

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

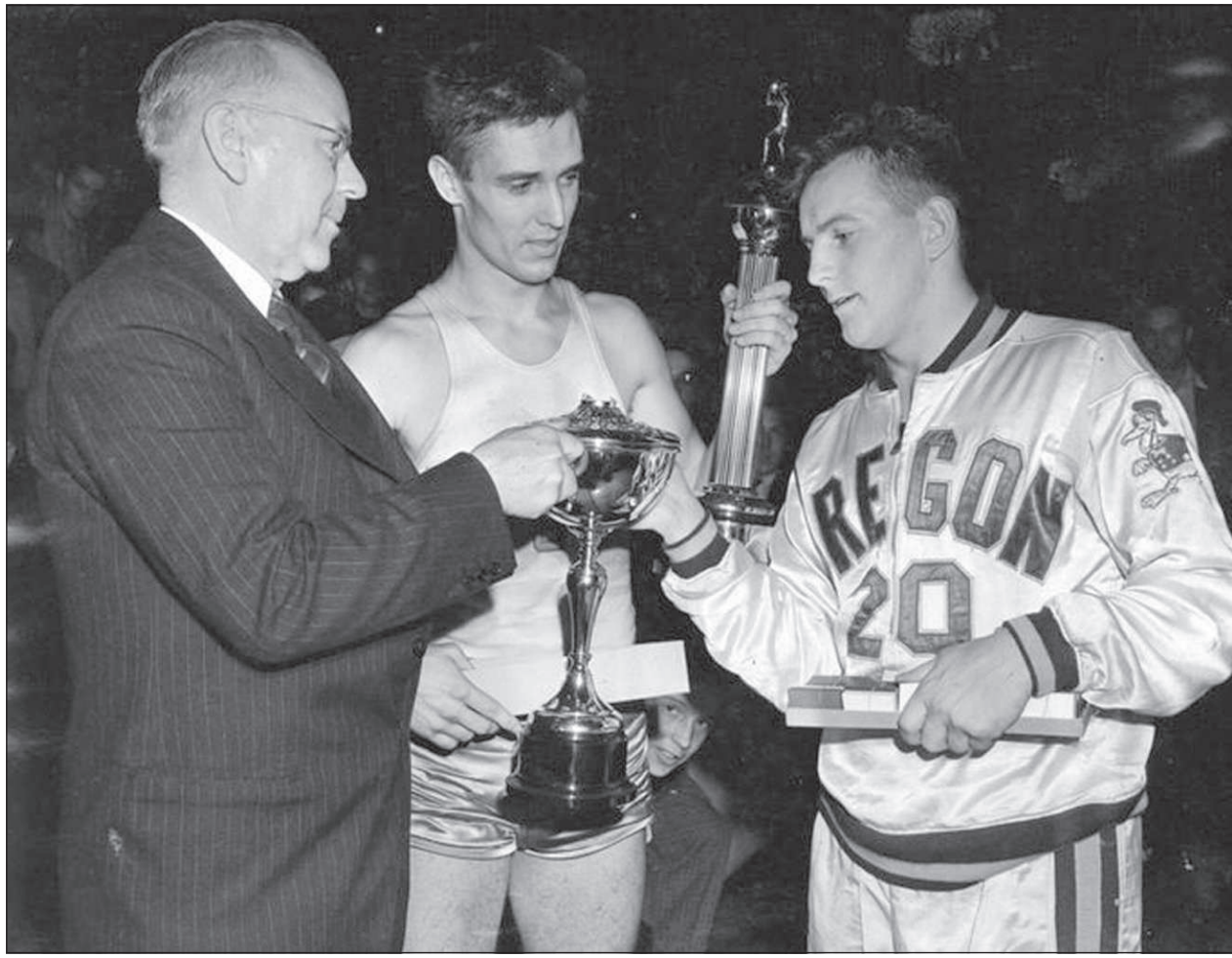
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

Men's College Basketball

Remembering the Tall Firs

In this March 27, 1939 photo, provided by the University of Oregon Archives, Oregon's Bobby Anet, right is presented the trophy by Big Ten Commissioner John Griffith, left, after Oregon defeated Ohio State 46-33 in the National Collegiate basketball tournament at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. A collision broke off the little man on top the trophy. Ohio State All American Jimmy Hull, center, looks on.



University of Oregon Archives via AP

78 years ago, Oregon won the 1st NCAA Tournament

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The historical significance of Oregon's return to the Final Four was not lost on coach Dana Altman.

The Ducks face North Carolina in the national semifinals in Glendale, Arizona, on Saturday. Oregon hasn't been this close to the title game since the team won the inaugural NCAA Tournament in 1939.

Altman called it "a long drought." Perhaps one that could end this season after 78 years?

The Oregon Webfoots won the NCAA title with a 46-33 victory over Ohio State at Northwestern University. The team would become known by the nickname the Tall Firs — a nod to both the Oregon landscape and the fact that the players loomed taller than most of their opponents.

The Webfoots' front line included 6-foot-4 John Dick, 6-foot-4 leading scorer Laddie Gale and 6-foot-8 Urgel (Slim) Wintermute. Guards Bobby Anet, a 5-foot-8 playmaker, and 5-foot-10 Wally Johansen



This undated photo, provided by the University of Oregon Archives, shows an autographed photo of Oregon's 19-38-39 men's college basketball team.

rounded out the starting five. Anet and Johansen grew up on the same street in Astoria, Oregon, and had played together since junior high.

Coach Howard Hobson told The Associated Press in 1988 that Anet, who passed away in 1981, was the heart of the Tall

Firs. "He was the greatest floor general I ever had," said Hobson, who also coached at Yale and was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1965. "He sparked the team. He was its leader."

Dick went on to serve 32 years in the U.S. Navy, enlisting

the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and rising to the rank of rear admiral. He was at the final game played at Oregon's famed McArthur Court in 2011, and pumped his fist for the crowd when he was announced at halftime. He died later that year.

Reserve guard Ford "Moon" Mullen went on to play baseball in the majors for the Philadelphia Blue Jays (Phillies) in 1944. Wintermute worked at Boeing.

On the way to the first Big Dance, the Tall Firs won the Northern Division of the Pacific Coast Conference, then beat Southern Division champion California in a three-game series. The victory sent Oregon to the regional tournament on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, where the team beat Texas, 56-41, and Oklahoma, 55-37, before heading to Illinois for the title game via train.

The eight-team NCAA Tournament was founded by the National Association of Basketball Coaches to compete with the National Invitation Tournament in New York.

See TALL FIRS/2B

Prep Roundup

Solomon's slam ends road trip on high note

Pendleton softball run-rules Milwaukie

East Oregonian

MILWAUKIE — In the final game of spring break for the Pendleton softball team, the offense let loose while the pitching stayed stingy.

The Bucks (9-2) beat the Milwaukie Mustangs 17-0 in five innings on Wednesday during a stopover on the way back from the Happy Valley tournament earlier in the week.

Lauren Richards threw five innings of two-hit ball for the Bucks, striking out 11 and walking one. Her catcher, Kila Solomon, drove in six runs, including a grand slam in the fourth inning.

"That broke the whole game open," coach Tim Cary said.

Kalan McGlothlin also hit a home run in the game, and Rylee Gentner added two doubles.

Cary said he was particularly impressed by the performance because the team has not yet been able to practice on its soggy Pendleton field.

UP NEXT
Cary said the girls will get a break the next few days then hopefully get onto the field for some live practice before next Thursday's doubleheader at La Grande, which starts at 3 p.m.

(5 innings)	PMS	MHS	R	H	E
	205	000	73	17	12
		00	0	2	0

Lauren Richards and Kyla Solomon. Jordan Oliver, Caitlyn Grogan (3) and Brittany Hays. W — Richards. L — Oliver.
2B — Madison Parker, Richards, Rylee Gentner 2.
HR — Kalan McGlothlin, Solomon.

RIVERSIDE 12, KNAPPA 3 — At Boardman, Skylar Wightman struck out nine from the circle and hit a home run in the fourth inning to finish with four RBIs as the Pirates beat the Loggers in a non-league game on Wednesday.

Roe Elliot (2 for 4) added three RBIs, and Abby Hernandez (3 for 3) and Sadie Hasbell (2 for 4) also swung the bats well for Riverside (4-2).

"I was very proud of the girls," said Riverside coach Jordan Mittelsdorf, "we were missing a few key players due to spring break. We had some younger players step up and gain experience at the varsity level."

	RHS	KHS	R	H	E
	300	100	403	011	2
		0	0	12	15
		0	0	3	8

W — S. Wightman. L — Weaver.
HR — Wightman (RHS).

RIVERSIDE 8, BURNS 4 — At Boardman, Roe Elliot drove in four runs, and Sadie Hasbell knocked in three more to help Riverside get its second non-league win of the day on Wednesday at the Columbia Bash.

Elliot batted 3 for 4 and Hasbell went 2 for 3, and Skylar Wightman got her second win from circle with six strikeouts.

Riverside (5-2) coach Jordan Mittelsdorf said Masie Hancock came up big in the field and turned a double play in the fifth inning. She had five putouts and two assists for the game.

UP NEXT
The Pirates will play at Portland Christian on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

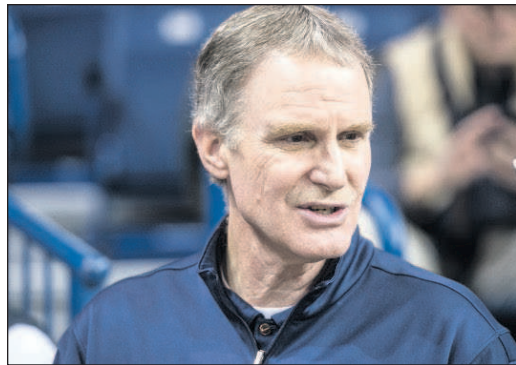
	BHS	RHS	R	H	E
	002	300	010	1	4
		302	X	12	5
				3	6

W — S. Wightman. L — Sutcliffe.
2B — S. Hasbell (RHS).

See PREPS/2B

Men's College Basketball

Gonzaga AD is co-architect of hoops success



Dan Pelle/The Spokesman-Review via AP

In this Jan. 12, 2017 photo, Gonzaga athletic director Mike Roth stands on the sideline before an NCAA college basketball game against Loyola in Spokane, Wash.

Mike Roth makes his impact behind the scenes

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — You might say Gonzaga athletic director Mike Roth has tunnel vision.

Roth, co-architect of the team that is making its first Final Four appearance this weekend, is too nervous to watch the Bulldogs play from a seat. Years ago, he started standing in the tunnels leading into basketball arenas, where he could pace and mutter as the Bulldogs played.

"I get nervous energy around games," Roth said this week. "It gives me the ability to work off that nervous energy."

You can expect to find Roth standing in a tunnel when Gonzaga plays South Carolina on Saturday in Glendale, Arizona, with the winner advancing to the title game.

"Why mess with something that's working?" Roth said.

You could say that about Roth's entire 20-year tenure as athletic director.

While coach Mark Few and his players deservedly get the lion's share of attention for the team's success, Roth is the behind-the-scenes leader.

It was Roth who elevated Few to head

See GONZAGA/2B

Sports shorts

Westbrook has 57 in overtime win

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 57 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 114-106 overtime win on Wednesday night.

Westbrook, a leading MVP candidate, led the Thunder from behind by as many as 21 points in the second half as he recorded his 38th triple-double of the season. And like the 13-point outburst in the final three minutes against Dallas on Monday night for the win, Westbrook was again the catalyst as he hit big shots in the fourth quarter, including the tying 3-pointer with 7.1 seconds remaining to force the extra period.

Enes Kanter added 17 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for the Thunder, and Victor Oladipo had 13 points while returning to Amway Center for the first time since being traded by the Magic last June.



Westbrook

"I know that he is somewhat entertaining the thought of it. I can't tell you how strong it is. You've got to talk to him. And that chance isn't happening."

— Pete Carroll

Seattle Seahawks head coach on retired running back Marshawn Lynch's desire to make a return to football. The Seahawks signed RB Eddie Lacey in free agency, but the soon-to-be 31 Lynch would reportedly have a suitor in the Oakland Raiders should he return. He would need to be released or traded by the Seahawks.

Venus Williams beats No. 1 Kerber in Miami Open quarters

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — Venus Williams whacked a winner on her fifth match point, then spun and threw a celebratory fist toward her father, who watched from the front row while munching popcorn.

The taste of victory never gets old.

Venus and her dad have been coming together to Key Biscayne for 20 years, and she moved a step closer to her first title in the event since 2001 by beating top-ranked Angelique Kerber

7-5, 6-3 Wednesday night in the Miami Open quarterfinals.

It was Williams' 15th career win against a No. 1 player, but her first since 2014.

The tournament was once known as the Williams Open because of the way Venus and Serena dominated. Now Venus, seeded 11th



Williams

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1983 — New York Islander Mike Bossy becomes the first player to score 60 or more goals in three consecutive seasons.

1990 — UNLV pounds Duke 103-73 to win its first NCAA championship and extend the Blue Devils' streak to eight Final Four appearances without a title. The Runnin' Rebels become the first team to score more than 100 points in a championship game and the 30-point margin is the largest ever.

2012 — Doron Lamb scores 22 points as Kentucky wins its eighth men's national championship, holding off Kansas for a 67-59 victory.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com