

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ravens need double OT to defeat Bucks

Pendleton girls drop to No. 3 in IMC standings after Tuesday's loss



Pendleton's Elli Nirschl (3) eyes the basket during Tuesday's playoff game against Ridgeview.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Little did the Bucks know that after 12 days without a game, they'd fight their season's toughest battle.

The Pendleton girls kept things close all the way through, but ultimately fell to the visiting Ridgeview Ravens 63-58 in double overtime to drop to No. 3 in the Intermountain Conference standings.

"I'm disappointed every

time we lose, but we fought through double overtime and did a good job of holding our ground," said coach Kevin Porter. "Games like this are a coin flip — we called heads, and it came up tails."

The Ravens jumped out to a 9-2 lead off three treys to start, but Bucks junior Sami Spriet drained a 3 of her own to keep her team in the game. Senior Uliyana Guerrero sunk both of her free throws with 0:07 left to trail 14-13 at the end of the first

quarter.

Senior Elli Nirschl gave Pendleton the lead twice: once from in the paint and again from outside the arc. But the Ravens quickly recovered with four straight points from junior Alaina Clark and senior Carissa Love, and took a 26-23 lead at the half.

Nirschl would take things outside again in the third quarter to knot the score at 30-30.

"I'm mostly a shooter — I like to spot up whenever the

ball goes inside," Nirschl said. "Ridgeview was intense. Some days, they're on, and others, they're really off. We didn't know what team we were going to get tonight. They gave us a good fight."

Buckaroo freshman Muriel Hoisington tied things up 49-49 with two points at the line and just 0:37 to go. Clark scored a bucket to push the Ravens out front again, but senior Katie

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TT via AP/Christine Olsson

United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during an alpine ski World Cup women's parallel slalom city event, in Hammarbybacken, Stockholm, Sweden, on Tuesday.

Shiffrin locks up slalom title

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin wrapped up the season-long slalom World Cup title on Tuesday, three days after winning her record fourth straight world title in the discipline. And she matched yet another record in the process.

Shiffrin won a parallel city event, defeating Christina Geiger of Germany in both runs to win the final by 0.27 seconds.

The victory gave the American two-time overall champion an insurmountable 203-point lead in the season standings with two races remaining. Her closest challenger, Slovakia's Petra Vlhova, was beaten by Geiger in the quarterfinals.

"Each run I was pretty good but not always the fastest," Shiffrin said. "But I was consistent and for tonight, that was enough. It was really fun, actually."

It was Shiffrin's 57th career win and 14th of the season, matching the record for most World Cup victories in a single campaign, set by Swiss great Vreni Schneider in the 1990s.

Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland won the men's event, beating Olympic champion Andre Myhrer of Sweden in the final.

Marcel Hirscher lost in the quarterfinals but the Austrian gained enough World Cup points to lock up the slalom season title.

Women's college teams in Oregon rise to elite status

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

CORVALLIS — Two ranked teams, two intense rivalry games and two raucous sellouts: Women's college basketball is enjoying a renaissance in the Pacific Northwest where Oregon and Oregon State are among the nation's elite teams again this season.

Oregon (24-2, 13-1 Pac-12) is ranked No. 2 in this week's AP Top 25, for its highest ranking ever. Oregon State (21-5, 11-3) is ranked No. 12.

Both teams moved in the latest rankings following Oregon's 77-68 victory over the Beavers on Friday in Eugene, with the Ducks jumping a spot and Oregon State falling from No. 9.

The teams are likely to shift around again in next week's poll following the Beavers' 67-62 revenge victory over Oregon in Corvallis on Monday night.

Both games were sellouts, and there was even a report of scalpers



AP Photo/Amanda Loman

Oregon State players, from left, Andrea Aquino (2), Janessa Thropay (13), Katie McWilliams (10) and Destiny Slocum (24) celebrate their win over Oregon at the end of an NCAA college basketball game in Corvallis on Monday. Oregon State won 67-62.

hawking general admission seats at Gill Coliseum for \$25, up from the usual \$12.

"Here's the thing, it's not just the full houses, that's an amazing

thing, but the quality of basketball that's being played on these two teams is unbelievable. The level that these two teams compete at, execute at, it's special, I mean it's

just magnificent," Oregon State coach Scott Rueck said. "The fact that we are both in communities that will support the programs like we have, makes it what it is."

Oregon coach Kelly Graves was so amped by the crowd for the game at home that he grabbed the public address microphone afterward to offer his thanks.

"This doesn't happen all the time. In women's basketball, unfortunately, there are pockets that just don't draw regardless of how good the teams are. Just because you have a good team doesn't mean you're going to have fans," he said.

"And I think these fans have really bought into our program and our players, they love these guys. And I just wanted to thank them for that."

Oregon State has been considered one of the top programs in the country since Rueck's fourth season at his alma mater in 2013-14, when the Beavers finished second in the league standings and

returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996.

The Beavers' best finish under Rueck's watch came in 2016 when they went to the Final Four. Oregon State has been to the tournament in each of the last five seasons, and last year reached the Elite Eight.

The Ducks' rise has been more recent, since Graves came to Eugene in 2014 from Gonzaga. In 2016, he landed Sabrina Ionescu, one of the top prospects in that year's recruiting class. Ionescu started as a freshman and last year was the Pac-12's Player of the Year.

A junior this season, Ionescu is averaging 19.7 points, 8.03 assists and 7.2 rebounds. She has become known for triple-doubles, and holds the NCAA record (among men and women) with 16.

Oregon has made back-to-back Elite Eight appearances in the past two seasons.

Now that the two teams have

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SPORTS SHORTS

Obama, Curry tell minority boys 'you matter'

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Former President Barack Obama and Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry told minority boys on Tuesday that they matter and urged them to make the world a better place.

Obama was in Oakland, California, to mark the fifth anniversary of an initiative he started after the 2012 shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. The death of the African-American teen sparked pro-

tests over racial profiling.

Obama launched My Brother's Keeper as a call to communities to close opportunity gaps for minority boys, especially African American, Latino and Native American boys.

He and Curry talked about what it means to be a man and the struggles they had as teens.

The My Brother's Keeper Alliance is part of the Obama Foundation.

AP Photo/Jeff Chiu

Former President Barack Obama, left, hugs Golden State Warriors basketball player Stephen Curry after speaking at the My Brother's Keeper Alliance Summit on Tuesday.

