

PREPS:

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in the top of the seventh the Mustangs rallied one more time.

A ground out, Correa single and fly out gave them one on with two outs, but Taylor Hamby kept them alive with a single and Morgan Orem was hit by a pitch to load to bases and bring up DeLoach, who also pitched a complete game and finished 3 for 5 at the plate. Correa (3 for 4) and Dakota Durfey (2 for 4) also had multiple hits in the second game, and Heppner totaled 31 for the afternoon.

UP NEXT

Heppner hosts Umatilla (1-5) On Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Game 1 (8 innings) KHS 304300 41 R H E HHS 100046 32 R H E

Game 2 KHS 105011 1 R H E HHS 100007 2 R H E

ECHO 4, BONANZA 0 — At Echo, a strong performance from Echo pitchers Kenzie Gonzales and Alyssa Ray boosted the Cougars to a shutout 4-0 non-league victory over Bonanza on

Thursday.

Gonzales got the win for Echo (2-2) as she allowed just one hit and four walks with six strikeouts over 5 2/3 innings in the circle. Ray pitched 1 1/3 innings for the save, giving up just one walk with three strikeouts.

Echo coach Javier Garcia said that Gonzales’ only hit allowed was in the first inning, and that she found success in the circle by not pitching scared.

“The first pitch strike is always key and she was aggressive there,” Garcia said. “She pitched to contact and our infield stayed busy.”

Gonzales also gave herself a cushion in the first inning as she drove in a pair of runs with a double, which proved to be all the support she would need. Also having solid days at the plate were Kendra Hart (2 for 2 with 2 singles) and Monique Montoya (2 for 3, RBI).

UP NEXT

Echo heads to La Grande to play in the Union Spring Bash, where it will face Pilot Rock (1 p.m.) and Union (5 p.m.) in a doubleheader today.

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Tennis

Federer to semis, Wozniacki makes Miami final

By TIM REYNOLDS Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Roger Federer’s run at the Miami Open was one point from ending. Down 6-4 in a third-set tiebreaker to Tomas Berdych, the situation was officially dire.

Yet even in that moment, Federer still felt some hope.

“I had belief I could turn it around, even then,” he said.

Somehow, he was right, and his stellar start to 2017 continued. The fourth-seeded Federer fought off those two match points and beat the 10th-seeded Berdych 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (6) in the quarterfinals on Thursday —

avenging a third-set tiebreak loss to Berdych at Key Biscayne seven years ago in a match he still thinks he should have won.

“I got incredibly lucky,” Federer said. “Could have gone either way. Felt like maybe this one I should have lost.”

Federer feels right at home at Key Biscayne, and so does Caroline Wozniacki — with good reason, since she sometimes practices at the facility. The 12th-seeded Wozniacki, a part-time South Florida resident, made the women’s final for the first time in 10 tries by topping second-seeded Karolina Pliskova 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

Wozniacki will play No. 10 Johanna Konta in Saturday’s championship match. Konta topped No. 11 Venus Williams 6-4, 7-5 in the second semifinal, one that ended just after midnight.

“This is one of the few tournaments where I’ve never made a finals,” Wozniacki said. “I think my best result here was semifinals five years ago. It’s always been a tournament where I wouldn’t say I struggle, but I’ve just not had the results I wanted.”

Federer improved to 17-1 this year and will face No. 12 Nick Kyrgios in the semifinals on Friday.

Kyrgios defeated 16th-seeded Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-7 (9), 6-3 in

the last of the men’s quarters, a match that lasted 2 1/2 hours. Kyrgios had 16 aces, no double faults and never faced a break point, though his 19-year-old opponent saved five match points before falling.

Like Federer, Wozniacki rallied, albeit with far less drama. She won 12 of the last 14 games.

“I got a good start to the second set and that kind of got me fired up,” Wozniacki said.

This will be the second consecutive time two double-digit seeds make the women’s final at Key Biscayne, after No. 13 Victoria Azarenka beat No. 15 Svetlana Kuznetsova a year ago.

BLAZERS: Will host reeling Suns on Saturday

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3-pointers.

TIP-INS

Rockets: Expect to get big man Montrezl Harrell back in the lineup Friday, when they face the Golden State Warriors, after he attended to the birth of his child. Rockets coach Mike D’Antoni praised Harrell for how he has handled being

the team’s third center. “You can sweet-talk it, but reality is what it is and he’s accepted it,” D’Antoni said. “He keeps working with John Lucas, keeps getting better. He’s trying to improve his 3-point shooting. That way we can move him over to the 4 some. If he can do that, that will open up some space for him. I have nothing but good things to say about him. He’s been

terrific.” ... D’Antoni said the Rockets plan to rest backup center Nene on Friday.

Blazers: They’ve impressed D’Antoni, who praised his coaching counterpart, Terry Stotts, saying the Blazers are a much different team than the one they faced on Nov. 27. “Nurkic has helped give them new life,” D’Antoni said. “They’re a lot different now, they’re a

lot better right now. Terry has done a great job, as he always does. This is really good what he’s done.”

UP NEXT

Rockets: Head to Oakland on Friday to face the Golden State Warriors, who beat them 113-106 Tuesday in Houston.

Blazers: Host the Phoenix Suns on Saturday night.

OREGON: New arena built with Nike’s donation

Continued from 1B

on. At Oregon, their hat is a Nike-branded hat.”

He’s hardly one-dimensional: Knight also recently contributed \$500 million to build Oregon’s applied sciences research center, one-upping himself on the \$400 million he gave to Stanford, where he studied business, to establish a grad-school scholarship program.

But his biggest footprint has come in sports, where the company he co-founded five-plus decades ago is a leader in dozens of areas, not the least of which are basketball shoes and apparel.

No surprise, then, that it was Oregon that first took a chance with a wide-ranging palette of get-your-sunglasses-out uniforms, all in neon-shaded hues of the school colors — green and gold. These days, dozens of schools feature those sort of uniforms.

“You can’t market the players, you can only market the program,” marketing expert Joe Favorito said. “They recognized that those bright and unique colors help connect to the younger audience.”

Knight, who Nike officials said was not giving interviews this week, is hardly alone as a big-name, big-money donor at a major school.

T. Boone Pickens subsidizes Oklahoma State’s athletic program to the tune



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel, File

In this March 25, 2017, file photo, Oregon players celebrate at the end of the team’s Midwest Regional final against Kansas in the NCAA tournament, in Kansas City, Mo.

of hundreds of millions. At Maryland, Under Armour owner Kevin Plank recently gave \$25 million to go toward a redo of Cole Field House.

It may not come as a coincidence that Under Armour is also taking nibbles out of Nike’s dominance in the college-sponsorship apparel market. Two years ago, Nike sponsored 48 of the 68 teams in March Madness, according to Sports Business Daily. This year, it’s 40. Under Armour is also making a debut of sorts at the Final Four, as apparel maker for South Carolina, which has both its men’s and women’s team in the title hunt.

But Nike has been in this business since it began, and

has been pumping money into Oregon’s programs throughout the 2000s.

In 2001, Oregon reset the template on how to market a Heisman Trophy candidate, while also increasing its national profile, by spending \$250,000 to splash quarterback Joey Harrington’s likeness on a 10-story billboard in Times Square. “Joey Heisman,” the sign read. From there, things only got bigger.

Among Knight’s investments were \$30 million toward renovating the scoreboard at Autzen Stadium, \$41.7 million for an academic center for athletes and \$68 million toward a new football training facility. “For the most part, the scholarships at these schools

are all the same, they cover the same elements of someone’s life,” said Dan Rascher, director of academic programs for the Sport Management Program at University of San Francisco. “It can be hard to differentiate. So all these little things end up becoming important.”

They add up to big things, and the arena is one of the best-outfitted in the country. Opened in 2011, it cost \$227 million and stood as the most expensive on-campus arena in the United States.

The details are painstaking:

The lettering on the marquee spells out “Matt” — “in a Japanese-inspired Torii gate shape,” according to the arena website.

There’s artwork outside the arena and fan-tribute displays on the concourse.

The floor, emblazoned with the “Matt” logo set above the words “Deep in the Woods” is designed with the silhouette of a Pacific Coast tree line, in honor of Oregon’s 1939 title team, known as The Tall Firs.

A few years ago at a basketball game, Oregon held “Uncle Phil Appreciation Night” for Knight’s 76th birthday.

Maybe they can hold another one at the Final Four, too.

“Phil Knight is one of the legends,” Ducks guard Tyler Dorsey said. “It’s great having him on our side.”

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Today Pendleton vs. Caldwell (ID) (at Skyview HS), 10:30 a.m. Pendleton vs. Wood River (ID) (at Skyview HS), 10:30 a.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Today Weston-McEwen vs. Pilot Rock (at La Grande), 9 a.m. Irrigon at Dayton, Noon Pilot Rock vs. Echo (at La Grande), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain (2), 1/4 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Today Eastern Oregon at Carroll (2), 1/3 p.m. Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain (2), 2/4 p.m.

Prep Scores

BASEBALL

Thursday Alhambra (AZ) 16, SHERWOOD 2 Sierra Canyon (CA) 11, Canby 7

BASEBALL

Thursday Clackamas 12, NORTH MEDFORD 4 LAKERIDGE 1, Pine Creek (CO) 0

CENTURY 8, Ridgeview 0 GRANTS PASS 15, North Salem 4, 5 innings GRESHAM 6, Haverford (PA) 3

PREP SOFTBALL

Thursday GLENCOE 2, Lake Oswego 0 David Douglas 5, THE DALLIES 4

NCAA Men's NCAA Tournament

FINAL FOUR At University of Phoenix Stadium Glendale, Ariz. National Semifinals Saturday 3:09 p.m. (CBS) Oregon (33-5) vs. North Carolina (31-7)

3. x-Houston 51 24 680 10 4. x-Utah 46 29 613 15 5. x-L.A. Clippers 46 31 597 16

Thursday's Games

Detroit 90, Brooklyn 89 Chicago 99, Cleveland 93 Minnesota 119, L.A. Lakers 104

National Semifinals

Saturday 3:09 p.m. (CBS) Oregon (33-5) vs. North Carolina (31-7), 5:49 p.m. (CBS) National Championship Monday, April 3, 6 p.m. (CBS)

NCAA Women's Tournament

FINAL FOUR At American Airlines Center Dallas, Texas National Semifinals Saturday 3:00 p.m. (ESPN2) Connecticut (36-0) vs. Mississippi State

Hockey

NHL Eastern Conference Atlantic Division GP W LOT Pts GF GA

Montreal 77 44 24 9 97 214 190 Ottawa 76 41 26 9 91 197 199

Metropolitan Division

GP W LOT Pts GF GA x-Washington 76 51 17 8 110 248 170

WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

GP W LOT Pts GF GA x-Chicago 77 49 21 7 105 234 198

Pacific Division

GP W LOT Pts GF GA x-Anaheim 77 42 23 12 96 206 190

Thursday's Games

Carolina 2, Columbus 1, OT Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Islanders 3 Montreal 6, Florida 2

Motorsports

Monster Energy Cup Points Through March 26

Tennis

Miami Open Results

Thursdty At The Tennis Center at Crandon Park Key Biscayne, Fla.

Upcoming Schedule

Sunday, April 2 — STP 500, at Martinsville Speedway, 11 a.m. (TV: FS1)

Golf

PGA Shell Houston Open

Thursdty At Golf Club of Houston Humble, Texas

First Round

33-31—64 -8 32-33—65 -7 34-32—66 -6

Transactions

Thursday BASEBALL

Major League Baseball BOSTON RED SOX — Placed LHP Pomeranz on the 10-day DL.