

No. 1 Gonzaga blows out Pepperdine 100-74 in WCC semifinals



Gonzaga players celebrate as they lead Pepperdine with seconds left in the second half of an NCAA semifinal college basketball game at the West Coast Conference tournament on Monday in Las Vegas.

By W.G. RAMIREZ
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Zach Norvell Jr. scored 18 points to lead five players in double figures, and No. 1 Gonzaga beat Pepperdine 100-74 on Monday night in the semifinals of the West Coast Conference Tournament.

Gonzaga (30-2), which has won six consecutive WCC titles, will look for its seventh straight on Tuesday, when it will face the winner of Monday's late semifinal between San Diego and Saint Mary's.

Rui Hachimura scored 16 points, Brandon Clarke added 15 and Josh Perkins and Corey Kispert each scored 11 for Gonzaga.

The Bulldogs — who came into the game ranked first in the nation in field-

goal percentage (53.4 percent), first in scoring margin (24.9 points per game) and first in scoring offense (89.8) — went 39 for 62 (59.7 percent) from the field en route to their 21st straight victory by double digits.

Gonzaga has won those games by an average margin of 30.1 points.

The Bulldogs have won 37 straight against Pepperdine, including a 92-64 blowout in Spokane this season.

The Waves (16-18) were led by Colbey Ross, who scored a game-high 20 points. Eric Cooper Jr. added 16 points, while Jade Smith had 14.

After falling behind 8-6 early, the Bulldogs erupted for a 23-5 run to seize control.

Gonzaga, which closed

as 24½-point favorite, never relinquished its double-digit lead after pulling ahead 24-13 with 9:40 left in the first half.

The Bulldogs got a boost from the return of Killian Tillie, who played for the first time since he suffered a partially torn ligament in his right foot in early February. Tillie was 3 for 4 from the field in the first half, all 3-pointers.

Gonzaga opened the second half on a 32-12 run to put the game out of reach.

Up next

Pepperdine: The Waves could garner an invite to one of the lower-level postseason tournaments.

Gonzaga: Will play either San Diego or Saint Mary's in Tuesday's championship game.

COLLEGE WRESTLING

Hermiston grad wins Pac-12 title

Oregon State junior Bob Coleman will compete at the NCAA national tournament

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

As a freshman at Oregon State University, Bob Coleman posted a 6-26 record. There was a time when he didn't win a match for two months.

For the 2016 state wrestling champion from Hermiston High School, it was a hard pill to swallow, but he knew there would be a learning curve from high school to college.

Fast forward two years.

Coleman, 20, won the Pac-12 184-pound title Saturday at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe, Ariz., and punched his ticket to the NCAA Championships.

"I was just honored to get the opportunity," Coleman said. "Winning a Pac-12 title is not something I expected when I started at Oregon State. To win it is out of this world. It still hasn't sunk in."

All told, Oregon State won four titles and will send six men to the NCAA Championships on March 21-23 at PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh.

Tournament brackets will be announced on Wednesday. Each of the 10 weight classes will consist of a 33-man bracket. The top eight in each weight class will be honored as All-Americans.

It's the first Pac-12 title for Coleman (16-14), who won a tight contest in the semifinals against Jaen Petersen of Arizona State by a 9-7 decision. He then faced Judah Duhm of Stanford in the finals, winning 4-2 and qualifying for the NCAAs.

Coleman, a 5-foot-11 junior, lost to Petersen in their Jan. 20 Pac-12 match.

"When I wrestled him in the dual, I had a bunch of mistakes I could fix," Coleman said. "The Stanford kid upset the No. 1 seed (Dom Ducharme of Cal-State Bakersfield) on the other side of the bracket in overtime."



Oregon State's Bob Coleman gets his hand raised after beating Stanford's Judah Duhm 4-2 for the 184-pound title at the Pac-12 Championships on Saturday in Tempe, Ariz.

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Bob Coleman, Hermiston High School graduate who will compete in the NCAA nationals

In the championship match against Duhm, the bout was scoreless after the first round, and in the second, Coleman took a 2-0 lead with an escape and a technical violation by Duhm.

Duhm got an escape with 1:30 left in the third round, but Coleman registered a takedown with 57 seconds remaining for a 4-1 lead. Duhm got a late escape for the 4-2 final.

Coleman was able to share his victory with his parents Janna and

Craig, and other family members.

"Mom had to take all these photos so there was proof it happened," Coleman said with a laugh. "They booked their tickets to nationals this morning."

If Coleman had not won the title, he would not have advanced to nationals. The Pac-12 does not have enough teams to earn extra berths, unless wrestlers are highly ranked.

"Wrestling on the West Coast is not like it is on the East Coast," Coleman said. "There are not a lot

of schools out west."

A familiar face

Coleman might run into former Hermiston teammate Sam Colbray at the NCAAs, depending on the bracketing. Colbray was second in the Big 12 Championships at 184 pounds for Iowa State to earn his trip.

The two met once already this season. Coleman wrestled Colbray on Feb. 11, in a nonleague dual in which Iowa State made the trip to Corvallis. Coleman suffered a 13-4 loss.

"The first time I wrestled Sam was in an exhibition match in junior high," Coleman said. "He beat me then, too. He has always been a weight above me and got the best of me. As far as accolades go, he has everything. I was just his practice partner."

It might not seem odd for two

See Wrestling, Page B2

Stanford tops Oregon to win Pac-12 women's title

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Stanford got a measure of revenge en route to winning another Pac-12 Tournament title.

DiJonai Carrington scored 22 points, and the seventh-ranked Cardinal erased some unpleasant recent history against No. 6 Oregon, beating the Ducks 64-57 on Sunday night.

For the Cardinal, it was their 13th championship of the 18 Pac-12 tournaments. Stanford lost to Oregon last season in the title game, and the Cardinal also were routed by 40 points a month ago by the Ducks — the worst defeat in Hall of Fame coach Tara VanDerveer's career.

"I think that was something that we had in our minds ever since we lost that game," said Stanford's Alanna Smith, who earned Most Outstanding Player honors for the tournament. "When you take a loss like that, you have no choice but to learn from it. We were happy we got to play Oregon today. We wanted another chance at them."

With the game tied at 51, Carrington made a layup, then stole the ball and drove the length of the court for another lay-in.

After Ruthy Hebard made a free throw to get Oregon within 55-52, Kiana Williams hit a 3-pointer from the wing to give the Cardinal their biggest lead of the fourth quarter to that point.

Sabrina Ionescu, who led Oregon with 27 points and 12 rebounds, ended a four-minute field goal drought with a jumper with 1:14 left. She was the only Oregon player to hit a basket for the Ducks in the final eight minutes.

SPORTS SHORTS

Vela, Diomande lead LAFC to 4-1 win over Timbers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carlos Vela scored and had three assists and Adama Diomande added a goal and an assist to help Los Angeles FC beat the Portland Timbers 4-1 on Sunday night.

Jordan Harvey's low cross split a defender and goalkeeper Jeff Attinella before Christian Ramirez tapped in a sliding finish from point-blank range to give LAFC a 2-1 lead in the 45th

minute.

Attinella made a diving, one-handed stop of a shot by Diego Rossi from near the spot that deflected out of bounds but Mark-Anthony Kaye headed home the ensuing corner kick by Vela to open the scoring in the 14th minute.

Jeremy Ebobisse put away a perfectly placed free kick by Diego Valeri, slipping a diving

header just inside the post to make it 1-1 in the 29th.

Latif Blessing's pass led Vela toward the corner of the 6-yard box where, as the defense closed, he rolled a cross to Diomande for the empty-net finish in the 65th minute. Then, about three minutes later, Diomande fed a streaking Vela on the right side who flicked a left-footer inside the far post to cap the scoring.



AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu