172	221
Edmonton	79	30	42	7	67	194	234
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.							
x-clinched playoff spot							
z-clinched conference							
Wednesday's Games							
Philadelphia 2, Washington 1, SO							
Ottawa 2, Winnipeg 1							
Anaheim 8, Calgary 3							
Today's Games							
Toronto at Buffalo, 4 p.m.							
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.							