

Women's College Basketball

Pivec matures in her second year with No. 17 OSU

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Sophomore guard Mikayla Pivec was unsure of the reaction she'd get when she approached Oregon State coach Scott Rueck last spring about possibly joining the track team.

Lots of athletes run track in the offseason to help them stay sharp, but Pivec was a bit unusual in that she wanted to moonlight as a javelin thrower. Rueck agreed, but with a caveat: The javelin couldn't take the place of hoops.

To Rueck's relief, it didn't, and Pivec is a guiding force for the No. 17 Beavers this season.

"He said: 'Stay healthy and go out there and compete,'" Pivec said about Rueck's reaction. "I was thankful for him to have that blessing."

The Beavers open the Pac-12 season at home on Friday against Washington. Oregon State (9-2) wrapped up the nonconference schedule with a six-game winning streak, capped by a 61-47 victory over UC

Davis last week. Pivec had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Beavers are one of four ranked teams in the conference, joining No. 10 Oregon, No. 11 UCLA and No. 20 California. Stanford dropped out of the poll this week, ending a string of 312 weeks in the AP Top 25.

Pivec is averaging 13.5 points and 7.2 rebounds while shooting 58.7 percent from the floor this season, taking over at point guard for Sydney Wiese, now with the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.

It's a heavy responsibility: Wiese finished her career as one of Oregon State's all-time greats. She set records for most assists and 3-pointers (with 373, also a Pac-12 record). She also helped guide the team to the NCAA Tournament in each of the past four seasons, including Sweet 16 appearances in the last two.

Pivec said it was a privilege to learn from Wiese.

"There's no way you can replace Syd. She definitely left a lot of holes for us to fill," Pivec said. "I don't feel any extra pressure. I'm just



This photo, taken Dec. 10, 2017, shows Oregon State guard Mikayla Pivec, left, bringing the ball upcourt against San Jose State's Danae Marquez during an NCAA college basketball game Corvallis.

trying to do whatever I can to help the team be successful and win."

As a freshman last year, Pivec was soft-spoken and even seemed a bit shy when she faced postgame questions from the media. This season, she's shown growing confidence both on and off the court.

"A year ago, you wouldn't hear a word out of Mik.

Andy Cripe/The Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP

You'd have to just wait, then ask a question, and then wait, and then she might say something," Rueck joked.

He said Pivec communicated in her own quiet way, eventually developing a rapport with her teammates.

"This year she has the ball in her hands a lot, she's much more vocal, she's way more in tune with me. It's been fun to watch that develop.

... I'm seeing a lot more progress in communication, which is leadership," Rueck said. "Offensively, running the point, she's much more efficient getting us into plays, her transition game, her rebounding, her ability to shoot the three. Those things were in place a year ago. Everything's just a step up."

Pivec grew up in Lynnwood, Washington, and was also a multisport athlete in high school. She ran the 800 and 1,600 meters and threw the javelin, as well as playing basketball. Her little sister Malia Pivec is also a distance runner and is now on the track and field team at Boise State.

Pivec smiles when she talks about the moment, following Oregon State's run in the NCAA Tournament last season, when she asked Rueck about doubling up. She had already prepared her argument.

"I said, 'Hey coach, how do you feel about me competing in track and field? I know it would help my strength and my speed and explosiveness. How do you feel about that?'" she

recalled.

Once she had his blessing, the 5-foot-10 Pivec took part in just a few meets. But at the Oregon Twilight in Eugene, she threw a 142-4, the fourth-best mark in Beavers history. She also threw in the Pac-12 championships.

"I felt like I got more workouts in and I was also able to meet and bond with a new group of people, so that was good," she said.

Pivec is a BioHealth Sciences major with a pre-medicine focus, and hopes to become a dermatologist. She was honored when she was named the Oregon State scholar-athlete for December because of a 4.0 grade-point average.

But she sheepishly admits that she recently got an A-minus in physics. So she now has "like a 3.978."

"I did the most work in that class. I studied the hardest in that class. It just wasn't able to happen. But I did my best!" she said.

With a flash of humor that shows her growing confidence, Pivec added with a laugh: "So, I guess there goes your story. Sorry."

Men's College Basketball

Arizona State, Arizona top Pac-12 as conference play begins

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The two biggest surprises in the Pac-12 heading into conference play come from the same state.

Arizona State was picked to finish sixth in the Pac-12 yet has been maybe the biggest surprise in all of college basketball, winning all 12 of its nonconference games while moving up to a program-high No. 3 in the AP Top 25.

Arizona was No. 2 in the poll early in the season and went the opposite direction, dropping out after an unexpected 0-for-3 trip to the Bahamas. The Wildcats (10-3) have rounded back into form recently, setting up one of the most anticipated games in their rivalry on Saturday at McKale Center.

No. 17 Arizona and Arizona State are meeting with both teams ranked for the first time since 1995.

"I hope every fan from Arizona and Arizona State is trying like heck to get in that building," Sun Devils coach Bobby Hurley said. "It's going to be a fun, competitive game to be a part of."

The Sun Devils were expected to be better in Hurley's third season in the desert with big men Romello White and De'Quon Lake

giving their three senior guards help on the inside at both ends.

Arizona State's rise was much more meteoric than expected.

White and Lake have freed up the trio of Tra Holder, Shannon Evans II and Kodi Justice, while Hurley has allowed his confident guards the freedom to do what they do best. Arizona State also has one of nation's biggest game-changers off the bench in Remy Martin, a high-energy, hard-playing freshman guard.

Arizona State turned a few heads by knocking off No. 15 Xavier in late November and burst into the national consciousness by beating No. 2 Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse.

"I think they have a great team," Arizona coach Sean Miller said. "They have those guards playing at a high level as far as I can see and they have experience."

Arizona got off to a slow start in large part because of defensive breakdowns. The Wildcats have bounced back from that lost trip to the Bahamas with big improvements on the defensive end and one of the nation's most difficult 1-2 punches in Allonzo Trier and Deandre Ayton.

The game on Saturday is the perfect way to kick off

the Pac-12 season.

Here are a few more things to look for in the Pac-12 as the conference season begins:

INCONSISTENT USC: Southern California was ranked No. 2 in the preseason and was expected to be Arizona's main challenger to win the Pac-12 title. The Trojans (9-4) have yet to live up to those lofty expectations, but, like Arizona, may have turned things around. USC had a three-game losing streak a month into the season and had a home loss to Princeton on Dec. 19. But the Trojans still have one of the conference's most talented rosters, led by junior forward Bennie Boatwright, and won three games in Hawaii over the weekend to win the Diamond Head Classic.

UCLA'S STRANGE RIDE: UCLA lost Lonzo Ball, T.J. Leaf and Bryce Alford from last year's team, but it was still ranked No. 21 in the preseason poll because of the talent left on the roster and the stellar recruiting class coach Steve Alford added. The season got off to a rocky start in China, where LiAngelo Ball, Cody Riley and Jalen Hill were accused of shoplifting and suspended. Ball left the school to play professionally overseas, while Riley and Hill were recently suspended for the



This Dec. 17, 2017, file photo shows Arizona State head coach Bobby Hurley reacting to a foul call in the first half during an NCAA college basketball game against Vanderbilt, in Tempe, Ariz. No. 3 Arizona State was picked to finish sixth in the conference, but has turned out to be one of the nation's best teams. Arizona is home to the two biggest surprises in the Pac-12.

AP Photo/Rick Scuteri



This Dec. 21, 2017, file photo shows Arizona forward Deandre Ayton (13) shooting over Connecticut forward David Onuorah during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Tucson, Ariz.

AP Photo/Rick Scuteri

rest of the season. The Bruins shouldn't be overlooked, though; they beat No. 7 Kentucky last Friday.

REBUILT DUCKS: Oregon had to replace four starters from its Final Four team but was still picked to finish fourth in the Pac-12. The Ducks (10-3) have been pretty close to those prognostications, beating the teams they were supposed to while

losing to the four best teams on their schedule.

RIDING REID: Stanford (6-7) had an uneven run through a difficult nonconference schedule, but Reid Travis hasn't. The junior forward leads the Pac-12 in scoring at 21.4 points per game despite opposing teams keying on him and is grabbing 7.1 rebounds per game.

WRIGHT IS RIGHT: Colorado's McKinley Wright IV was not highly recruited out of his Minnesota high school, but he has been a perfect fit for the Buffaloes. The 6-foot point guard is the Pac-12's second-leading freshman scorer (17 points per game) and has been a confident floor leader while playing relentlessly on defense.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday
Ione vs. Echo (at Helix), 1:30 p.m.
Heppner vs. Liberty Christian (WA) (at Irrigon), 4:30 p.m.
Trout Lake (WA) at Helix, 4:30 p.m.
Riverside at Stevenson (WA), 5 p.m.
Pendleton at Mountain View, 5 p.m.
Silverton at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Mac-Hi vs. Pilot Rock (at Irrigon), 7 p.m.
Waitsburg (WA) at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
South Wasco vs. Nixyaawii (at Helix), 7:30 p.m.
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Salem Academy), TBD
Friday
Pendleton vs. Grants Pass (at Summit HS), 12:30 p.m.
Heppner vs. Waitsburg (WA) (at Irrigon), 1:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Tri-City Prep (WA) (at Pendleton Convention), 1:30 p.m.
Echo vs. Trout Lake (WA) (at Helix), 1:30 p.m.
Mac-Hi vs. Liberty Christian (WA) (at Irrigon), 3 p.m.
Burns vs. Weston-McEwen (at Pendleton Convention), 4:30 p.m.
Ione vs. Nixyaawii (at Helix), 4:30 p.m.
South Wasco at Helix, 7:30 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Crescent Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Salem Academy), TBD

PREP WRESTLING

Saturday
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Echo, Heppner at Memorial Tournament (Pendleton HS), 9 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Thursday
BMCC vs. Everett (at North Idaho College), 2 p.m.
Friday
EOU at Walla Walla, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday
EOU at Walla Walla, 8 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday
EOU at Walla Walla, 11:30 a.m.
Saturday
EOU at Walla Walla, 6 p.m.

Convention), 3 p.m.
Ione vs. Nixyaawii (at Helix), 3 p.m.
Pendleton vs. Lake Oswego (WA) (at Bend), 4 p.m.

Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Minnesota 22 13.629 —
Oklahoma City 20 15.571 2
Denver 19 16.543 3
Portland 17 16.515 4
Utah 15 20.429 7

Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
Golden State 27 7.794 —
L.A. Clippers 14 19.424 12½
Phoenix 13 23.361 15
L.A. Lakers 11 21.344 15
Sacramento 12 22.353 15

Wednesday's Games

Boston 102, Charlotte 91
Dallas 98, Indiana 94
Atlanta 113, Washington 99
Chicago 92, New York 87
Minnesota 128, Denver 125, OT
New Orleans 128, Brooklyn 113
Oklahoma City 124, Toronto 107
Sacramento 109, Cleveland 95
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, late finish
Utah at Golden State, late finish

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 25 Schedule

Wednesday's Games
No. 1 Villanova 103, DePaul 85
No. 6 Xavier 91, Marquette 87
Thursday's Games
No. 25 Creighton at No. 23 Seton Hall, 3:30 p.m. (FS1)
Pacific at No. 20 Gonzaga, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Women's Basketball Top 25 Schedule

Monday-Wednesday
No games scheduled.
Thursday's Games
No. 19 Green Bay at Wright State, 1:30 p.m.
Illinois at No. 15 Maryland, 3 p.m.
Penn State at No. 21 Michigan, 3 p.m.
Syracuse at No. 2 Notre Dame, 4 p.m.
No. 3 Louisville at Georgia Tech, 4 p.m.
Jacksonville at No. 13 Florida State, 4 p.m.

No. 9 West Virginia at TCU, 4:30 p.m.
No. 24 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech, 4:30 p.m.
Miss. Valley State at No. 5 Mississippi State, 5 p.m.
No. 6 Baylor at Kansas State, 5 p.m.
No. 8 Texas at Oklahoma, 5 p.m.
No. 12 Ohio State at Nebraska, 5 p.m.
No. 18 Villanova at Creighton, 5 p.m.
SMU at No. 22 Texas A&M, 5 p.m.
No. 23 Iowa at Wisconsin, 5 p.m.

New Orleans 18 16.529 8
Dallas 11 25.306 16
Memphis 10 24.294 16

Northwest Division
W L Pct GB
Minnesota 22 13.629 —
Oklahoma City 20 15.571 2
Denver 19 16.543 3
Portland 17 16.515 4
Utah 15 20.429 7

Pacific Division
W L Pct GB
Golden State 27 7.794 —
L.A. Clippers 14 19.424 12½
Phoenix 13 23.361 15
L.A. Lakers 11 21.344 15
Sacramento 12 22.353 15

Wednesday's Games

Boston 102, Charlotte 91
Dallas 98, Indiana 94
Atlanta 113, Washington 99
Chicago 92, New York 87
Minnesota 128, Denver 125, OT
New Orleans 128, Brooklyn 113
Oklahoma City 124, Toronto 107
Sacramento 109, Cleveland 95
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, late finish
Utah at Golden State, late finish

Thursday's Games

Detroit at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
New York at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 25 Schedule

Wednesday's Games
No. 1 Villanova 103, DePaul 85
No. 6 Xavier 91, Marquette 87
Thursday's Games
No. 25 Creighton at No. 23 Seton Hall, 3:30 p.m. (FS1)
Pacific at No. 20 Gonzaga, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Women's Basketball Top 25 Schedule

Monday-Wednesday
No games scheduled.
Thursday's Games
No. 19 Green Bay at Wright State, 1:30 p.m.
Illinois at No. 15 Maryland, 3 p.m.
Penn State at No. 21 Michigan, 3 p.m.
Syracuse at No. 2 Notre Dame, 4 p.m.
No. 3 Louisville at Georgia Tech, 4 p.m.
Jacksonville at No. 13 Florida State, 4 p.m.

Hockey

NHL Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Tampa Bay 35 26 7 2 54 133 87
Boston 35 20 10 5 45 106 90
Toronto 37 22 14 1 45 122 104
Montreal 37 16 17 4 36 99 117
Florida 36 15 16 5 35 103 119
Detroit 36 13 16 7 33 97 116
Ottawa 35 11 16 8 30 93 119
Buffalo 37 9 20 8 26 80 123

Metropolitan Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
New Jersey 36 22 9 5 49 116 104
Columbus 38 22 13 3 47 109 104
Washington 38 22 13 3 47 114 108
N.Y. Islanders 37 20 13 4 44 133 129
N.Y. Rangers 37 20 13 4 44 118 104
Carolina 36 17 12 7 41 102 110
Pittsburgh 38 19 16 3 41 109 122
Philadelphia 36 15 13 8 38 99 103

Western Conference Central Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Nashville 36 22 9 5 49 118 100
Winnipeg 38 21 11 6 48 125 108
St. Louis 39 23 14 2 48 114 96
Dallas 38 20 15 3 43 112 110
Minnesota 37 19 15 3 41 106 108
Chicago 35 17 13 5 39 103 94
Colorado 36 17 16 3 37 113 116

Pacific Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA
Vegas 35 24 9 2 50 123 101
Los Angeles 37 22 11 4 48 109 85
San Jose 34 19 11 4 42 95 84
Anaheim 18 16 14 8 40 102 113
Calgary 36 18 15 3 39 101 106
Edmonton 37 17 18 2 36 111 117
Vancouver 37 15 17 5 35 98 121
Arizona 39 9 25 5 23 88 134

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

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2, OT
Carolina 3, Montreal 1
Boston 5, Ottawa 1
Pittsburgh 5, Columbus 4, SO
New Jersey 3, Detroit 1
Nashville 2, St. Louis 1
N.Y. Rangers 1, Washington 0, SO
Minnesota 4, Dallas 2
Winnipeg 4, Edmonton 3
Arizona 3, Colorado 1
Vegas 4, Anaheim 1

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia at Florida, 4:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
Toronto at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Vegas at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Football

NFL American Conference East

W L T Pct PF PA
y-New England 12 3 0.800 432 290
Buffalo 8 7 0.533 280 343
Miami 6 9 0.400 265 371
N.Y. Jets 5 10 0.333 292 356

South

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Jacksonville 10 5 0.667 407 253
Tennessee 8 7 0.533 319 346
Houston 4 11 0.267 325 411
Indianapolis 3 12 0.200 241 394

North

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Pittsburgh 12 3 0.800 378 284
Baltimore 9 6 0.600 368 272
Cincinnati 6 9 0.400 259 322
Cleveland 0 15 0.000 210 382

West

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Kansas City 9 6 0.600 388 315
L.A. Chargers 8 7 0.533 325 262
Oakland 6 9 0.400 291 343
Denver 5 10 0.333 265 355

National Conference East

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Philadelphia 13 2 0.867 457 289
Dallas 8 7 0.533 348 332
Washington 7 8 0.467 332 370
N.Y. Giants 2 13 0.133 228 378

South

W L T Pct PF PA
x-New Orleans 11 4 0.733 464 295
x-Carolina 11 4 0.733 353 305
Atlanta 9 6 0.600 331 305
Tampa Bay 4 11 0.267 304 358

North

W L T Pct PF PA
y-Minnesota 12 3 0.800 359 242
Detroit 8 7 0.533 375 365
Green Bay 7 8 0.467 309 349
Chicago 5 10 0.333 254 297

West

W L T Pct PF PA
y-L.A. Rams 11 4 0.733 465 295
Seattle 9 6 0.600 342 306
Arizona 7 8 0.467 269 337
San Francisco 5 10 0.333 297 370

Week 17 Sunday's Games

N.Y. Jets at New England, 10 a.m.
Houston at N.Y. Giants, 10 a.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 10 a.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 10 a.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 10 a.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 1:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 1:25 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1:25 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1:25 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 1:25 p.m.
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 1:25 p.m.

Oakland at L.A. Chargers, 1:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 1:25 p.m.

NCAA Bowl Schedule

WEDNESDAY
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Florida State 42, Southern Mississippi 13
PinStripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Iowa 27, Boston College 20
Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Purdue 38, Arizona 35
Texas Bowl
Houston
Texas vs. Missouri, late finish

THURSDAY

Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (6-6), 10:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl

San Diego
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 6 p.m. (FOX)
FRIDAY
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 10 a.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), Noon (CBS)

Music City Bowl