

Gonzaga stays No. 1 in men’s AP Top 25; UO into top 5

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

A light holiday schedule led to a rare quiet week atop The Associated Press men’s college basketball poll.

Gonzaga remained at No. 1 for a second straight week, receiving 63 first-place votes from a 65-member panel in the poll released Monday. No. 2 Duke and No. 3 Kansas each had one first-place vote, with Oregon and Ohio State rounding out the top five.

The AP Top 25 had been filled with tumult during a 2019-20 season of parity, with six different teams moving to No. 1 before Christmas. That’s one short of the



AP Photo/Young Kwak

Gonzaga forward Corey Kispert, left, shoots and is fouled by Eastern Washington forward Mason Peatling during the second half of a Dec. 21, 2019, game in Spokane, Wash. Gonzaga won 112-77.

all-time record of seven, set in 1982-83.

The quiet time between Christmas and New Year’s Day offered a bit of stability.

The Zags (13-1) did not play last week during a Top 25 schedule filled with lop-sided games and just two matchups between ranked teams.

Ohio State dropped three places after losing 67-59 to West Virginia, which climbed six places to No. 16.

Louisville was down four places to No. 7 following a 78-70 loss to Kentucky. The Wildcats climbed two places to No. 19.

Nearly every other game involving Top 25 teams was decided by double digits.

Gonzaga, which has not played since beating Eastern Washington 112-77 on

Dec. 21, has games against Detroit Mercy and Portland this week.

Soaring Ducks

Oregon entered the season loaded with expectations behind do-everything guard Payton Pritchard and another stellar recruiting class landed by coach Dana Altman.

The Ducks (11-2) have lived up to the hype, their only losses coming in back-to-back games against Gonzaga and North Carolina at the Battle 4 Atlantis in the Bahamas.

Oregon has wins over three ranked teams and blew out Alabama State 98-59 on

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ROCKETS BLOW OUT GRIZZLIES



Staff photo by Ben Loneragan

Pilot Rock’s Jimmy Jones (0) leaps towards the net for a layup against the Grizzlies. The Pilot Rock Rockets defeated the Helix Grizzlies 82-47 at the Bouncin’ Cancer Tournament at Echo High School Saturday afternoon.

Pilot Rock improves to 10-0 with win over Helix at Echo’s Bouncin’ Cancer Tournament

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

ECHO — When the season began, first-year Pilot Rock coach Tyler Zyph set a goal for his team — an undefeated preseason.

On Saturday, that goal was met.

The Pilot Rock boys finished their program’s first showing at Echo’s

Bouncin’ Cancer basketball tournament with a massive 82-47 win over Helix to improve to 10-0 on the season before Blue Mountain Conference action tips off on Friday.

The tournament raises funds for cancer patients and survivors across the community.

“The goal was to come out and win every preseason game,” Zyph said.

“We’re 10-0 before the league starts. But now, we’re starting over. We’re 0-0. I’m super proud of these guys for competing and sticking with it. I’m super excited for them. Cancer is something that affects everyone. The kids get to do what they love and support a greater cause.”

The Grizzlies took two brief leads

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PREP ROUNDUP



Staff photo by Ben Loneragan

ECHO’s Rachel McCarty (4) drives towards the basket during the first period against the Spartans. The Echo Cougars defeated the Pine Eagle Spartans 54-37 at the Bouncin’ Cancer Tournament at Echo High School on Saturday afternoon.

Bucks go 2-1 at Oregon Holiday Hoopfest

East Oregonian

BEND — Rebounding from Friday’s tourney-opening loss, the Pendleton girls overcame a first-quarter deficit to rally for a 53-35 win Saturday over Roseburg at the Oregon Holiday Hoopfest at Mountain View High School.

Sunday, the Bucks beat Putnam 50-31 to finish the tournament.

“Roseburg came out of the gates on fire,” Pendleton head coach Kevin Porter said. “But from that point on, we took over the game. We really picked things up defensively.”

Roseburg held a 17-9 lead at the end of the first quarter on Saturday, but the Bucks grabbed 19 steals, and Cloe Taber led with 18 points as Pendleton rallied for the win.

Natalie Neveau followed with 12 points, and Daisy Jenness had a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Sami Spriet finished with nine rebounds.

The Bucks trailed 11-10 against Putnam on Sunday, but poured in 19 points in the final quarter to get the win. Jenness and Neveau each posted 15 points to lead the way. Jenness also got 16 rebounds.

“We learned a lot about ourselves in this tournament,” Porter said. “It’s still the preseason, so we make some mistakes and we do some really good things. I really appreciate how coachable these girls are. They work extremely hard.”

Pendleton (6-4) hosts La Grande at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 7.

Girls hoops

ECHO 54, PINE EAGLE 37 — The Cougars closed their Bouncin’ Cancer Tournament with a two-game win streak after taking down the Spartans on Saturday.

Tylene Skillman posted a game-high 20 points to lead the way, and Faith McCarty followed with 16.

Echo (6-4) hosts Dufur at 6 p.m. Friday to open Big Sky League play.

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Oregon QB Herbert caps stellar career in his first Rose Bowl

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Justin Herbert wasn’t dreaming of roses when he decided to return for his senior season at Oregon.

The star quarterback had plenty of reasons for postponing his opportunity to be a probable first-round pick in the NFL draft. The Eugene native adores his school, and he craved another

chance to chase the Pac-12 title and a national championship with his teammates and in front of his friends and family.

Herbert got that first Pac-12 championship this month, but the Ducks (11-2) barely missed out on the College Football Playoff. That left Oregon in the Rose Bowl, which loomed for generations as the ultimate reward for a West Coast team’s best seasons.

But when asked Monday if he

would have been disappointed to never play in the Granddaddy of Them All, Herbert swiftly replied: “No, I don’t think I would have.”

Instead, he considers himself fortunate for simply “being around some of the best people in the world” in his last year at Oregon.

“These teammates, they’re great, and the coaches, and just the overall experience,” he added. “Playing Duck football is everything I’ve ever wanted to do, and

it’s a year that I’ll never get back in my life. To be around the facility, even to be in the weight room, to be in the cafeteria, it’s the best time of my life.”

To be in Pasadena is just a bonus. But Herbert intends to cash it in.

The seventh-ranked Ducks face No. 11 Wisconsin (10-3) on Wednesday in a compelling clash

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