



AP Photo/Michael Conroy
The NCAA canceled the men's and women's Division I basketball tournaments Thursday amid coronavirus fears.

NCAA: ‘I respect the NCAA’s decision to put everyone’s safety first’

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letic activities, for at least a few weeks like the SEC, or indefinitely like the ACC.

A few hours later, the NCAA put an end to it all.

“So you telling me I transferred to not play in the tournament,” tweeted Gonzaga point guard Ryan Woolridge, a graduate transfer from North Texas. Gonzaga was expected to be a No. 1 NCAA Tournament seed and play a possible second-round game in its home city of Spokane, Washington.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

The NCAA men’s basketball tournament has been played every year since 1939 when Oregon won the championship in Evanston, Illinois. It has grown through the years, both in size and stature. The three-week tournament generates almost a billion dollars in revenue each year for the NCAA and its hundreds of member schools. Most of the money comes from a television contract with CBS and Turner that pays the NCAA almost \$800 million annually. Earlier this week, NCAA President Mark Emmert told The Associated Press that the NCAA had insurance to cover a business stoppage but gave no details.

The men’s tournament

is now one of the biggest events in American sports, a basketball marathon of buzzer-beaters, upsets and thrills involving 68 teams from schools big and small.

“While we are obviously disappointed that our season has ended abruptly, we also recognize that this decision was made for a greater good,” said coach Casey Alexander, who led Belmont, a private university with 6,000 students in Nashville, Tennessee, to the Ohio Valley Conference championship and a spot in the NCAA Tournament earlier this week.

The field for the men’s tournament was scheduled to be announced Sunday, creating the famous bracket sports fans obsess over in office pools and at sportsbooks.

“I respect the NCAA’s decision to put everyone’s safety first,” Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley tweeted. “That said, every team deserves recognition for their season’s success. Brackets should still be announced on Selection Sunday.”

The 64-team women’s field was to be revealed Monday. The NCAA women’s tournament began in 1982 and it, too, has become a big event, raising the profile of the sport.

“I’m disappointed, but I totally understand. I really feel for the senior student-athletes; every student athlete, but particularly the seniors because this is their last chance for the fans,” said Oregon women’s coach Kelly Graves, whose team would have entered the tournament as one of the favorites to reach the Final Four in New Orleans. “There’s something more important than the games going on. I’ve kind of come to grips with that a little more than a few hours ago.”

IMC: ‘For as young as we were, we grew a lot’

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and The Dalles seniors Rainie Coddling and Jenna Miller complete the second team selections.

Pendleton junior Natalie Neveau was named an honorable mention.

The Bucks went 16-7 overall, and 8-2 in their sophomore season in the Intermountain Conference. Their year ended with a regular season-clos-

ing, five-game streak, before it came to an end with a 55-27 road loss to Lebanon in the first round of the 5A state playoffs.

“I’m really happy with this season,” Porter said. “For as young as we were, we grew a lot. We were able to compete with those senior-heavy teams. Maybe in a couple of years, we’ll be that senior-heavy team that everyone else has to compete with.”

INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE ALL-LEAGUE HONORS
First team Paige Pentzer, sr., Ridgeview; Muriel Hoisington, soph., Pendleton; Kilee Hoylman, sr., The Dalles; Alaina Clark, sr., Ridgeview; Jenna Albrecht, soph., Ridgeview
Second team Ellie Corwin, sr., Redmond; Rainie Coddling, sr., The Dalles; Sami Spriet, sr., Pendleton; Jenna Miller, sr., The Dalles; Chloe Taber, soph., Pendleton
Honorable mentions Dallas Hutchins, jr., Crook County; Marley Sargent, jr., Ridgeview; Natalie Neveau, jr., Pendleton; Skyla Gonzalez, soph., Redmond; Liz Barker, jr., Crook County; Grace Meyers, sr., Hood River Valley

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

Editors note: NBA and NHL seasons have been suspended due to concerns over the coronavirus.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Boys soccer
Kamiakin at Hermiston, noon



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Pendleton’s Sam Jennings leads off a group of student athletes during a drill at Thursday afternoon’s practice at Pendleton High School.

Landscape: Remaing winter OSAA state championships are canceled

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and/or are recommended by health experts.

The WIAA, according to Sports and Activities Information Director Casey Johnson, still is planning to hold spring sports state championships, which are scheduled for the end of May. They will be working with the districts to decide how the state field will be filled.

“We don’t know what the next two months hold,” Johnson said. “It would be preemptive to cancel them now. It’s too far out for health experts to predict.”

Small schools

The superintendents from the Blue Mountain Conference schools met Thursday in Pendleton to hammer out a plan for spring.

“Basically, we are waiting to get a little more direction from the OSAA,” Morrow County School District Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said. “With the OSAA canceling the basketball tournaments, we are looking for some guidance. We practiced today, and there isn’t an event until next Tuesday. They way things are changing so quickly, we are trying to address it one day at a time.”

In the Big Sky League, Echo Athletic Director Don Walker said teams practiced Thursday, and will continue their normal activities until they hear otherwise.

Griswold Athletic Director Wayne Miller said everything ran as usual in Helix on Thursday.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Pendleton High School track athletes speedwalk during a warmup at the Pendleton High School track on Thursday afternoon.

“We’ll just keep going until we hear otherwise,” Miller said.

There are events that have been canceled or postponed because of the coronavirus.

SWX All-Star Classic

The annual basketball games between the top Tri-City and Yakima players, scheduled for Sunday at Kamiakin High School, has been canceled.

Hermiston’s Jazlyn Romero and Chase Elliott were selected to play on the Tri-City teams.

OSAA championships

After consulting with participating schools and venues, the OSAA has canceled all remaining winter state championships. This affects the boys and

girls 4A (Forest Grove High School), 5A (Oregon State University) and 6A (University of Portland) basketball tournaments.

This also includes the dance/drill state championships.

Tri-City Americans

As the Western Hockey league winds down, the decision was made Thursday by the Canadian Hockey League Executive Council, and regional league Board of Governors to pause the season until further notice.

The WHL is part of the CHL, along with the Ontario Hockey League and Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

The Americans, who are part of the WHL, have four remaining home games —

Friday, Sunday, March 20 and March 21.

NWAC basketball

According to a press release from the NWAC, the men’s and women’s Basketball Championships have been canceled.

“We have made many efforts to continue the tournament, but in the interest of public health the tournament has been canceled,” the release said.

Eastern Oregon University

EOU’s spring programs in softball and track and field will not compete over the next two weeks. The NAIA also has canceled the women’s wrestling NAIA Invitational scheduled for this weekend.

White: ‘Her presence on the court was known’

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“She saw on Facebook that Mt. Hood was hosting an open gym,” White said. “I went, and I was actually late. But the coach liked that I could be an all-around player — that I could set, pass, and hit. She said we’d be in contact. A few days later, I got an email from her — they didn’t have an opening on their roster, but the coach said she would let me know if anything changed. A few days after that, there was an opening. I was shocked.”

This fall, White will join coach Kristina Crivello and the St. Bernards volleyball squad as they begin their next season in the Northwest Athletic Conference’s South Region. It’s a big step for one of Irrigon’s premier hitters on the court, and one that White might not have expected back when she first began her high school volleyball career.

White was a junior varsity floater as a freshman,

but she pushed herself to make the varsity cut as a sophomore, and her hard work paid off beyond just a spot on the roster. White was appointed team captain duties for her second year on the team.

“I’m the type of person

said. “She was our No. 1 hitter her junior and senior year. Her presence on the court was known. She’s a pretty special kid. We’re going to miss her next year. We’re excited for her transition into the next level.”

For her senior year, the

“I JUST HAVE A LOVE OF SPORTS. IT’S ALWAYS BEEN REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.”

Haley White, Irrigon volleyball player

that analyzes each position in a sport,” she said. “I could be there to critique and encourage everyone. The girls looked up to me.”

As a junior, White and her Knights volleyball team made it to the 3A state tournament for the first time in program history. They fell in three sets to South Umpqua in a first-round road match.

“Haley was an early-on leader,” Irrigon head volleyball coach Vanessa Pacheco

Knights went 5-5 in Eastern Oregon League play and 15-13 overall. Their season ended with a three-set loss to Burns in the district tournament.

“It was awesome,” White said of her time with the Knights. “We lost quite a lot of seniors from the previous year, so we didn’t know what to expect. But it all came together. We fought hard every game. We could have made it to state, we just

played some really tough teams in the league.”

While attending Mt. Hood, White will pursue a degree in biology with the aspirations of becoming a lab tech. She is currently finishing up high school at the Baker Public Academy — an online public school — as well as her Associate’s degree from Blue Mountain Community College.

White comes from a family of Knights — her sister Hannah was a track and volleyball athlete, and her other sister Holly competed in track as well. Her brother Holton played football, basketball, and baseball, and Hayden was a basketball and baseball athlete.

White, the youngest of the five, also competed in track and field for the Knights, but will be taking her senior year off to focus on finishing up her Associate’s.

“I just have a love of sports,” she said. “It’s always been really important to me.”