

Women's College Basketball

No. 10 Oregon State continues to improve

By STEVE GRESS Albany Democrat-Herald

CORVALLIS — When Oregon State players walked off the Gill Coliseum floor back in November following a 74-73 women's basketball loss to Marquette, there was a feeling of frustration.

The Beavers, unable to make plays down the stretch on either end of the floor, had blown a late lead and watched as their 15-game home win streak was snapped.

The Beavers were 3-1 and on the verge of falling out of the Top 25 for the first time in two seasons.

"Coming off that Marquette loss really put in perspective what we need to work on," freshman guard Mikayla Pivec recalled after practice Tuesday.

Added coach Scott Rueck: "This team is extremely hungry and extremely

competitive and was very disappointed in that loss against Marquette."

So back to work the Beavers went.

And while the road has had a few bumps along the way, the Beavers have reeled off 12 straight victories and find themselves atop the Pac-12 standings at 4-0 and No. 10 in The Associated Press poll.

Oh, and they are coming off the program's first-ever win at Stanford, a thrilling 72-69 double-overtime affair Sunday evening at Maples Pavilion.

"To be the first says, well, this program has progressed to that level where we believe we can," coach Scott Rueck said of the win over the Cardinal. "And this team was so determined to make it happen. I think everybody saw that in the faces of the players and how bad they



Anibal Ortiz/Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP In this file photo, Oregon State center Marie Gulich (21) shoots next to Washington's Chantel Osahor (0) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in Corvallis, Ore.

wanted that game.

"For us to compete at that level at this point of the season was remarkable. I thought it just showed that this team has something special to it to overcome a lot

of adversity and to overcome the run that they made at us multiple times."

It would have been hard to imagine such a win as Sunday's on that Tuesday night in November, when the

Golden Eagles used a 9-2 run over the final three minutes for the upset.

While that loss was a turning point, the Beavers still struggled to put together consistent efforts. In fact, Rueck said this week he would not have been surprised if the Beavers had dropped two of the following five game with the way they played.

One of those potential losses could have come against UNLV in the opening game of the Play4Kay Shootout in Las Vegas. But the Beavers rallied to come away with a 62-59.

A lineup change that inserted Pivec and redshirt senior post Breanna Brown into the starting rotation seemed to make a difference as the Beavers played better in a win over Quinnipiac and then dominated then-undefeated Oklahoma State in the

title game.

The Beavers continued to build off those successes and have opened the Pac-12 season with what many thought would be improbable — four wins, including three against top-20 teams with two on the road.

That tough stretch continues on Friday when the Beavers head to Pauley Pavilion for a showdown with No. 17 UCLA. The Bruins are coming off a tough road trip to Washington that saw them drop both games.

The Beavers, however, have no thoughts of letting up or being satisfied. It's been too much fun so far.

"The sky's the limit for us because we still made a lot of mistakes and so the fact that we can make some mistakes and still be winning right now, it's a very good sign for us," senior Sydney Wiese said.

MARINERS:

Continued from 1B

after winning \$3.75 million in an arbitration hearing last season.

"He fits our ballpark particularly well. He's a pretty extreme fly-ball pitcher with the low walks, high strikeouts, who in our ballpark, with what we think is a greatly improved outfield defense fits us like a glove really," Dipoto said. "If as we expect he shows up and does his thing it should fit very well for us in this ballpark."

What Smith may be able to add was attractive to Neander, who said the trade was made to help position the Rays to be competitive in 2017. He stopped short of saying he expects Smith to make the team coming out of spring training.

"We need to get better," Neander said. "To do that, we need more competition" for jobs.

Simmons is also a key acquisition for Seattle, providing another power arm in the bullpen. Simmons, 26, made seven appearances last season while recovering from Tommy John surgery and threw just 6 2/3 big league innings. Before elbow issues, Simmons was 1-2 with a 2.91 ERA in 26 appearances during the 2014 season.

"He's had a strong history with striking (batters) out and (we're) really excited to plug him in," Dipoto said.

The cost for Seattle to complete to two deals meant giving up two of its top pitching prospects in Yarbrough and Luiz Gohara. Yarbrough, 25, was named the Southern League pitcher of the year after going 12-4 with a 2.95 ERA at Double-A Jackson last season. Gohara, 20, was 7-2 with a 1.81 ERA and 81 strikeouts in 13 starts at two Class A stops.

Seattle also sent lefty Thomas Burrows to Atlanta and designated right-hander Cody Martin for assignment to make room on its 40-man roster.

TRAIL BLAZERS: Love gets scare

Continued from 1B

The Cavaliers, who fell to the Utah Jazz 100-92 on Tuesday night, were delayed in getting to Portland but finally arrived about 3 a.m. Wednesday.

The Trail Blazers beat the Lakers in Los Angeles 108-87 on Tuesday night. The team's flight was sent to Seattle, and players spent the night there. They flew into Portland by midday Wednesday and stayed in hotel to rest until game time.

"The show must go on," McCollum said before the game.

The Cavaliers got a scare with 1:21 left in the first quarter when Kevin Love collided slightly with Al-Farouq Aminu and fell to the ground, clutching his left knee. Love walked off the court under his own power and returned a short time later.

Portland led 27-20 at the end of the first, led by Aminu with eight points. Crabbe's running

3-pointer stretched the lead to 37-24.

Crabbe hit another 3-pointer and Maurice Harkless dunked to push the lead to 42-26 and the crowd was on its feet. But Love's 3-pointer closed the gap to 45-39 with just under three minutes to go in the first half.

Portland led 49-41 at the break, with Crabbe's 18 points leading all scorers.

The storm, which started Tuesday evening, had dumped the most snow recorded in the city since 2008 by midnight, according to the National Weather Service. When Wednesday's total is included, it might be the city's biggest snowfall of the 21st century.

Gov. Kate Brown and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler both issued a state of emergency.

The Blazers encouraged fans to use their best judgment in whether to attend the game, and the crowd to see the defending

NBA champions was surprisingly large.

TIP INS

Cavaliers: With his second assist of the game, James passed Tim Hardaway for 15th on NBA's all-time assist list with 7,095.

Trail Blazers: When the Blazers played the Cavaliers back on Nov. 23, Kevin Love finished with 40 points after scoring 34 in the first quarter. Before Wednesday night's game, Blazers coach Terry Stotts half-joked: "If we hold Kevin under 20 in the first quarter, that'll be a good start." Love had 8 points in the quarter. ... It was Stotts' 200th victory as Portland's head coach.

KORVER'S ACCLIMATION: Kyle Korver made his debut against Utah, playing 17 minutes with two points. Against the Blazers he had two points in 25 minutes. He was 1-for-5 from the field.

REMATCH: Sherman says little in regard to match-up

Continued from 2B

there on that play and competed as hard as I could and didn't come up with the catch. On to the next."

Falcons receiver Aldrick Robinson cringed this week when reminded about the no-call.

"It was hard," Robinson said. "It was hard to watch."

Even so, Robinson said he wasn't surprised to see Jones keep his cool.

"He ain't going to complain about what's going on because he knows it's hard to stop him," Robinson said. "He knows if you've got to grab him, a lot of guys get away with it. He's probably used to it by now."

Sherman erupted on the Seattle sideline, screaming at coaches and teammates, after Jones' 36-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter. The star cornerback has had little to say this week about the rematch.

When asked what stood out in his memory of the first game against Atlanta, Sherman said, "Nothing that I didn't know. He's a great player."

Sherman also said Jones "works the whole game. He plays hard every snap."

Similarly, Jones described Sherman as "very competitive."

"I know that he comes to play and I do the same, week in and week out," Jones said. "It's just

going to be fun with the matchup."

Seattle lost at Atlanta 30-28 in another divisional round playoff game following the 2012 regular season before recovering to win the Super Bowl the following season.

Jones was a repeat All-Pro selection despite missing two games with a sprained toe. He still finished second in the NFL with 1,409 yards receiving on 83 catches, six for touchdowns.

Sherman was a three-time All-Pro pick from 2012-14. He helped lead the 2013 Seahawks to their first Super Bowl title, with current Falcons coach Dan Quinn as defensive coordinator.

Quinn said Sherman has "that

kind of football acumen" to play quarterback.

"He understands football completely but it's what he stands for as a competitor that makes him so unique," Quinn said Wednesday. Quinn said the Jones-Sherman rematch will be "awesome."

"When you see two really skilled competitors really battling for it, it's totally the essence of our game," Quinn said. "... We'll anticipate that one happening a bunch."

Jones said the game is bigger than his desire to win his matchup.

"We're in the playoffs," he said. "At the end of the day it's not 'I want revenge' or anything like that. It's just that they're in our way."

Men's College Basketball

Brooks makes midseason Top 25 list

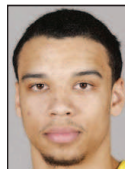
LOS ANGELES — Each season the John R. Wooden Award is given to the most outstanding basketball player in college basketball.

On Wednesday, the Los Angeles Athletic Club cut its watch list from the preseason Top 50

to its midseason Top 25, and Oregon junior forward Dillon Brooks found his name on it.

The 6-foot-7 Brooks is second on the team averaging 13.8 points per game, while also shooting 48 percent from the floor and 35 percent from 3-point range.

Brooks is one of five players from the Pac-12 on the midseason list, joining TJ Leaf and Lonzo Ball of UCLA, Markelle Fultz of Washington, and Lauri Markkane of Arizona.



Brooks

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Today Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m. Friday Pilot Rock at Culver, 6 p.m. Pendleton at Sunset, 7:15 p.m. Irrigon at Riverside, 7:30 p.m. Heppner at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m. Lone at Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at South Wasco, 7:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Echo, 7:30 p.m. Nixyaawii at Helix, 7:30 p.m. Saturday Umatilla at Irrigon, 1 p.m. Stanfield at Culver, 2:30 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m. Baker at Mac-Hi, 5:15 p.m. Mitchell/Spray at Condon/Wheeler (Fossil), 5:30 p.m. Arlington at Horizon Christian (Hood River), 5:30 p.m. Dufur at Lone, 5:30 p.m. Echo at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m. Joseph at Helix, 5:30 p.m. Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m. La Grande at Hermiston, 5:45 p.m. Riverside at Burns, 6:30 p.m. GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL Today Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 6 p.m. Friday Pilot Rock at Culver, 4:30 p.m. Irrigon at Riverside, 6 p.m. Heppner at Stanfield, 6 p.m. Lone at Arlington, 6 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at South Wasco, 6 p.m. Powder Valley at Echo, 6 p.m. Nixyaawii at Helix, 6 p.m. Saturday Umatilla at Irrigon, 3 p.m. Baker at Mac-Hi, 3:30 p.m. Pendleton at Lewiston (ID), 4 p.m. Stanfield at Culver, 4 p.m. Mitchell/Spray at Condon/Wheeler (Fossil), 4 p.m. Arlington at Horizon Christian (Hood River), 4 p.m. Dufur at Lone, 4 p.m. Echo at Wallowa, 4 p.m. Joseph at Helix, 4 p.m. Nixyaawii at Pine Eagle, 4 p.m. Riverside at Burns, 5 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. West Valley (WA) at Hermiston, 7:30 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Friday-Saturday Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Deschutes County Fairgrounds), TBD Saturday Echo at Bonanza Tournament, 9 a.m. PREP SWIMMING Saturday Pendleton, Hermiston at Madras Meet, 10 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Today Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 7:30 p.m. Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 8 p.m. Saturday

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Today Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 5:30 p.m. Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 6 p.m. Saturday Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m. Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 5:30 p.m. COLLEGE WRESTLING Saturday Eastern Oregon (women only) at Oregon Classic, TBD

Prep Scores

BOYS BASKETBALL Wednesday's Games Churchill 69, Ashland 36 North Medford 65, Sheldon 62 Springfield 59, Crater 39 GIRLS BASKETBALL Wednesday's Games Churchill 69, Ashland 19 Crater 56, Springfield 40 Henley 54, North Valley 34 Hidden Valley 48, Phoenix 38

Football

NFL Divisional Playoffs Saturday Seattle at Atlanta, 1:35 p.m. (FOX) Houston at New England, 5:15 p.m. (CBS) Sunday Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 10:05 a.m. (NBC) Green Bay at Dallas, 1:40 p.m. (FOX) Pro Bowl Selections Sunday, Jan. 29 At Camping World Stadium Orlando, Fla. (s-starter; x-first time; h-injured; r-replacement) AFC OFFENSE (21) QUARTERBACKS (3) — s-Tom Brady, New England; Derek Carr, Oakland; Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh. WIDE RECEIVERS (4) — s-Aaron Cooper, Oakland; r-Jay Ajayi, Miami; r-LeSean McCoy, Buffalo; DeMarco Murray, Tennessee. FULLBACK (1) — sx-Kyle Juszczyk, Baltimore. TIGHT ENDS (2) — s-Travis Kelce, Kansas City; Delanie Walker, Tennessee. TACKLES (3) — s-Donald Penn, Oakland; s-Joe Thomas, Cleveland; x-Taylor Lewan, Tennessee. GUARDS (3) — sx-Kelechi Osemele, Oakland; s-Marshal Yanda, Baltimore; David DeCastro, Pittsburgh. CENTERS (2) — sx-Rodney Hudson, Oakland; Maurice Pouncey, Pittsburgh. DEFENSE (18)

DEFENSIVE ENDS (3) — s-Khalil Mack, Oakland; s-Cameron Wake, Miami; x-Jadeveon Clowney, Houston. INTERIOR LINEMEN (3) — s-Geno Atkinson, Cincinnati; s-Ndamukong Suh, Miami; Jurrell Casey, Tennessee. OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS (3) — s-Lorenzo Alexander, Buffalo; s-Von Miller, Denver; Brian Orakpo, Tennessee. INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS (2) — sx-Dont'a Hightower, New England; C.J. Mosley, Baltimore. CORNERBACKS (4) — s-Marcus Peters, Kansas City; s-Aqib Talib, Denver; Chris Harris, Jr., Denver; x-Casey Hayward, San Diego. FREE SAFETIES (2) — s-Devin McCourty, New England; Reggie Nelson, Oakland. STRONG SAFETY (1) — s-Eric Berry, Kansas City. SPECIALISTS (4) PUNTER (1) — Pat McAfee, Indianapolis. PLACEKICKER (1) — Justin Tucker, Baltimore. RETURN SPECIALIST (1) — x-Tyreek Hill, Kansas City. SPECIAL TEAMER (1) — Matthew Slater, New England. NFC OFFENSE (21) QUARTERBACKS (3) — s-Matt Ryan, Atlanta; s-Dak Prescott, Dallas; Aaron Rodgers, Green Bay. WIDE RECEIVERS (4) — s-Odell Beckham, Jr., New York Giants; s-Julio Jones, Atlanta; x-Mike Evans, Tampa Bay; Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona. RUNNING BACKS (3) — s-Ezekiel Elliott, Dallas; Devonta Freeman, Atlanta; rx-Jordan Howard, Chicago; ix-David Johnson, Arizona. FULLBACK (1) — s-Mike Tolbert, Carolina. TIGHT ENDS (2) — s-Greg Olsen, Carolina; x-Jordan Reed, Washington. TACKLES (3) — s-Tyron Smith, Dallas; s-Trent Williams, Washington; Jason Peters, Philadelphia. GUARDS (3) — s-Zack Martin, Dallas; sx-Brandon Scherff, Washington; x-T.J. Lang, Green Bay. CENTERS (2) — s-Travis Frederick, Dallas; Alex Mack, Atlanta. DEFENSE (18) DEFENSIVE ENDS (3) — sx-Cliff Avril, Seattle; s-Everson Griffen, Minnesota; Michael Bennett, Seattle. INTERIOR LINEMEN (3) — s-Aaron Donald, Los Angeles; s-Gerald McCoy, Tampa Bay; Fletcher Cox, Philadelphia. OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS (3) — sx-Vic Beasley, Atlanta; s-Ryan Kerrigan, Washington; Thomas Davis, Carolina. INSIDE/MIDDLE LINEBACKERS (2) — s-Bobby Wagner, Seattle; Luke Kuechly, Carolina. CORNERBACKS (4) — sx-Janoris Jenkins, New York Giants; s-Patrick Peterson, Arizona; x-Xavier Rhodes, Minnesota; Richard Sherman, Seattle. FREE SAFETIES (2) — s-Harrison Smith, Minnesota; x-Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, Green Bay. STRONG SAFETY (1) — sx-Landon Collins, New York Giants. SPECIALISTS (4) PUNTER (1) — Johnny Hekker, Los Angeles. PLACEKICKER (1) — x-Matt Bryant,

Basketball

Atlanta. RETURN SPECIALIST (1) — Cordarrelle Patterson, Minnesota. SPECIAL TEAMER (1) — x-Dwayne Harris, New York Giants.

NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Toronto, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn.

NBA Eastern Conference Southeast Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington, Orlando, Miami.

NBA Eastern Conference Midwest Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Cleveland, Indiana, Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit.

NBA Eastern Conference Northwest Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Utah, Oklahoma City, Portland, Denver, Minnesota.

NBA Western Conference Pacific Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Golden State, L.A. Clippers, Sacramento, L.A. Lakers, Phoenix.

NBA Western Conference Southwest Division

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Memphis, New Orleans, Dallas, Utah, Oklahoma City, Portland, Phoenix.

NCAA

Men's Top 25 Wednesday's Games No. 8 Creighton 75, No. 12 Butler 64 No. 11 North Carolina 93, Wake Forest 87 No. 14 Louisville 85, Pittsburgh 80 Michigan State 65, No. 24 Minnesota 47 Today's Games No. 4 UCLA at Colorado, 8 p.m. No. 5 Gonzaga vs. Loyola Marymount, 6 p.m. No. 16 Arizona vs. Arizona State, 6 p.m. No. 17 Purdue at Iowa, 6 p.m. No. 18 Wisconsin vs. Ohio State, 4 p.m. No. 20 Notre Dame at Miami, 4 p.m. No. 21 Saint Mary's at Portland, 8 p.m. No. 22 Cincinnati vs. SMU, 6 p.m. No. 25 Southern Cal at Utah, 6 p.m. Friday's Games No games scheduled Women's Top 25 Wednesday's Games No. 2 Baylor 77, TCU 54 No. 3 Maryland 89, Penn State 83 No. 14 Miami 82, No. 15 Virginia Tech 75 Texas Tech 75, No. 18 West Virginia 66 No. 22 Oklahoma 67, Iowa State 57 No. 25 Kansas State 73, Kansas 60 Today's Games No. 4 Mississippi State vs. Florida, 6 p.m. No. 5 South Carolina vs. Georgia, 4 p.m. No. 6 Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. No. 7 Florida State vs. No. 9 Louisville, 4 p.m. No. 12 Duke vs. North Carolina, 4 p.m. Friday's Games No. 8 Washington at Arizona, 6 p.m. No. 10 Oregon State at No. 17 UCLA, 6 p.m. No. 13 Stanford at Utah, 5 p.m. No. 19 Arizona State vs. Washington State, 10 a.m. No. 21 DePaul vs. Butler, 5 p.m. No. 24 California at Colorado, 6 p.m.

Hockey

NHL Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Montreal, Boston, Ottawa, Florida, Toronto, Tampa Bay, Buffalo, Detroit.

NHL Eastern Conference Central Division

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Columbus, Washington, Pittsburgh, N.Y. Rangers, Philadelphia, Carolina, New Jersey, Buffalo.

NHL Western Conference

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Chicago, Minnesota, St. Louis, Nashville.

Pacific Division

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Includes San Jose, Anaheim, Edmonton, Calgary, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Arizona.

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's Games

Florida 2, N.Y. Islanders 1 Montreal 7, Winnipeg 4 Washington 5, Pittsburgh 2 Calgary 3, San Jose 2

Today's Games

Vancouver at Philadelphia, 4 p.m. Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m. Boston at Nashville, 5 p.m. Montreal at Minnesota, 5 p.m. Detroit at Dallas, 5:30 p.m. Anaheim at Colorado, 6 p.m. New Jersey at Edmonton, 6 p.m. St. Louis at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

All-Star Game rosters

Sunday, Jan. 29 at The Staples Center, Los Angeles

Atlantic Division

Forwards — Nikita Kucherov, Tampa Bay; Brad Marchand, Boston; Auston Matthews, Toronto; Frans Nielsen, Detroit; Kyle Okposo, Buffalo; Vincent Trocheck, Florida.

Defensesmen

— Victor Hedman, Tampa Bay; Erik Karlsson, Ottawa; Shea Weber, Montreal.

Goalies

— c-Carey Price, Montreal; Tuukka Rask, Boston.

Metropolitan Division

Forwards — c-Sidney Crosby, Pittsburgh; Taylor Hall, New Jersey; Evgeni Malkin, Pittsburgh; Alex Ovechkin, Washington; Wayne Simmonds, Philadelphia; John Tavares, N.Y. Islanders.

Defensesmen

— Justin Faulk, Carolina; Seth Jones, Columbus; Ryan McDonagh, N.Y. Rangers.

Goalies

— Sergei Bobrovsky, Columbus; Braden Holtby, Washington.

Central Division

Forwards — Patrick Kane, Chicago; Patrick Laine, Winnipeg; Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado; Tyler Seguin, Dallas; Vladimir Tarasenko, St. Louis; Jonathan Toews, Chicago.

Defensesmen

— Duncan Keith, Chicago; c-PK Subban, Nashville; Ryan Suter, Minnesota.

Goalies

— Corey Crawford, Chicago; Devan Dubnyk, Minnesota.

Pacific Division

Forwards — Jeff Carter, Los Angeles; Johnny Gaudreau, Calgary; Bo Horvat, Vancouver; Ryan Kesler, Anaheim; c-Connor McDavid, Edmonton; Joe Pavelski, San Jose.

Defensesmen

— Brent Burns, San Jose; Drew Doughty, Los Angeles; Cam Fowler, Anaheim.

Goalies

— Martin Jones, San Jose; Mike Smith, Arizona.