

# Oregon State knocks off Baylor to reach Elite Eight

By GARY B. GRAVES  
Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Aggressive rebounding and timely baskets certainly helped sixth-seeded Oregon State against No. 2 seed Baylor.

More impressive was the Beavers' poise throughout as they handed the Lady Bears their first loss since November and earned a second Elite Eight appearance in three seasons.

Marie Gulich had 26 points, Kat Tudor added 16 and Oregon State shot 58 percent in the second half to upset Baylor 72-67 on Friday night in the women's NCAA Tournament Lexington Region semifinal. The Beavers will face Louisville on Sunday for a spot in the Final Four.

Two years after upsetting Baylor in the Dallas Region final, Oregon State (26-7) followed up with a steady performance to improve to 4-0 all-time against Baylor while ending its 30-game winning streak. The Beavers had to withstand nine consecutive points by Alexis Morris that got the Lady Bears (33-2) to 69-67 with 42 seconds remaining before Katie McWilliams' left-corner 3-pointer 30 seconds later provided a five-point edge.

That pivotal shot typified a night



Oregon State's Mikayla Pivec, Marie Gulich and Kat Tudor, from left, celebrate after Oregon State upset Baylor in an NCAA women's basketball tournament regional semifinal Friday in Lexington, Ky.

AP Photo/James Crisp

in which OSU stuck with the game plan and didn't flinch for the brief times it trailed.

"When you play a team like Baylor, part of the tempo issue is you can't turn it over," Beavers coach Scott Rueck said. "You can't hand them possessions by either a turnover or taking a quick, poor shot."

"I thought we took a couple early in the first quarter, but overall they just know how to win, and that leads to possessions like that against a great defense and a great offense."

Morris missed two 3s and Natalie Chou another in the final 10 seconds for Baylor, which shot just 39 percent and was edged 38-37 on

the glass.

Gulich made 10 of 17 from the field and had nine rebounds for OSU, which shot 45 percent in winning for the 10 time in 11 contests. Tudor was 5 of 10 shooting and 4 of 8 from long range as the Beavers made 9 of 20 from behind the arc.

Kalani Brown had 19 points

and 10 rebounds for Baylor, which was outscored in all but the second quarter in losing for the first time since falling 68-62 at UCLA in November.

### BIG PICTURE

Oregon State: The Beavers weren't intimidated by Baylor's winning streak or size, working around the latter with crisp passing for good looks and controlling the boards throughout. Gulich thrived in both cases, hitting mid-range shots and the boards. Perimeter shooting was key in spreading Baylor's defense as Tudor and Corosdale combined for seven 3-pointers on 13 attempts. McWilliams' late 3 was huge.

"It adjusted as the game went on," Tudor said of the shooting strategy. "Everybody found shooters so great today and it just worked out."

### POSTSEASON ROLL

Gulich's scoring effort comes just two games after she posted 29 points in a first-round win over Western Kentucky, the second-highest output in an NCAA Tournament game in program history. Most importantly for the 6-5 German was outperforming Brown as OSU needed.

"Our scouting report said just attack her, and that was my plan today," Gulich said. "I think I just used my quickness really well against her. She's really tall and she's strong, but I think I could get around her and have the shots over her. Defensively, my goal was just to keep her off the block, to take away the left hand and not make it easy on her."

# Celtics rally in fourth to beat Trail Blazers

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Marcus Morris scored 30 points and the short-handed Boston Celtics beat the Trail Blazers 105-100 on Friday night to deal Portland its second straight loss following a 13-game winning streak.

Terry Rozier added 16 points for the Celtics, who are second in the Eastern Conference behind Toronto but have had to deal with recent injuries to Kyrie Irving and Jaylen Brown.

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each finished with 26 points for the Blazers, who are third in the West behind the Rockets and the Warriors.

The Blazers led by as many as 12 points in the third quarter, but Boston closed within three points at 83-80 on Shane Larkin's pull-up jumper. The Celtics didn't pull in front until Morris' 3-pointer made it 85-84 with 6:30 to go.

McCollum went on a personal 5-0 run with a layup, free throw and pull-up jumper to give a 91-87 lead back to the Blazers, but Al Horford answered with a 3-pointer.

Jayson Tatum's layup and Morris' 3-pointer gave the Celtics a 101-96 lead with 54.8 seconds to go. Lillard had a pair of free throws, but Tatum dunked to make it 103-98.

McCollum's jumper got Portland within three at 103-100 with 28 seconds left. After a scramble, Rozier made two free throws with 3.2 seconds left. Lillard's 3-point attempt for Portland at the buzzer was off.

Portland was coming off a 115-111 loss to the first-place Rockets, which snapped the Blazers' long winning streak that helped push them up the standings.

Irving missed his fifth game with a left knee injury. He is scheduled to have a minimally invasive procedure on the knee on Saturday. There is no



Boston Celtics forward Marcus Morris drives to the basket in front of Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland on Friday.

AP Photo/Steve Dykes

timetable for his return. Irving, who celebrated his 26th birthday on Friday, was averaging 24.4 points, 5.1 assists and 3.8 rebounds.

He was one of several key sidelined players for Boston, which is at Portland on Friday. He joins Jaylen Brown (concussion protocol), Marcus Smart (thumb surgery), Daniel Theis (knee surgery, out for season) and Gordon Hayward (ankle surgery rehab). Brown missed his sixth game.

Portland's Shabazz Napier was a late scratch because of a left big toe injury.

The Blazers went up 33-25 on McCollum's 3-pointer in the first half, but Morris' layup pulled Boston even at 42. Maurice Harkless dunked to put the Blazers back in front and Lillard closed the half with a layup for a 52-47 lead.

McCollum dunked in the third quarter to give Portland a 64-53 lead, its largest to that point.

The Celtics were coming off a 100-99 win at home over Oklahoma City in which Morris made a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left for the victory.

Boston also won the only other

meeting between the teams this season. Horford hit a fadeaway to edge the Blazers 97-96 early last month.

### TIP INS:

Celtics: Coach Brad Stevens said Brown had participated in practice and could play Sunday in Sacramento. ... Stevens said he has not been involved in discussions to bring in another player because of the injuries. "I think that there is the possibility of applying for an exception again because of all the knee injuries and the length of injuries," Stevens said. "I don't know where we are with that, and I haven't talked to them about any particulars."

Trail Blazers: Lillard was awaiting the birth of his first child. Lillard's girlfriend was due Monday. Complicating matters was Portland's three-game road trip starting Sunday at Oklahoma City. The team was expected to depart on Saturday. Coach Terry Stotts said the team would help Lillard in any way he needed.

### UP NEXT:

Celtics: play at the Sacramento Kings on Sunday.

Blazers: visit the Thunder on Sunday.

### NCAA Men's Tournament

# Kansas avoids upset, defeats Clemson

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — No crazy comeback story here.

Top-seeded Kansas brought at least a temporary halt to the insanity this March, withstanding a wild comeback from fifth-seeded Clemson for a too-close-for-comfort, 80-76 victory on Friday.

Malik Newman led the Jayhawks (30-7) with 17 points in a one-time runaway that got much closer and, quite frankly, won't mean much if KU can't finish the job in the Midwest Region final Sunday.

Gabe DeVoe had a career-high 31 for Clemson (25-10), which couldn't replicate the magic it showed in beating Auburn by 31 to reach its first Sweet 16 in 21 years.

### DUKE 69, SYRACUSE 65

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Duke found a way to crack Syracuse's zone defense, and now the Blue Devils are back in the Elite Eight for the first time since the 2015 team won it all.

Freshman Marvin Bagley III turned in a giant second-half effort, and second-seeded Duke held off the 11th-seeded Orange in a 69-65 chess match of a victory in the Midwest Region semifinals Friday night.

Bagley scored 13 of his 22 points and had all eight of his rebounds in the second half for the Blue Devils (29-7). Seven of those boards were on the offensive end and led to second-chance baskets.

But Syracuse (23-14) stayed in it until the end. Not until Gary Trent Jr., made two free throws with 6.3 seconds left was this game sealed.

Battle led the Orange with

19 points.

### TEXAS TECH 78, PURDUE 65

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Beard has done it to Purdue again.

The Texas Tech coach knocked the Boilermakers out of the NCAA Tournament for the second time in three years, this time leading the third-seeded Red Raiders to a 78-65 victory in the Sweet 16. Keenan Evans scored 12 of his 16 points in the second half, when Texas Tech scored 11 straight points to pull away.

The Red Raiders (27-9) will play No. 1 seed Villanova on Sunday in the East regional final for a spot in the Final Four. The Wildcats advanced earlier Friday night with a 90-78 victory over West Virginia.

No. 2 seed Purdue (30-7) was hoping to join Villanova in the Elite Eight, getting 30 points from Carsen Edwards and 12 points and 13 rebounds from Vincent Edwards.

### VILLANOVA 90, WEST VIRGINIA 78

BOSTON (AP) — Top-seeded Villanova beat the press of West Virginia and advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

Jalen Brunson scored 27 points to lead the Wildcats to a 90-78 victory over fifth-seeded West Virginia.

Omari Spellman scored 18 with eight rebounds for Villanova, which overcame Press Virginia's well-known defense by hitting 13 of 24 shots from 3-point range.

Daxter Miles Jr. scored 16 for the Mountaineers before fouling out with just over two minutes left. Sagaba Konate added 12 points with nine rebounds.

## SCOREBOARD

Local slate: PREP BASEBALL, PREP SOFTBALL, COLLEGE SOFTBALL, COLLEGETRACK & FIELD, Basketball (NBA, WNBA), Soccer (MLS), Auto Racing (NASCAR Cup Series), Hockey (NHL)