

NCAA Men's Tournament

Loyola upsets Nevada, keeps run going to Elite Eight

Gonzaga, Kentucky upset in Sweet 16

Associated Press

ATLANTA — With Loyola-Chicago clinging to a one-point lead and only 6.3 seconds remaining, Marques Townes sank a 3-pointer from in front of the Ramblers' bench to continue their improbable NCAA Tournament run.

Townes scored 18 points, including the key 3-pointer, to lead Loyola to a 69-68 win over Nevada in Thursday night's NCAA South Regional semifinal.

"I think Marcus Townes is the best player on the court tonight," said Loyola guard Clayton Custer. "I don't even think it was close, either. I am so happy for him. He is such a good basketball player and such a good person, I am just so happy he dominated the game tonight and he led us."

"This is unbelievable. Feels like a dream."

The win leaves the No. 11th-seeded Ramblers one victory from a Final Four appearance.

Not bad for a program that hadn't been in the Sweet 16 in 33 years.

Townes charged down the court, pumping his fist, as Nevada called a timeout following the crucial 3-pointer. Caleb Martin answered with a 3 for Nevada, but this time the Wolf Pack couldn't extend their string of second-half comebacks in the tournament.

Loyola (31-5) awaits the winner of the Kansas State-Kentucky game in Saturday's regional final.

Martin led Nevada (29-8) with 21 points. Twin brother Cody Martin had 16. Jordan Carolina had 19. The Wolf Pack finally faced a deficit too big to overcome.

Loyola trailed by 12 points, at 20-8, midway through the first half but stormed back to lead 28-24 at halftime. Loyola closed the half with a 20-4 run as Nevada didn't score in the final 7:55 before the break.

After leading a combined 4 minutes, 24 seconds of their first two NCAA Tournament wins, the Wolf Pack didn't trail in the opening 18 minutes of the first half. Even after leading 20-8 and appearing to



Loyola-Chicago guard Marques Townes celebrates victory after a regional semifinal NCAA college basketball game against Nevada, Thursday, March 22, 2018, in Atlanta. Loyola-Chicago won 69-68.

AP Photo/David Goldman

have established command, Nevada found a way to trail at halftime for the sixth straight game.

Following a 4-4 tie, Nevada took the lead with an 8-0 run that included a layup and two free throws by Jordan Caroline.

Loyola pushed the ball in the paint on almost every possession. The Ramblers' first 10 points came on layups.

Freshman Cameron Krutwig, who at 6-foot-9, 260 pounds stood out as the biggest player for either team, had eight of Loyola's first 19 points but went to the bench with two fouls with 6:26 remaining in the half. He picked up his third foul midway through the second half.

Loyola's relentless attack on the basket continued as it stretched its lead, one layup at a time, in the second half.

Following a steal by Townes, Ben Richardson's layup gave the Ramblers their first double-digit lead at 36-26 and took their biggest lead at 40-28.

Nevada's experience in second-half comebacks paid off. After Loyola's layup by Clayton Custer gave the Ramblers their last 10-point lead at 57-47, the Wolf Pack charged back.

Cody Martin's basket started a 12-2 run, and his layup tied the game at 59-all with 4:06 remaining.

FLORIDA STATE 75, GONZAGA 60

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Florida State's upset run in the NCAA Tournament has stretched all the way to the brink of the Final Four.

Terance Mann scored 18 points and the ninth-seeded Seminoles advanced to the Elite Eight for just the third time in school history with a 75-60 victory over fourth-seeded Gonzaga on Thursday night in the West Region semifinal.

C.J. Walker and Braian Angola added nine points for the Seminoles (23-11), who knocked out a third straight higher-seeded opponent in a surprising run out West for a team

that went 9-9 in ACC play and lost its conference tournament opener.

Coolly maintaining a lead down the stretch at Staples Center, Florida State ended Gonzaga's 16-game winning streak and halted the pursuit of a second straight Final Four berth for last year's tournament finalist.

Rui Hachimura scored 16 points and Zach Norvell Jr. added 14 for the Zags (32-5), who hadn't lost since Jan. 18. Already playing without injured forward Killian Tillie, the Zags struggled when forwards Johnathan Williams and Hachimura got into early foul trouble.

After a season of running away from West Coast Conference opponents, Gonzaga played from behind for much of the night at Staples Center, even trailing at halftime for only the sixth time all season.

KANSAS STATE 61, KENTUCKY 58

ATLANTA (AP) — Kentucky's latest group of fabulous freshman is all done.

Gritty Kansas State made sure of that Thursday night.

Demeaned by many pundits as the worst team still alive in the NCAA Tournament, ninth-seeded K-State got 22 points from Xavier Sneed and gave the South Regional one more upset with a 61-58 semifinal victory over Kentucky.

Sneed wasn't around at the end — he was among three Kansas State players who fouled out — but Barry Brown Jr. came through with the shot of the game to seat it for the Big 12 school.

Brown darted into the lane with the shot clock running down, seemingly blowing by every Kentucky player to get to the basket, and banked one in with 18 seconds remaining to put K-State up 60-58.

Kentucky's Quade Green put up an airball from beyond the arc and Kansas State rebounded, drawing a foul that sent Amaad Wainright to the line for two free throws that could've sealed it. He made only one, giving Kentucky one more chance to force overtime.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander got a decent look at the basket, but his shot rimmed out as the horn sounded.

MICHIGAN 99, TEXAS A&M 72

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This one was easy.

After reaching the NCAA Tournament's round of 16 with an improbable buzzer-beater, Michigan shot 62 percent from the floor and routed Texas A&M 99-72 in the West Region semifinals on Thursday night to reach the Elite Eight for the third time in six years.

The Wolverines (31-7) dominated from start to finish, hitting 14 3-pointers — 10 in the first half — and extending their winning streak to 12 games.

Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman scored 24 points, Moe Wagner added 21 points and Charles Matthews had 18 points as third-seeded Michigan had five players in double figures.

The Aggies (22-13) never made a run, going long stretches without a basket in the first half while Michigan was scoring on nearly every trip down the floor.

Tyler Davis led the seventh-seeded Aggies with 24 points.

Minor league baseball players to lose minimum wage protection

Associated Press

Minor league baseball players who make as little as \$5,500 a season would be stripped of the protection of federal minimum wage laws under a provision in government spending legislation expected to be approved by Congress this week.

The "Save America's Pastime Act" is included on page 1,967 of the \$1.3 trillion spending bill and appears to pre-empt a lawsuit filed four years ago in U.S. District Court in San Francisco by three players alleging Major League Baseball and its teams violate the Fair Labor Standards Act and state minimum wage and overtime requirements for a work week they estimated at 50-to-60 hours.

The provision in the legislation would exempt "any employee employed to play

baseball who is compensated pursuant to a contract that provides for a weekly salary for services performed during the league's championship season (but not spring training or the offseason) at a rate that is not less than a weekly salary equal to the minimum wage ... for a workweek of 40 hours, irrespective of the number of hours the employee devotes to baseball related activities."

The House approved the spending bill Thursday and it appears likely to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Donald Trump.

Only major league players are unionized, which sets minimum salaries for players on 40-man rosters: \$545,000 for those in the major leagues this season, \$88,900 for 40-man roster players in the minors signing at least their second big league contract and \$44,500 for 40-man roster players in the

minors signing their first big league contract.

While early selections in the annual draft of players residing in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, and top amateurs from the rest of the world can command signing bonuses as high as about \$8 million under the current rules, monthly salaries for most players on minor league rosters are low: \$1,100 at rookie ball and Class A, \$1,500 at Double-A and \$2,150 at Triple-A. Players also receive a \$25 per diem on the road and dinner at the ballpark following games.

The lawsuit has been certified as a class action for minor leaguers who played in a California league, instructional league or extended spring training since February 2011, but MLB has asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn that decision, which has delayed the case.

BIG RIVER: Hermiston boys put together a third place finish

Continued from 1B

she teed off to when she entered the clubhouse, her heart was racing.

"I'm not going to lie. My nerves were going," George said. "I'm just happy I got the dub."

Behind George was Rylee Harris and McKenzie McCleod, who both finished with a 92 for a two-way tie for third place.

Fellow Buckaroo Jared Geier beat out the rest of the boys field to stand atop the leader board with a 75, and led the boys team to a victory.

Geier opened his round with a double bogey on the par-3 second hole and a bogey on the par-5 fifth hole, but recovered well by making par in the following holes leading up to the turn. On the back nine, Geier continued his solid round and behind seven pars beat The Dalles No. 1 golfer by one stroke.

"Jared was very consistent around the greens and did a great job putting today with only 27 putts on 18 holes," head coach Steve Utter said. "With the wind blowing a lot it was pretty challenging conditions."

The Bucks edged out La Grande by just four strokes. Trevor Reyes and Seth Wood both shot an 92 for Pendleton and Sawyer Powell finished with the fourth lowest score, a 94.

Kaden Murphy rounded out Pendleton's squad with a 99.

The Hermiston boys team finished third with Kaleb Crafton scoring the lowest round (89). A triple bogey stained Crafton's card on the front nine, but he finished strong with three pars on the final six holes.

Blue Blackhurst followed with a 92 and then Conner Scott (94), Garret McClannahan (95) and Cody Thacker (99).

UP NEXT

Both the Pendleton and Hermiston boys teams will have a quick turnaround and travel to The Dalles tomorrow, and both girls teams will play again on April 2 when they face each other in Pendleton.

Contact Alexis at amansanarez@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4542. Follow her on Twitter @almansanarez.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL

Friday
Umatilla vs. Bonanza (at John Day), Noon
Union at Heppner (DH), 1 p.m.
Lakeridge at Hermiston, 3 p.m.
Pendleton at Walla Walla (WA), 3 p.m.
Irrigon at Tri Cities Prep (WA), 3 p.m.
Riverside at White Salmon (WA), 4 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Friday
Tri Cities Prep (WA) at Irrigon, 3 p.m.
Vernonia at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.
Pasco (WA) at Hermiston, 4 p.m.
Riverside at Stevenson (WA), 4 p.m.

PREP TRACK AND FIELD

Saturday
Mac-Hi at Colfax (WA), 11 a.m.

PREP TENNIS

Friday
Pasco (WA) at Hermiston, 3:30 p.m.
Helix at Riverside, 3:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Stanfield, 3:30 p.m.

PREP LACROSSE

Saturday
Hermiston at Wenatchee (WA), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Clark College at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
BMCC at Walla Walla CC (DH), 2 p.m.

COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Saturday
EOU at Northwest Nazarene (ID), all day

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	53	19	736	—
x-Boston	48	23	676	4½
Philadelphia	41	30	577	11½
New York	26	46	361	27
Brooklyn	23	49	319	30

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	40	31	563	—
Miami	39	33	542	1½
Charlotte	32	41	438	9
Orlando	21	51	292	19½
Atlanta	21	51	292	19½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	42	29	592	—
Indiana	41	31	569	1½
Milwaukee	37	34	521	5
Detroit	32	40	444	10½
Chicago	24	47	338	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Houston	58	14	806	—
New Orleans	43	30	589	15½
San Antonio	42	30	583	16
Dallas	22	50	306	36
Memphis	19	53	264	39

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	44	27	620	—
Oklahoma City	43	30	589	2
Minnesota	41	31	569	3½
Utah	41	31	569	3½
Denver	39	33	542	5½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Golden State	53	18	746	—
L.A. Clippers	38	33	535	15
L.A. Lakers	31	40	437	22
Sacramento	24	49	329	30
Phoenix	19	53	264	34½

Thursday's Games

Charlotte 140, Memphis 79
Philadelphia 118, Orlando 98

Houston 100, Detroit 96, OT
New Orleans 128, L.A. Lakers 125
Utah 119, Dallas 112
Sacramento 105, Atlanta 90

Friday's Games

Denver at Washington, 4 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Brooklyn at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Minnesota at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Milwaukee at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Boston at Portland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Tournament

EAST REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals
At TD Garden, Boston

Friday
#1 Villanova (32-4) vs. #5 West Virginia (26-10), 4:27 p.m. (TBS)

#2 Purdue (30-6) vs. #3 Texas Tech (26-9), 6:57 p.m. (TBS)

SOUTH REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals
At Philips Arena, Atlanta

Thursday
#11 Loyola-Chicago 69, #7 Nevada 68
#9 Kansas State 61, #5 Kentucky 58

Regional Championship

Saturday
Loyola of Chicago (31-5) vs. Kansas State (25-11), 3 p.m. (TBS)

#3 Michigan 99, #7 Texas A&M 72
#9 Florida State 75, #4 Gonzaga 60

Regional Championship

Saturday
Michigan (31-7) vs. Florida State (23-11), 5:49 p.m. (TBS)

NCAA Women's Tournament

ALBANY REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals
Saturday
At Albany, N.Y.

#2 South Carolina (28-6) vs. #11 Buffalo (29-5), 8:30 a.m. (ESPN)

#1 UConn (34-0) vs. #5 Duke (24-8), 10:30 a.m. (ESPN)

SPOKANE REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals

Saturday
At Spokane, Wash.

#1 Notre Dame (31-3) vs. #4 Texas A&M (26-9), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

#2 Oregon (32-4) vs. #11 Central Michigan (30-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals

Friday
At Kansas City, Mo.

#4 N.C. State (26-8) vs. #1 Mississippi State (34-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

#3 UCLA (26-7) vs. #2 Texas (28-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

LEXINGTON REGIONAL

Regional Semifinals

Friday
At Lexington, Ky.

#6 Oregon State (25-7) vs. #2 Baylor (33-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

#1 Louisville (34-2) vs. #4 Stanford (24-10), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Tampa Bay	74	51	19	4	106	271	211
x-Boston	72	45	17	10	100	240	186
Toronto	74	44	23	7	95	251	210
Florida	72	37	28	7	81	219	222
Detroit	74	27	36	11	65	189	229
Montreal	74	26	36	12	64	185	237
Ottawa	74	26	36	11	63	201	257
Buffalo	73	23	38	12	58	173	240

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	74	43	24	7	93	230	