

# DUCKS: Projected as a No. 2 seed by ESPN in this year's NCAA tournament

Continued from 1B

"But to Kelly and the coaching staff's credit, it has happened a lot faster than we even thought."

Oregon went 13-17 during Graves' first season, averaging 1,501 in home attendance. During the 2015-16 campaign, the Ducks averaged 1,629 fans and made a run to the WNIT semifinals.

The real fun began last season when a program-changing recruiting class, led by all-Pac-12 selections Sabrina Ionescu and Ruthy Hebard, arrived on campus.

Oregon averaged 2,595 in attendance during the 2016-17 season at Matthew Knight Arena. Then the madness began with an upset of 11th-ranked Washington at the Pac-12 Tournament in Seattle, followed by a stunning run to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament as a No. 10 seed.

The road to a Final Four

will almost certainly begin in Eugene for the Ducks this March. The top 16 seeds in the NCAA Tournament host first- and second-round games.

The selection committee had Oregon penciled in as the fourth No. 1 seed before last weekend's split with Oregon State.

ESPN's bracket projection this week has the Ducks as a No. 2 seed playing No. 15 Weber State, with No. 7 Oklahoma State playing No. 10 LSU in the other first-round game at Matthew Knight Arena.

"I hope we can sell them out," Mullens said. "I mean, the opportunity to host an NCAA women's tournament at Matthew Knight Arena for the first time with a team that could be a high seed, what an incredible opportunity to show our team, to show our community, and to show the women's basketball world how important that sport



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard via AP  
**Oregon's Satou Sabally, center, shoots between Oregon State's Taya Corosdale, left, and Mikayla Pivec, right, during the first quarter of a college basketball game Sunday, Jan. 21, in Eugene.**

is here at the University of Oregon."

Oregon has a one-game lead over No. 13 UCLA (15-4, 6-2) and Stanford

(12-8, 6-2) in the standings.

The Ducks, who defeated the Bruins 70-61 on Jan. 7 at Pauley Pavilion, host UCLA in the final regular-season

home game Feb. 19. In the Pac-12's unbalanced schedule, Oregon avoids the Bay Area road trip this season and faces the Cardinal on Feb. 4 in Eugene.

"It's an incredible opportunity," Mullens said. "I don't want to get ahead of myself, but I'm really, really excited thinking about it."

Long after Oregon's win Sunday night, which ended a 14-game losing streak against Oregon State, a line of autograph-seeking kids still snaked its way around the court as the team's stars signed posters.

Ionescu, already the NCAA's career triple-double record holder, is the Pac-12 player of the year favorite. The sophomore guard leads the conference in scoring (19.8 ppg) and assists (7.3 app) and is second on the team in rebounding (7.1 rpg).

Hebard is averaging 16.7 points and a team-high 8.2 rebounds per game in

the post. Maite Cazorla is averaging 10.6 points and 5.4 assists in the backcourt.

Satou Sabally is the conference's highest scoring freshman (11.2 ppg), and Mallory McGwire helped neutralize Oregon State star Marie Gulich in the Civil War series.

Graves hopes to get Lexi Bando, the NCAA's active leader in three-point shooting (45.5 percent), back from a leg injury for the stretch run. Phil Knight has even called Mullens for updates on the status of the senior shooting guard.

"What an outstanding group of young women," Mullens said. "It is fun to see them play, it is great to see them off the court. The culture and the atmosphere that they've created as a team is something very special."

"I think that's why people are starting to catch on, because they are fun to be around."

## SCOREBOARD

### Local slate

#### PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.  
Culver at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.  
The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.  
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.  
Pine Eagle at Echo, 7 p.m.  
Wallowa at Helix, 7 p.m.  
Nyssa at Burns, 7:30 p.m.  
Riverside at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.  
Condon/Wheeler at South Wasco, 7:30 p.m.  
Ione at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Cove, 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday

Dufur at Ione, 4 p.m.  
McLaughlin at Baker, 4:30 p.m.  
Echo at Joseph, 5 p.m.  
Culver at Pilot Rock, 5:30 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.  
Arlington at Horizon Christian, 5:30 p.m.  
Mitchell/Spray at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.  
Cove at Helix, 5:30 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 5:30 p.m.

#### PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wallowa at Helix, 3 p.m.  
Pine Eagle at Echo, 5:30 p.m.  
Nyssa at Burns, 6 p.m.  
Riverside at Umatilla, 6 p.m.  
Ione at Arlington, 6 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Cove, 6 p.m.  
Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.  
Pendleton at The Dalles, 7 p.m.  
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.  
Culver at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday

Dufur at Ione, 2:30 p.m.  
McLaughlin at Baker, 3 p.m.  
Culver at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.  
Heppner at Stanfield, 4 p.m.  
Mitchell/Spray at Condon/Wheeler 4 p.m.  
Arlington at Horizon Christian, 4 p.m.  
Cove at Helix, 4 p.m.  
Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.  
Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 4 p.m.

#### PREP WRESTLING

Mac-Hi, Ontario, La Grande at Mac-Hi  
Saturday  
Echo at New Plymouth Invite (ID)  
Heppner at Pine Eagle Invitational, TBD

#### PREP SWIMMING

Hermiston, Irrigon, Riverside at Hermiston

#### COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday  
BMCC at North Idaho College, 4 p.m.

#### COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday  
BMCC at North Idaho College, 2 p.m.

#### COLLEGE WRESTLING

Friday  
EOU vs. North Idaho, 7 p.m.

Saturday  
EOU (Women) vs. Grays Harbor C.C., 1 p.m.

### Prep Standings

#### PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

Lg	Ovr	PF	PA	Rnk	
Pendleton	1-0	9-7	845	823	12
Hermiston	1-0	6-9	898	932	15
The Dalles	0-1	8-7	892	881	20
Hood River	0-1	5-11	909	954	33

#### 4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PF	PA	Rnk	
La Grande	3-0	12-7	1155	1039	5
Ontario	2-1	9-10	936	995	23
Baker	1-2	8-10	1052	1044	23
Mac-Hi	0-3	10-9	855	843	26

#### 3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PF	PA	Rnk	
Irrigon	5-1	16-2	1091	773	13
Umatilla	3-1	15-4	1114	800	10
Nyssa	3-2	11-7	895	890	18
Burns	2-2	9-9	945	912	24
Riverside	1-4	10-0	876	915	29
Vale	1-5	5-14	809	927	33

#### 2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE

Lg	Ovr	PF	PA	Rnk	
Pilot Rock	3-0	12-6	1029	838	11
Heppner	3-1	8-7	758	763	14
Stanfield	1-2	8-11	916	1115	19
W-McEwen	1-2	6-12	917	1026	23
Culver	0-3	4-15	805	1038	40

#### 1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
South Wasco	7-0	14-3	802	549	9
Sherman	5-2	7-8	585	731	31
Ione	5-2	6-11	689	835	29
Dufur	4-3	8-8	664	667	25
Horizon Christ.	4-3	7-9	647	661	34
Condon/Wheel.	2-5	2-15	580	551	55
Mitch/Spray	1-6	6-9	379	625	53
Arlington	0-7	1-9	226	389	59

#### 1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
Nixyaawii	8-0	15-2	1195	759	7
Powder Valley	7-1	12-4	1072	843	14
Joseph	6-3	10-5	824	672	20
Echo	4-4	7-12	925	1019	37
Cove	3-5	5-12	760	904	42
Wallowa	3-6	8-10	814	878	38
Helix	2-6	3-15	576	941	58
Pine Eagle	0-8	3-12	469	812	55

#### PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### 5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
Pendleton	1-0	8-6	821	811	11
Hermiston	1-0	5-11	696	769	20
Hood River	0-1	8-7	622	687	13
The Dalles	0-1	6-9	648	659	26

#### 4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
Baker	3-0	16-1	1004	625	4
La Grande	2-1	7-11	823	866	24
Ontario	1-2	7-13	824	854	28
Mac-Hi	0-3	2-16	528	942	34

#### 3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
Irrigon	4-2	15-3	873	617	14
Vale	4-2	8-10	662	737	13
Burns	3-1	9-7	850	727	15
Nyssa	3-2	9-8	719	627	12
Riverside	1-4	13-6	795	596	20
Umatilla	0-4	3-15	508	787	36

#### 2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
W-McEwen	3-0	12-6	968	821	11
Heppner	3-1	11-4	767	657	12
Culver	2-1	11-7	721	663	21
Pilot Rock	0-3	10-8	788	667	22
Stanfield	0-3	2-16	550	884	35

#### 1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
South Wasco	7-0	14-3	802	549	9
Sherman	5-2	7-8	585	731	31
Ione	5-2	6-11	689	835	29
Dufur	4-3	8-8	664	667	25
Horizon Christ.	4-3	7-9	647	661	34
Condon/Wheel.	2-5	2-15	580	551	55
Mitch/Spray	1-6	6-9	379	625	53
Arlington	0-7	1-9	226	389	59

#### 1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Lg	Ovr	PS	PA	Rnk	
Nixyaawii	8-0	17-0	1265	480	2
Powder Valley	7-1	17-1	927	569	3
Joseph	7-2	13-3	811	523	6
Helix	5-3	11-7	788	734	15
Cove	3-5	7-10	582	680	27
Wallowa	2-7	4-14	680	911	38
Echo	1-7	6-13	754	868	39
Pine Eagle	0-8	2-13	351	706	49

#### Basketball

#### NBA

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	35	14	696	1 1/2
Toronto	23	21	523	9 1/2
Philadelphia	21	28	429	14
Brooklyn	18	30	375	16 1/2
Dallas	18	30	375	16 1/2
Miami	27	21	563	—
Washington	26	22	542	1
Charlotte	19	27	413	7
Atlanta	14	33	298	12 1/2
Orlando	14	33	298	12 1/2
Cleveland	27	19	587	—
Indiana	26	22	542	2
Milwaukee	24	22	522	3
Detroit	22	24	478	5
Chicago	18	30	375	10

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	34	12	739	—
San Antonio	32	18	640	4
New Orleans	26	21	553	8 1/2
Memphis	17	30	362	17 1/2
Dallas	16	32	333	19
Northwest <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct</th> <th>GB</th>	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	31	20	608	—
Oklahoma City	28	20	583	1
Portland	26	22	542	3 1/2
Denver	25	23	521	4 1/2
Utah	20	28	417	9 1/2
Pacific <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct</th> <th>GB</th>	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	39	10	796	—
L.A. Clippers	23	24	489	15
L.A. Lakers	18	29	383	20
Phoenix	17	31	354	21 1/2
Sacramento	15	33	313	23 1/2

#### Thursday's Games

Sacramento 89, Miami 88

#### Friday's Games

Oklahoma City 121, Washington 112  
Denver 130, New York 118  
Golden State 126, Minnesota 113

#### NCAA Men's Basketball

#### Top 25 Schedule

Thursday  
No. 3 Purdue 92, No. 25 Michigan 88  
No. 11 Arizona 80, Colorado 71  
No. 15 Gonzaga 95, Portland 79  
No. 16 St. Mary's 75, BYU 62  
No. 17 Wichita St 81, UCF 62  
Utah 80, No. 21 Arizona St 77, OT  
Penn State 82, No. 13 Ohio St 79

#### Friday

Wisconsin at No. 6 Michigan St, 5 p.m. (FS1)

#### NCAA Women's Basketball

#### Top 25 Schedule

Thursday  
No. 2 Miss. State 90, Florida 53  
No. 3 Baylor 81, No. 6 Texas 56  
No. 4 Louisville 84, Miami 74  
No. 5 Notre Dame 87, Pitt 53  
No. 9 South Carolina 90, Arkansas 42  
No. 10 Tennessee 75, Mississippi 68  
No. 14 Maryland 68, Northwestern 65  
No. 18