

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

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MEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP | RECAP

Villanova takes title, 79-62 over Michigan

'Nova's DiVincenzo came off the bench to score 31 points

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — They chanted his name from the cheap seats: "Di-Vin-cen-zo, Di-Vin-cen-zo." By the time Donte DiVincenzo was done doing his damage, Villanova had another title and college basketball had its newest star.

The redhead kid with the nickname Big Ragu came off the bench to score 31 points Monday and lift 'Nova to another blowout tournament victory — this time 79-62 over Michigan for its second title in three seasons.

The sophomore guard had 12 points and an assist during a first-half run to

help the Wildcats (36-4) pull ahead, then scored nine straight for Villanova midway through the second to put the game away. He capped it with a 3-pointer from a step behind the arc that he celebrated with a knowing wink over to TV announcers Jim Nantz and Bill Raftery on the sideline.

Villanova won all six games by double digits over this tournament run, joining Michigan State (2000), Duke (2001) and North Carolina (2009) in that rare air.

"I thought we played our best game in the championship game," coach Jay Wright said.

The last team to win its two Final Four games by 16 or more: UCLA in 1968. During the dynasty.

One key question: Does Wright's team belong on the list of the best of all-time?

Maybe so, considering the way Villanova dismantled everyone in front of it in a tournament that was dripping with upsets, underdogs and at least the appearance of parity.

Maybe so, considering the Wildcats won in seemingly every way imaginable. This victory came two nights after they set a Final Four record with 18 3-pointers, and one week after they relied more on defense in a win over Texas Tech in the Elite Eight.

That debate's for later.

DiVincenzo squashed any questions about this game with a 10-for-15 shooting night — 5 for 7 from 3 — that was really better than that, making him an easy winner for most outstanding player in the Final Four.



AP Photo/Chris Steppig, NCAA Photos Pool
Villanova's Donte DiVincenzo (10) goes up for a shot past Michigan's Charles Matthews (1) during the second half in Monday's championship game in San Antonio.

See FINAL FOUR/3B



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton junior Megan George chips out of a sand trap on the ninth green on Monday at the Wildhorse Invitational in Mission.

Golfers challenged at Wildhorse Invite

High winds, chilly temperatures made for challenging round

By **ERIC SINGER**
East Oregonian

MISSION — Sixty-eight golfers from 10 different high schools descended on Wildhorse Resort Golf Course on Monday afternoon for the annual Wildhorse Invite, and all 68 were put to the test as constant 20 mph winds and chilly temperatures presented a big challenge all day long.

"It can be really difficult," Pendleton's Jared Geier said of the weather. "If it gets real windy up here the ball is moving all over the place, especially on the greens, and it's hard to keep it in play." Geier added that the conditions challenged the golfers the most on the putting greens, describing them as "unbelievably fast,"

for the round.

Even in the conditions, and while being bundled up in layers of sweatshirts and jackets to keep warm, some kids were still able to put together some solid rounds, including Geier. The Pendleton senior was the top golfer for the Buckaroo boys on the day, finishing plus-7 for the round with a 79 which was good enough to bring home a medal with a fifth place finish. His 79 put him into a tie with Hanford's Jackson Creer, but Creer took fourth on a scorecard tiebreaker.

"It wasn't too bad," Geier said of his round. "I definitely felt like I could've improved, but it's in the 70s so it's still good. I'll take that."

See INVITE/2B



Pendleton senior Trevor Reyes watches his putt on the 16th green Monday at the Wildhorse Invitational in Mission.

Prep roundup

Pendleton track travels to Tri-Cities, places eighth

East Oregonian

RICHLAND — On Saturday, the Pendleton track and field team started its day early, leaving the high school at 7:30 a.m. sharp to make the trip up to Hanford High, where the Buckaroos competed in the Clay Lewis Invite.

Joining Pendleton in Washington were the likes of Chiawana, Kamiakin, Kennewick, Pasco, and host school Hanford among others, and both the Buckaroo boys (36.5 points) and girls (28) teams finished in eighth place.

On the girls side, Jaiden Lemberger and Emanuela Casadei had big performances with some of Pendleton's best finishes of the meet. Lemberger turned in a fourth place finish in the 100-meter hurdles with a new personal best time of 16.68. Lemberger also fared well in her field events, finishing in a three-way tie for fourth place in the high jump after clearing 4-08, and then finished second in the long jump with a new personal best of 15-03.75.

Casadei dominated her competition in the javelin throw, winning first place with a new personal record of 141-04 — a good 30 feet ahead of second place. Lemberger joined Casadei in the event and finished

See ROUNDUP/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Jaiden Lemberger, of Pendleton, competes in the 100-meter hurdles Saturday at the Clay Lewis Invite. Lemberger's time of 16.68 earned her fourth place.

Sports shorts

Canucks' Sedin twins to retire after this season, their 17th

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Vancouver Canucks forwards Henrik and Daniel Sedin announced they will retire at the end of the season.

The 37-year-old twins disclosed their plans Monday in a letter on the team's website before addressing media later.

The Sedins are in their 17th season in the NHL, all with Vancouver. They led the Canucks to within one game of winning the 2011 Stanley Cup.

"There's been a lot of talk," Henrik Sedin said at Rogers Arena. "We felt the longer the season went, it became clearer to us this was going to be our last year."

"It's a happy day for all of us," Daniel Sedin added. "We're really comfortable where we're at."



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1994 — The St. Louis Cardinals beat the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 in the first Sunday night opener, sending baseball into a new era with three divisions and a new playoff format.

2002 — Utah sets an NBA record by clinching its 17th straight winning season after defeating the Los Angeles Clippers 99-87.

2017 — Justin Jackson delivers the go-ahead three-point play and North Carolina scores the last eight points for a 71-65 win over Gonzaga and an NCAA title that eluded the Tar Heels last year.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com