

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern consoles Kaitlynn Melton after the Golden Eagles' 56-54 loss to Country Christian on Saturday at the state 1A girls championship game in Baker City.

Prep Basketball

Knights bring home a trophy

Irrigon claims sixth place in Class 3A

East Oregonian

COOS BAY — In the consolation finals at the Class 3A state tournament, the No. 8 Irrigon Knights had to face No. 6 Cascade Christian. At first, Irrigon had the advantage, going up 11-7 after the opening quarter. But the Challengers put together back-to-back quarters where they held the Knights to only 20 points while scoring 34 of their own.

In the second quarter, Cascade Christian chipped away at its deficit to enter the half just one point behind Irrigon.

Then, in the third quarter the Challengers exploded and their efforts led to a 55-45 victory to claim fourth place. Irrigon brought home the sixth place trophy in Class 3A, its first trophy since moving to 3A last season and the first since the 2A state championship in 2015.

Cascade Christian was led by Joel McLemore, who finished with a game-high 24 points.

The Challengers (20-10) shot 40 percent from the field and banked more than half of their free throw attempts.

For the Knights (22-6), Eric Carillo finished with 13 points and Johnny Phillips followed with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Keith Fleming also had a solid game with seven points and 10 rebounds. Adrian Roa also led the team with five assists.

Irrigon finished 43 percent from the field and only hit 3-of-13 3-pointers.

THURSTON 58, PENDLETON 40 — The Pendleton Buckaroos season came to an end on the road Saturday with a 58-40 to Thurston in a Class 5A first round playoff game. The Colts move on to face Mountain View in the quarterfinals. The Bucks finished 15-11 overall.

Dream season slips away

Country Christian stuns Nixyaawii to claim state title and halt win streak

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — With three minutes left, the scoreboard inside Baker High School's gymnasium read Nixyaawii 54, Country Christian 46. After a back-and-forth game, the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles had momentum on their side and were creeping closer and closer to a second straight unbeaten season and state championship.

However, with 2:50 left on the clock, everything changed.

Nixyaawii senior do-it-all guard Milan Schimmel picked up her fifth foul while going for a steal and was forced to sit the remainder of the game. That play alone appeared to suck the momentum from the Golden Eagles and into the Cougars' favor, and they pounced.

Country Christian outscored the Golden Eagles 10-0 in the final two minutes and 34 seconds to stun the Golden Eagles 56-54 to win the Class 1A state championship on Saturday afternoon. It was the Cougars' second championship in three years, previously winning in 2016. And it marked the first loss for

Class 1A Championship



the 2017 champion Golden Eagles in two years, having won 56 consecutive games coming into Saturday's matchup.

"I don't know if anything went wrong, really, they (Country Christian) just played really well," Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said afterward. "It was a high-level game and it was back-and-forth. But obviously Milan going out in the fourth hurt, because we had a lead there and we have those two guards (with Mary Stewart) that we're able to kill a lot of clock and muscle into possessions ... So I don't want to say we did bad things, they did good things. It was just a high-quality game that they (Country Christian) played better."

After Schimmel was sent to the Golden Eagle (28-1) bench, the Cougars defense was keying on

See NIXYAAWII/2B



Nixyaawii's Mary Stewart (13) passes the ball to Ernia Butler in the Golden Eagles' 56-54 loss to Country Christian on Saturday at the state 1A girls championship game in Baker City.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Women's College Basketball

Oregon tops Stanford for first-ever Pac-12 title

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

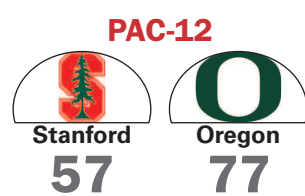
SEATTLE — All day long, Oregon coach Kelly Graves noticed something a little different about Pac-12 player of the year Sabrina Ionescu. It wasn't something that could be defined, just something the coach noticed about his star player.

"She had a different look about her," Graves said. "I didn't know what that was going to translate to."

Now Graves knows what that look meant.

Ionescu scored a career-high 36 points and No. 6 Oregon won its first Pac-12 Conference tournament title beating No. 16 Stanford 77-57 on Sunday night.

Playing in their first conference tournament final, the Ducks looked every bit the part of a premier team



heading into the upcoming NCAA tournament. Ionescu was the star, as the Ducks (30-4) avenged one of their two regular season losses in conference play.

Ionescu was brilliant early, scoring 12 points in the first quarter, and took over late in the third quarter as Oregon held a double-digit lead most of the second half.

Ionescu scored 19 points in the second half.

"It was the Ionescu show today," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said.

A year ago, Oregon was the surprise of the NCAA tournament making an unexpected run to the regional final before falling to UConn. Now they'll go into the tourney as one of the favorites.

Ionescu is a big reason

See OREGON/2B



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Confetti rains down as Oregon players hold the championship trophy after beating Stanford in an NCAA college basketball game in the finals of the Pac-12 conference women's tournament on Sunday in Seattle.

Sports shorts

Mariners lose OF Ben Gamel for 4-6 weeks with strained oblique

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — The injuries continue to mount for the Seattle Mariners, who will be without outfielder Ben Gamel for four to six weeks due to a strained right oblique muscle.

The Mariners were hopeful that Gamel would miss only a few days but an MRI revealed a more extensive injury after it was reviewed by team physicians. Gamel first felt the injury after batting practice late last week.

Gamel is added to a growing list of ailments for the Mariners.

Seattle has already seen first baseman Ryon Healy (hand), outfielder Mitch Haniger (hand) and pitcher Felix Hernandez (bruised forearm) slowed by injuries during spring training. Outfielder Guillermo Heredia is also still recovering from offseason shoulder surgery, leaving Seattle thin at the position.



Gamel

"I can't really put it into words given the tough times over the last four years, and the struggle to get here, and knowing that I was able to compete at this level but not doing it. To finally break through and to have this validation means a lot to me."

— Phil Mickelson

The 47-year-old pro golfer beat Justin Thomas in a playoff to win the Mexico Championship on Sunday, ending a drought of 102 tournaments without a victory, the longest of his career.

Lillard scores 39 as Blazers come back to beat Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 19 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter and the Portland Trail Blazers won their 15th consecutive game over the Los Angeles Lakers, 108-103 on Monday night.

Lillard scored 15 in a row for the Trail Blazers down the stretch, giving them a 104-103 with 1:08 remaining by knowing down 1 of 2 free throws.

CJ McCollum had 22 points, and Jusuf Nurkic added 16 points and 16 rebounds.

Julius Randle had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who had their five-game winning streak ended. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points, and Lonzo Ball had 10 points, two rebounds and two assists.

Lillard was 5 of 7 from the floor and 4 of 5 from 3-point range in the fourth quarter.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1982 — The San Antonio Spurs and Milwaukee Bucks combine for 337 points in the highest-scoring game in NBA history, to that point. The Spurs win 171-166 in three OT.

1996 — Detroit's Chris Osgood becomes the third goalie in NHL history to score a goal, firing the puck into an empty net with 11 seconds remaining in the Red Wings' 4-2 victory over Hartford.

2014 — The Los Angeles Clippers rout the Los Angeles Lakers 142-94. It's the most lopsided victory for the Clippers' franchise and the most one-sided loss in Lakers history.

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