

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ionescu has 37 and No. 6 Oregon downs No. 3 Stanford 87-55

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

EUGENE — Sabrina Ionescu had a career-high 37 points to become Oregon's all-time leading scorer, and the sixth-ranked Ducks handed No. 3 Stanford its first conference loss with an 87-55 victory Thursday night.

Ionescu went into the game needing 24 points to match Oregon career leader Alison Lang, who had 2,252 between 1980-84. When the record was announced on the video scoreboard, the crowd gave the senior guard a standing ovation.

Her previous career high was 36 points, set against Stanford on March 4, 2018. She also had 11

rebounds and seven assists for her ninth double-double of the season for the Ducks (14-2, 4-1 Pac-12). Satou Sabally added 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Kiana Williams had 15 points for Stanford (15-2, 4-1), which trailed by as many as 30 points. Lexie Hull added 10.

The Ducks' win likely means another shakeup in the rankings. Oregon had climbed to No. 2 but fell last week to Arizona State 72-66. The Sun Devils went on to also defeat No. 3 Oregon State last weekend, becoming the first unranked Division I team to knock off a pair of top-three opponents in back-to-back games.

As a result of ASU's sweep, UConn's loss to defending national

champion Baylor and other upsets, South Carolina moved into the top spot. Stanford, the previous No. 5 team, moved up two spots, while the Ducks dropped to sixth and Oregon State fell to eighth.

UCLA, the only undefeated team in the country, moved up to No. 7. The Bruins face USC on Friday. With Arizona and Arizona State, the Pac-12 has six teams ranked in the top 25.

Stanford took an early 15-8 lead against the Ducks after Hull's layup and 3-pointer. Ionescu answered with a 3, but Oregon trailed 17-13 at the end of the opening quarter.

Ionescu's 3 tied it at 20 but the

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AP Photo/Chris Pietsch

Oregon's Ruthy Hebard, left, Satou Sabally, rear, and Sabrina Ionescu, right, battle Stanford's Haley Jones for the ball during the first quarter of an NCAA college basketball game in Eugene on Thursday.

PREP ROUNDUP



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Riverside's Humberto Sanchez (20) puts up a shot during Thursday night's game against the Irrigon Knights in Irrigon.

Pirates claim league opener over Knights

East Oregonian

IRRIGON — Cristian Rea poured in a game-best 19 points as Riverside rolled to a 49-32 win over their Irrigon hosts in its Eastern Oregon League opener on Thursday.

The Pirates led 17-12 at the end of the first quarter, but tore away for good with an 18-9 second quarter that put the game out of Irrigon's reach.

The Knights were led by Omar Madrigal with 12 points on the night.

Riverside (10-4, 1-0 EOL) hosts Vale on Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m., while Irrigon (2-10, 0-1 EOL) travels to Vale on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Boys wrestling

Pendleton lost a pair of Inter-mountain Conference duals to Redmond 60-16 and Ridgeview 51-24 at Ridgeview on Thursday.

Kyle Liscom pinned Redmond's

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PIRATES TEAR AWAY FROM KNIGHTS



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Irrigon's Princesa Chavez (23) attempts to keep the ball from Riverside's Yazeli Ayala (10). The Riverside Pirates defeated the Irrigon Knights 38-34 at Irrigon High School Thursday night.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Irrigon's JaLay Burns (31) breaks free of a pack of defenders en route to the basket. The Riverside Pirates defeated the Irrigon Knights 38-34 at Irrigon High School Thursday night.

Riverside escapes with narrow win over Irrigon in league opener

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — The Riverside girls basketball team have endured their share of challenges throughout the preseason.

They won their second game of the preseason, but proceeded to suffer a 10-game skid. On Thursday, in their Eastern Oregon League season debut, the Pirates finally saw their results of those challenges pay off.

Riverside battled through an intense back-and-forth with host Irrigon, who had just come off a close loss to Umatilla the night before. After exchanging the lead 10 times, the Pirates finally got a solid grasp on their advantage in the fourth quarter as they escaped with a 38-34 win over the Knights to claim their conference opener.

"We played good defense, and we turned the ball over less than we have been recently," Riverside head coach Clair Costello said. "Most teams in the preseason were tough. Those Washington teams are a challenge. It helped us coming into this game."

Riverside sophomore Jasmin Lopez got the Pirates off to an early 2-0 lead nearly a minute into the game, but Irrigon proceeded to tie the score, and Knights sophomore JaLay Burns knocked down a 3-pointer to take the lead at 5-4. Lopez notched a trey in response to reclaim their advantage, which the Pirates would hold onto for nearly two minutes.

Lopez would have to reclaim the lead for Riverside once more before Burns managed a basket with 1:54 remaining, and a buzzer-beating trey to give Irrigon a 15-11 lead at the quarter's end.

"They played some solid defense and brought some good pressure," Lopez said of Irrigon, "but we were more aggressive on the court."

Lopez took Riverside's lead back once more with 6:04 left in the second quarter, but Burns fired back to tie the score, and Irrigon junior Alyssa Luna sunk two back-to-back baskets for a

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SPORTS SHORTS



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File

In this Sept. 29, 2019, file photo, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert speaks at a news conference in Washington.

WNBA expands to 36-game schedule adds Commissioner's Cup

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — The WNBA season is expanding to a 36-game schedule and adding the Commissioner's Cup tournament the league announced Thursday.

The league had a 34-game schedule since 2003. The season begins on May 15 and ends on Sept. 20.

Each team will play 10 Cup games during the season with the last one happening on July 10. The games will be the

first home and road games against conference opponents. The championship is between the top team in each conference in Cup standings and is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 14.

"We are incredibly excited to introduce a first-of-its-kind in-season tournament for our league and present more regular-season games on ABC, increasing the WNBA's national television exposure," said WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. "The Commissioner's Cup offers fans another competition through

which to support their favorite teams and adds a new dimension to the season for our players and teams."

Starting in 2021, the prize money for the Commissioner's Cup and other in-season tournaments will be a minimum of \$750,000.

"We aren't just adding games. We're kind of finding ways to garner new fans," players' union president Nneka Ogwu-mike said. "The new schedule and Commissioner's Cup will reflect the progress and innovation we've been discussing."