

NCAA Women's Tournament

Ionescu secures 10th career triple-double as Ducks cruise

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EUGENE — Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu joked that she was going to take her time getting that last rebound for another triple-double.

Ionescu had 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for her 10th career triple-double, and second-seeded Oregon defeated No. 15 seed Seattle 88-45 in the NCAA Tournament on Friday.

Ionescu, who holds the NCAA record for triple-doubles, becomes the 15th woman to get one in the NCAA Tournament. The last was Iowa's Samantha Logic in 2015.

She was asked afterward if she heard the groan from the student section when another Duck got her rebound early in the fourth quarter.

"It was more like this: 'Would you just get one so we can get this over with?'" Coach Kelly Graves interjected.

Ionescu laughed: "And then I said, 'Eh, maybe I'll just wait it out so I can play some more.'"

After securing the triple-double, Ionescu went to the bench with 8:02 left in the game to a standing ovation from the crowd at Matthew Knight Arena.

Graves said he left Ionescu in the game even after he'd pulled the other starters because she was so close — no disrespect to Seattle.



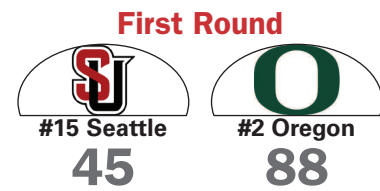
Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu, right, brings the ball down court ahead of Seattle's Kamira Sanders during their first-round game in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament in Eugene on Friday

"She kind of earned that," Graves said. "And she still only played 29 minutes, so I'll take that anytime. She wouldn't want me to leave her in just to do that, but since it was so close, why not?"

The Ducks, winners of 10

straight, advance to play No. 10 seed Minnesota in the Spokane Region. The Golden Gophers defeated No. 7 Green Bay 89-77 in the early game.

Alexis Montgomery had 14 points for Seattle, which was making its first-ever tournament appearance.



Oregon finished the regular season 30-4 overall and 16-2 in the Pac-12. In addition to the league's regular-season title, the Ducks also won the conference tournament.

Oregon's seeding is the highest in team history, as are the 30 wins. The conference championship was also a first.

Oregon made history last season, too, going to the Elite Eight for the first time in school history. The Ducks finished that season 23-14 overall and lost to Stanford in a Pac-12 tournament semifinal game. But after earning an at-large spot in the tournament, Oregon swept through seventh-seeded Temple, No. 2 Duke and No. 3 Maryland before getting bumped by top-seeded UConn.

The Redhawks finished 18-14 overall this season but took the Western Athletic Conference Tournament with a 57-54 victory over Cal State Bakersfield in the title game.

Ionescu, the Pac-12 Freshman of the Year last season, earned league Player of the Year honors. She had

five triple-doubles in the regular season after four as a freshman.

Oregon jumped out to a 10-0 lead. Montgomery broke through for the Redhawks on a long jumper with 4:50 left in the first quarter, but the Ducks were simply overwhelming and led 25-6 by the end of the opening quarter. Ionescu led all scorers with nine points and four rebounds.

Lexi Bando's 3-pointer gave Oregon a 30-10 lead. Aina Ayuso finished the half with a crossover and layup — and added a free throw before a pair of Seattle free throws to make it 48-16 at the break.

Ionescu hit a 3-pointer to open the second half.

Oti Gildon finished with 16 points for Oregon, while Ruthy Hebard added 12 along with nine rebounds before sitting out the fourth.

Seattle coach Suzi Barcomb said she thinks Oregon is a Final Four team.

"I think Oregon played to their potential. I think we were a little bit nervous about being at the dance for the first time in school history," Barcomb said. "That was pretty evident in the first quarter when I think the rim was about the size of a penny for us, and it looked to be a huge peach basket for Oregon."

UP NEXT

Oregon will play Minnesota on Sunday night.

MADNESS: Upsets roll on as No. 13 Marshall, No. 10 Butler among Friday winners

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basketball history. But that was the regular season.

This came when it mattered the most — in the NCAA Tournament.

The Cavaliers couldn't get anything generated on offense and the nation's top-ranked defense couldn't contain the American East Conference champions who won their conference tournament at the buzzer.

"Unbelievable — it's really all you can say," UMBC coach Ryan Odom said.

The 74 points were the most Virginia had allowed this year. Virginia had allowed just 54.3 points per game this season, the fewest in the nation.

Lyles was the catalyst.

He diced up Virginia's defense in the second half, getting to the hole easily on six different occasions and making easy layups. He also knocked down a pair of 3-pointers as UMBC built a 16-point lead.

Lyles finished with 23 of his points in the second half and Joe Sherburne finished with 14 points.

The game was tied at halftime, but the Retrievers came out confident and motivated in the second half and built a double-digit lead that Virginia could never erase.

Sherburne was huge early in the second half and made believers out of everyone.

He scored on an and-1 drive and then knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the key after a behind-the-back pass from KJ Maura. After Virginia made a foul shot, the shifty 5-foot-8, 140-pound Maura drove the lane for uncontested layup.

A Tony Bennett timeout couldn't stop the bleeding, as Lyles hit two more 3's and Sherburne hit one more to extend UMBC's lead to 14 with 14:57 left in the game. Lyles was fouled on a 3-point shot and suddenly the Retrievers led by 16.

A corner 3-pointer and a layups off a fastbreak by Arkel Lamer gave UMBC its biggest lead at 67-48. From there, the party was on as chants of "UMBC" rang through the arena.

It was yet another early exit for the Cavaliers in a season that seemed to hold so much promise.

UP NEXT

UMBC: Will face No. 9 seed Kansas State on Sunday in the second round.

Here's a look at the rest of

Friday's first round action:

PURDUE 74, CAL STATE FULLERTON 48

DETROIT (AP) — Purdue center Isaac Haas broke his right elbow during a win over Cal State Fullerton and will miss the rest of the NCAA Tournament.

The 7-foot-2, 290-pound senior went down while taking a hard foul midway through the second half. Haas, who averaged 14.7 points and 5.7 rebounds per game, had nine points and 10 rebounds in the first-round victory.

Kyle Allman scored 21 for the Titans (20-12).

MARSHALL 81, WICHITA STATE 75

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jon Elmore scored 27 points and 13th-seeded Marshall toppled fourth-seeded Wichita State for its first NCAA Tournament victory.

The Thundering Herd (25-10) had been 0-5 in the tourney, with its last appearance in 1987.

Marshall became the second No. 13 seed to win this week. Buffalo did it Thursday night, beating Arizona.

Conner Frankamp scored 27 points for Wichita State (25-8).

WEST VIRGINIA 85, MURRAY STATE 68

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jevon Carter scored 21 points, had eight assists and six steals as No. 5 seed West Virginia overwhelmed 12th-seeded Murray State.

The Mountaineers (25-10) advanced to the round of 32 for the third time in the past four seasons.

Terrell Miller scored 27 points for Murray State (26-6).

BUTLER 79, ARKANSAS 62

DETROIT (AP) — Kelan Martin scored 27 points and Kamar Baldwin added 24 to lift 10th-seeded Butler over seventh-seeded Arkansas.

The Bulldogs (21-13) raced to a 21-2 lead in the opening minutes. Although Arkansas wiped out that entire deficit before halftime, Butler took control again early in the second.

Jaylen Barford scored 15 points for Arkansas (23-12).

CINCINNATI 68, GEORGIA STATE 53

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jarron Cumberland set career highs of 27 points and 11 rebounds as Cincinnati recovered after blowing a 10-point lead in the second half.

The second-seeded Bearcats (31-4) advanced to play seventh-seeded Nevada.



Marshall guard Jarrod West (13) reacts as time runs out in their first-round NCAA college basketball tournament game against Wichita State on Friday in San Diego. Marshall won 81-75.

After trailing 42-32 early in the second half, 15th-seeded Georgia State (24-11) rallied to take a pair of one-point leads, its last one coming on a driving bank shot from D'Marcus Simonds with 9:30 left.

NEVADA 87, TEXAS 83, OT NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Caleb Martin scored 18 points and made two huge 3-pointers in overtime as seventh-seeded Nevada rallied for its first NCAA Tournament victory since 2007.

Nevada (28-7) erased a 14-point, second-half deficit and tied it at 68 when Jordan Caroline hit one of two free throws with 3.8 seconds left in regulation. The Wolf Pack trailed by four early in an overtime period that featured 34 total points.

Kerwin Roach II had a career-high 26 points for Texas (19-15).

KANSAS STATE 69, CREIGHTON 59

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Barry Brown scored 18 points and ninth-seeded Kansas State never trailed despite playing without top scorer Dean Wade.

Mike McGuirl added 17 points for the Wildcats (23-11). Wade had been expected to play after suffering a stress fracture in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament, but never got on the floor.

Marcus Foster, thrown off the Kansas State team after the 2015 season for multiple violations of team rules, finished with five points on 2-of-11 shooting for Creighton (21-12).

MICHIGAN STATE 82,

BUCKNELL 78

DETROIT (AP) — Miles Bridges outlasted Zach Thomas, scoring 29 points and grabbing nine rebounds to help third-seeded Michigan State beat Bucknell.

Thomas fouled out on a technical with 6:06 left and finished with 27 points. He put on a show in the first half, scoring 20 points and making all three of his shots beyond the 3-point arc.

The Spartans (30-4) made the most of playing about 75 miles from campus. Leading by 15 points with 2 minutes left, Michigan State won by a slim margin after Bucknell (25-10) made a late flurry of deep shots.

AUBURN 62, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 58

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jared Harper made a clutch 3-pointer with 1:17 to go — his only basket of the game — and Auburn held off No. 13 College of Charleston.

Auburn (26-7), playing under the cloud of a federal investigation, survived a poor shooting performance to win in its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2003.

Jarrell Brantley scored 24 for the Cougars (26-8), the CAA champs who made their first NCAA Tournament since 1999.

NORTH CAROLINA 84, LIPSCOMB 66

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kenny Williams scored 18 points and defending national champion North Carolina took its time before opening up to beat Lipscomb.

Theo Pinson had 15 points and

flirted with a triple-double for the second-seeded Tar Heels (26-10).

Playing for the first time in the NCAA tourney, the 15th-seeded Bisons (23-10) held an early six-point edge. They led 33-31 with under four minutes left in the first half before North Carolina went on a 12-1 run to take control by the break.

TEXAS A&M 73, PROVIDENCE 69

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Admon Gilder scored 18 points to help Texas A&M hold off Providence.

Robert Williams and Tyler Davis both had double-doubles for the seventh-seeded Aggies (21-12). The teams were tied at 50 with about 9 minutes left but Texas A&M responded with a 12-2.

Rodney Bullock scored 22 points for the 10th-seeded Friars (21-14).

SYRACUSE 57, TCU 52

DETROIT (AP) — Marek Dolezal scored 17 points before fouling out and 11th-seeded Syracuse shut down sixth-seeded TCU for a 57-52 victory in the Midwest Region of the NCAA Tournament on Friday night.

The Orange (22-13) won for the second time in the tournament and advanced to face third-seeded Michigan State on Sunday by holding off the Horned Frogs with another impressive defensive effort. Both teams shot under 40 percent from the field.

TCU (21-12) is still without an NCAA Tournament victory since 1987, when coach Jamie Dixon was a player. This was the school's first appearance since 1998, and it was short-lived.

FLORIDA STATE 67, MISSOURI 54

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mfiondu Kabengele scored 14 points, and Florida State beat No. 8 seed Missouri for the Seminoles' fourth straight NCAA Tournament opening round win.

PJ Savoy had 12 points and Phil Cofer scored 11. A total of 10 Seminoles scored at least two points apiece — by halftime — as they wore out Missouri, which had only eight healthy players available.

This was the first trip to the tournament for every player on the roster for Missouri (20-13). Even with new players and a new coach in Cuonzo Martin, the Tigers head home from their first NCAA trip since 2013 with the program's fourth straight loss in a first round.

BEAVERS: Now prepare for underdog role against No. 3 Tennessee in second round

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deep 3-pointers and contested jumpers to help pull away. Tudor's fourth 3-pointer of the first half gave the Beavers a 46-27 advantage right before the break.

Gulich took over for OSU in the second half, running the break and getting layups to keep the Beavers comfortably ahead. She scored 17 points in the third quarter alone to give OSU a 68-43 lead.

"This game was going to be about adapting, and that was our mindset going in. Nothing would have surprised us today," Oregon State coach Scott Rueck said. "I kind of assumed they would try to take Marie

away early, and I thought we really moved the ball well. I thought that was the key to the game."

Despite a decided crowd advantage encouraging the Lady Toppers to make a run, WKU was never able to threaten the Beavers and suffered its sixth straight first-round NCAA Tournament loss.

Tashia Brown, the Conference USA Player of the Year, finished with 17 points on 7 of 21 shooting to lead WKU while Ivy Brown scored 14.

Gulich was one of four Beavers in double-figures scoring. Tudor had 19 points, Mikayla Pivec had 15 points, eight assists and no turnovers, and Katie McWilliams



Oregon State guard Mikayla Pivec (0) battles for the ball with Western Kentucky forward Dee Givens (4) in the first half of a first-round game in the NCAA college basketball tournament on Friday in Knoxville, Tenn.

finished with 10 points. OSU outrebounded WKU

from the field.

"That's a heckuva team," WKU coach Michelle Clark-Heard said. "They were clicking on all cylinders. They got a big-time post and they are leading the country in 3-point shooting, and they just had a fantastic game."

BIG PICTURE

Oregon State: OSU did what it does best - shoot well from behind the 3-point line, feed Gulich inside and play sound defense - to win a first-round game in the NCAA Tournament for the fifth straight season. Prior to the run of postseason success under coach Scott Rueck, the Beavers hadn't even made the tournament since 1996.

E M O T I O N A L GOODBYE

Tashia and Ivy Brown both fought back tears as they described what it meant to have played at WKU. The Browns helped the Lady Toppers win 108 games, which ranks second all-time in program history for a senior class.

"There is no other place I would rather be and no other coach I would rather be playing for these past four years and no other best friend I would rather be playing with," Ivy Brown said. "It's been really fun and really meaningful."

NEXT UP
Oregon State: The Beavers prepare to face Tennessee for the fifth time in program history. OSU is 0-4 against the Lady Vols.