

Top-seeded Oregon rolls past Arizona State at WCWS

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — It wasn't what Oregon coach Mike White expected, but he'll take it. Shannon Rhodes' three-run homer in the sixth inning helped top-seeded Oregon defeat Arizona State 11-6 on Thursday at the Women's College World Series.

White figured the game would be about pitching, but it was high scoring from the start. Oregon dominated Giselle "G" Juarez, Arizona State's All-American pitcher. Juarez pitched a complete game, but she gave up 14 hits and 10 earned runs.

Oregon pitcher Miranda Elish recovered from a rough start against the Ducks' Pac-12 rival and increased her career record to 37-1. She gave up five runs and six hits in five innings, and improved to 25-1 this season.

"If you had told me that's going to be 17 runs scored off those two pitching staffs to start the game, I'd have thought you were crazy," White said. "It was definitely a dogfight."

Oregon (53-8) will play Washington on Friday. Arizona State (48-12) faces two-time defending champion Oklahoma on Saturday in an elimination game.

White chose to start Elish, a second-team NFCA All-American, over first-team All-American Megan Kleist. That appeared to backfire early — DeNae Chatman homered to put Arizona State up 2-0 in the first inning. Oregon bounced right back

with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

"It was awesome to get the start, and my offense had my back the whole entire time," Elish said. "I gave up a two-run home run to start off the game, and they (the offense) punched ASU right back and put up two runs. So definitely, our offense really saved us today."

Oregon's Lauren Burke tripled and knocked in three runs in the third to put Oregon up 5-2.

Arizona State's Morgan Howe hit a three-run homer in the fifth to cut the Ducks' lead to 6-5. Oregon responded with two runs in the fifth and the Rhodes homer in the sixth. Kleist pitched two innings to get the save.

Oregon won two of three games from the Sun Devils during the regular season. In this one, Arizona State committed two errors and made some other uncharacteristic mistakes.

"We've seen each other now, this is our fourth game against each other, so it's going to be a matter of who minimizes the mistakes and takes advantage of opportunities, and Oregon was able to come out on top on that," Arizona State coach Trisha Ford said.

Oregon is a regular at the WCWS, while the Sun Devils are here for the first time since 2013. Ford said inexperience was a factor.

"I think the speed of the game got to us a little bit today," Ford said. "You know, we'll be ready to go for our next game, but very proud of their effort and very proud of their fight."



Nate Billings/The Oklahoman via AP

Oregon's Shannon Rhodes watches a three-run home run in the top of the sixth inning against Arizona State in the first game of the NCAA softball Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City.

Beavers baseball take pride in defense

By **BOB LUNDEBERG**
The Gazette-Times

From top to bottom, the Oregon State batting order is without a discernible weakness.

The same can be said about the team's defense.

Entering this weekend's Corvallis Regional, the Beavers are second in the Pac-12 and tied for 11th nationally with a fielding percentage of .979. Top-seeded OSU (44-10-1) has committed just two errors in its last 11 games heading into Friday's 7 p.m. home regional opener against No. 4 Northwestern State (37-22).

"It starts with our individual talents," junior shortstop Cadyn Grenier said. "Everybody is here because we are DI baseball players and we are some of the best in the country, but it also comes from the top. (The coaches) really put an emphasis on defense, and we take that to heart and try to be the best defensive team we can. Our pitchers go out and if they throw

strikes and get us the ball, we're going to make sure we take care of it and get outs."

Grenier, a candidate to win Pac-12 defensive player of the year, has committed just six errors in 55 starts. Second baseman Nick Madrigal, the league's reigning defensive player of the year, doesn't have an error this season while third baseman Michael Gretler (.972 fielding percentage) and Zak Taylor (.990) at first are corner anchors.

After playing through back and shoulder soreness earlier this spring, catcher Adley Rutschman appears to be close to 100 percent. Outfield regulars Trevor Larnach, Steven Kwan, Kyle Nobach and Jack Anderson are all plus defenders.

"I think there's a passion and camaraderie with the team that they want to play with one another," coach Pat Casey said. "That's a special thing and a hard thing to do, and I think they do it all the time."

Warriors withstand James' 51 points to win NBA Finals Game 1

By **JANIE MCCAULEY**
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors somehow withstood LeBron James' latest brilliance on the NBA Finals stage.

A costly blunder by J.R. Smith and a disputed foul call involving James himself sure helped.

Stephen Curry scored 29 points and the Warriors capitalized on Smith's mistake that sent the game into overtime, withstanding a 51-point performance by James to beat Cleveland 124-114 in Game 1 on Thursday night.

The game nearly over, James jawed with both Curry and Klay Thompson, then Tristan Thompson and Draymond Green tangled moments later and made contact. After replay review, Tristan Thompson received a Flagrant 2 foul and ejection with 2.6 seconds left.

James was in utter disbelief as regulation ended in stunning fashion: George Hill made the first of two free throws with 4.7 seconds left after being fouled by Klay Thompson, but when Smith secured the rebound of the second, he dribbled back toward halfcourt instead of shooting, apparently thinking the Cavs had a lead.

"He thought it was over. He thought we were up one," coach Tyronn Lue said.

Instead, OT.

And why not? Both these teams were pushed to their limits in seven-game conference finals they each had to win on the road.

"I can't talk about a situation that way because I do some dumb stuff on the court," Golden State's Kevin Durant said of how the fourth quarter finished. "I don't know what was going through J.R.'s head. He made a great rebound and gave them an opportunity to win the basketball game."

Game 2 is Sunday night back at Oracle Arena, where the Warriors have won 18 of their last 19 postseason



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) is congratulated by teammates after scoring against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the first half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., on Thursday.

games. In 2015, when the Golden State beat the Cavs to capture the franchise's first title in 40 years, the first two games of the series went to OT — Golden State winning the opener and Cleveland Game 2.

James shot 19 for 32 to go with eight assists and eight rebounds in the opener of his eighth straight NBA Finals and ninth overall, as well as Cavs-Warriors Take IV. James notched his eighth 40-point game during this playoff run to tie Hall of Famer Jerry West's feat in 1965 for most in a single postseason.

James drove past Curry for a three-point play with 50 seconds remaining in the fourth. But James was given a foul following a review with 36.4 seconds left and Durant converted a pair of free throws to tie it at 104.

The call had initially been a charge on 2017 finals MVP Durant and James protested the change — while KD said afterward he thought it was the right decision because "I knew he was late on the drive and I knew I had my man beat and he came over a little late."

Rules allow officials to go to replay in the final 2 minutes of regulation or in overtime to determine if a

defender draw a charge was in the restricted area. When doing so, they can view if the defender was in a legal guarding position, and they decided James wasn't and changed their original call.

Lue was disgusted, saying of the overturned call: "It's never been done, ever in the history of the game."

"It was great, it was epic and he did enough to carry this team to a victory," Lue said. "...To do what he did tonight and to come up robbed, it's just not right."

Durant struggled with his shot but wound up with 26 points on 8-for-22 shooting and nine rebounds.

Golden State got a serious scare when Thompson went down after Smith slid hard into the Splash Brother's left leg at the 6:17 mark of the first quarter. Thompson lay grimacing in pain then went to the locker room with what was called a bruised left leg that needed re-taping. He returned for the start of the second quarter to huge roars from the yellow-clad sellout crowd and scored 24 points. He and Curry each connected on five 3s.

Curry drained one of those way-out-there 3-pointers that have been hard to come by this postseason to beat the halftime buzzer and

Golden State shot 13 for 36 from deep.

Kevin Love returned from a concussion to provide a big boost for Cleveland with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

The Warriors missed the defensive presence of 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala, who missed his fifth straight postseason game dealing with a bone bruise in his left knee.

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: James has 109 career 30-point games in the playoffs, tying Michael Jordan for most ever. ... Cleveland held a 19-4 advantage on the offensive glass, getting seven offensive rebounds in the first half to the Warriors' none. ... James' first quarter: 4 for 4 with a 3-pointer, 12 points, three assists, a steal and turnover.

Warriors: Curry's early three-point play gave him the free throw he needed for 379 to pass Rick Barry (378) for first place on the Warriors' career list. ... With his 293rd career 3 in the playoffs, made in the second quarter, Thompson passed Kobe Bryant (292) for sixth place on the NBA's list for postseason 3s. ... Kevon Looney started again in place of Iguodala, but coach Steve Kerr went to McGee after the break.

SCOREBOARD

Prep slate

OSAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
At Volcanoes Stadium, Keizer

Friday
3A FINAL
No. 4 La Pine vs. No. 10 Horizon Christian, 1:30 p.m.

2A/1A FINAL
No. 1 Knappa vs. No. 3 Pilot Rock, 5 p.m.

Saturday
6A FINAL
No. 1 Westview vs. No. 3 Clackamas, 5 p.m.

5A FINAL
No. 1 Crescent Valley vs. No. 3 Crater, 1:30 p.m.

4A FINAL
No. 3 La Grande vs. No. 4 Gladstone, 10 a.m.

OSAA SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
At OSU Softball Complex, Corvallis

Friday
2A/1A FINAL
No. 2 Kennedy vs. No. 4 Pilot Rock, 1 p.m.

3A FINAL
No. 1 Dayton vs. No. 3 Rainier, 4 p.m.

Saturday
5A FINAL
No. 1 Pendleton vs. No. 6 Putnam, 10 a.m.

6A FINAL
No. 1 Tualatin vs. No. 2 Clackamas, 1 p.m.

4A FINAL
No. 1 La Grande vs. No. 3 Henley, 4 p.m.

Basketball

NBA FINALS
Golden State 1, Cleveland 0
Thursday: Golden State 124, Cleveland 114

Sunday: Cleveland at Golden State, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, June 6: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Friday, June 8: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

WNBA
Thursday's Games
Seattle 101, Las Vegas 74

Friday's Games
Phoenix at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Connecticut at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Washington at Las Vegas, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL
STANLEY CUP FINALS

Vegas 1, Washington 1
Monday: Vegas 6, Washington 4
Wednesday: Washington 3, Vegas 2
Saturday: Vegas at Washington, 5 p.m.
Monday, June 4: Vegas at Washington, 5 p.m.
Thursday, June 7: Washington at Vegas, 5 p.m.

Baseball

MLB
Thursday's Games
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, p.p.d.
Detroit 6, L.A. Angels 2
Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 3
Cleveland 9, Minnesota 8
Houston 4, Boston 2
Seattle 6, Texas 1

Friday's Games
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 6-2) at Baltimore (Gausman 3-4), 4:05 p.m.
Toronto (Garcia 2-3) at Detroit (Hardy 1-0), 4:10 p.m.
Boston (Sale 5-2) at Houston (Cole 5-1), 5:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 6-3) at Minnesota (Berrios 5-5), 5:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 4-3) at Chicago White Sox (Santiago 1-2), 5:10 p.m.
Oakland (Montas 1-0) at Kansas City (Kennedy 1-5), 5:15 p.m.
Texas (Colon 2-2) at L.A. Angels (Barria 4-1), 7:07 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Romo 1-1) at Seattle (Leake 5-3), 7:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Mets 1
St. Louis 10, Pittsburgh 8
Atlanta 4, Washington 2
Philadelphia 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Diego 8, Miami 3

Friday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Chatwood 3-4) at N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 2-4), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Strasburg 6-4) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 4-3), 4:35 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 4-3) at Chicago White Sox (Santiago 1-2), 5:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Taillon 2-4) at St. Louis (Mikolas 6-0), 5:15 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Santana 0-0) at Colorado (Anderson 3-1), 5:40 p.m.
Miami (Hernandez 0-2) at Arizona (Buchholz 0-1), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Mahle 3-6) at San Diego (Lockett 0-0), 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-3) at San Francisco (Stratton 6-3), 7:15 p.m.

Double Elimination; x-if necessary

CHAPEL HILL REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — N.C. A&T (32-23) at North Carolina (38-18), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — Purdue (37-19) vs. Houston (36-23), 4 p.m.

RALIGH REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Auburn (39-21) vs. Northeastern (36-19), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — Army (36-22) at N.C. State (40-16), 4 p.m.

GREENVILLE REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — South Carolina (33-24) vs. Ohio State (36-22), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — UNC Wilmington (37-21) at East Carolina (43-16), 4 p.m.

CLEMISON REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Vanderbilt (31-25) vs. St. John's (39-15), 9 a.m.
Game 2 — Morehead State (37-24) at Clemson (45-14), 3 p.m.

CONWAY (S.C.) REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — UConn (35-20-1) vs. Washington (30-23), 9 a.m.
Game 2 — LIU Brooklyn (31-24) at Coastal Carolina (42-17), 3 p.m.

ATHENS REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Duke (40-15) vs. Troy (41-19), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — Campbell (35-24) at Georgia (37-19), 4:30 p.m.

TALLAHASSEE REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Mississippi State (31-25) vs. Oklahoma (36-23), 9 a.m.
Game 2 — Samford (36-24) at Florida State (43-17), 4 p.m.

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Jacksonville (39-19) vs. FAU (40-17), 9 a.m.
Game 2 — Columbia (20-28) at Florida (42-17), 3:30 p.m.

DELAND REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — South Florida (35-20) vs. Oklahoma State (29-24), 10 a.m.
Game 2 — Hartford (26-29) at Stetson (45-11), 4 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — UCLA (36-19) vs. Gonzaga (32-22), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — Canisius (35-20) at Minnesota (41-13), 5 p.m.

OXFORD REGIONAL
Friday's Games

Game 1 — Tennessee Tech (48-9) vs. Missouri State (39-15), Noon
Game 2 — Saint Louis (38-18) at Mississippi (46-15), 4:30 p.m.

FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Oral Roberts (38-18) at Arkansas (39-18), Noon
Game 2 — Southern Miss. (43-16) vs. Dallas Baptist (40-19), 5 p.m.

LUBBOCK REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — New Mexico State (40-20) at Texas Tech (39-17), 11 a.m.
Game 2 — Louisville (43-17) vs. Kent State (39-16), 4 p.m.

AUSTIN REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Indiana (38-17) vs. Texas A&M (39-20), 2 p.m.
Game 2 — Texas Southern (27-26) at Texas (37-20), 6 p.m.

CORVALLIS REGIONAL
At Goss Stadium at Coleman Field, Corvallis, Ore.

Friday's Games
Game 1 — LSU (37-25) vs. San Diego State (39-20), 1 p.m.
Game 2 — Northwestern St (37-22) at Oregon State (44-10-1), 7:30 p.m.

STANFORD REGIONAL
Friday's Games
Game 1 — Baylor (36-19) vs. Cal State Fullerton (32-23), 2 p.m.
Game 2 — Wright State (39-15) at Stanford (44-10), 7 p.m.

Softball

NCAA Women's College World Series
At ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, Oklahoma City

Thursday's Games
Game 1 — Oregon 11, Arizona State 6
Game 2 — Washington 2, Oklahoma 0
Game 3 — Florida 11, Georgia 3
Game 4 — UCLA (56-5) vs. Florida State (52-11), 6:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Game 5 — Oregon (53-8) vs. Washington (50-8), 4 p.m.
Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Game 7 — Arizona St (48-12) vs. Oklahoma (55-4), 9 a.m.
Game 8 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 11:30 a.m.
Game 9 — Game 6 loser vs. Game 7 winner, 4 p.m.
Game 10 — Game 5 loser vs. Game 8 winner, 6:30 p.m.

BRIEFLY

Ione 8th grader to play on All-State football team

Taylor Rollins, an 8th grader from Ione, was selected to compete in the inaugural Oregon Middle School All-State Football game. The game will take place June 30 at the University of Oregon. Kickoff has yet to be determined. Attendance is free to the public, and the event is intended to raise awareness and support for youth in and in need of

foster care.

The teams will feature players from Portland and surrounding areas as well as athletes from the rest of the state. The teams will be Team Metro and Team Oregon with Rollins playing for Team Oregon donning the No. 45. The players are invited to stay in dorms at the university and practice at the Ducks' facilities and hear from guest speakers including Michael Oher of the Carolina Panthers. For more information visit: <http://www.oregonallstategame.com/> or

the event Facebook page: OregonAllStateGame.

Saturday marks Oregon Outdoor Recreation Day

Established in 2017, June 2 is Oregon Outdoor Recreation Day where all Oregonians are encouraged to participate in various activities including ones hosted by Oregon Outdoors, a new coalition with representatives from the outdoor recreation industry, non-profit recreation

groups and conservation organizations.

The events range from the 8th Annual Run To The Ruts 5K/10K Fun Run & Walk in Baker City to a Free Fishing Weekend at McHaley Pond and 203 Pond.

This year, Oregon Outdoor Recreation Day as falls on Oregon State Parks Day, where day use fees are waived in Oregon's state parks.

For more information visit: <https://www.oregonoutdoors.org/oregon-outdoor-rec-day>.