

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A10

Colbray finishes 2-2 at NCAA Wrestling Championship

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

ST. LOUIS — Sam Colbray (Hermiston), a senior at Iowa State, went 2-2 in the 184-pound weight class at the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

Colbray opened the tournament with a 2-1 loss to No. 4 seed Parker Keckeisen of University of Northern Iowa. Keckeisen went on to finish third overall.

Colbray dropped into the consolation bracket, where he beat Christopher Weiler of Wisconsin by a 12-4 major decision. Colbray

followed with a 7-3 decision over Caleb Hopkins from Campbell University.

Colbray's stay at the tournament ended with a 9-4 loss to Dakota Geer of Oklahoma State.

Colbray, a 2016 Hermiston graduate, was a four-time Oregon high school state champion for the Bulldogs at 195 pounds.

College football

Kai Quinn (Pendleton) completed 16 of 28 passes for 216 yards and one touchdown to help lead Eastern Oregon University to a 28-0 victory over Carroll College on Saturday, March 20.

Andrew James (Hermiston) had five carries for 49 yards for the Mounties, who have won six consecutive games over the Saints.

Trent Durfey (Umatilla) had two tackles for Carroll College.

College track and field

Oregon State University's Jazlyn Romero (Hermiston) finished fourth with a throw of 122 feet, 6 inches in a three-team meet Saturday, March 20, with Western Oregon and Humboldt State in Monmouth.

Next up for the Beavers is the Oregon Invitational on April 2-3 in Eugene.

Madison Wilson (Hermiston) placed second in the 100 hurdles for Eastern Washington University on Friday, March 19, at the Whitworth Essential Invite in Spokane, Washington.

Wilson turned in a time of 15.16 seconds, finishing just behind teammate Madelyn Knight (15.13). Wilson also finished fourth in the high jump (5-0 1/4).

Doc Porter (Pendleton) finished second in the 400 meters on March 20, for Central Washington University at the Doris Heritage Track Festival in Seattle. Porter crossed the finish line in 49.82.



Bryce Dole/East Oregonian

Cyclists depart Echo for the 13th annual "Echo Red to Red" cross-country mountain bike race on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Race brings cyclists back to Echo

More than 400 people descend on small community for annual 'Echo Red to Red' bike race

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

ECHO — Hundreds of bikers and spectators gathered in downtown Echo on Saturday, March 20, for the 13th annual "Echo Red to Red" cross-country mountain bike race.

The race, which was organized and supported by Scott's Cycle and Sports, brought more than 400 riders of all ages and skill levels from across the Northwest. The

race was a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Echo's scholarship fund and for the Bikes for Books program through Masonic Lodges of Echo to encourage reading for elementary school students.

"I'm just really excited that this many came out," said race director Brian Cimmiyotti.

Cimmiyotti expects the race could be one of the largest in the state this year.

"We're definitely going to be in the top three" largest in Oregon, he said.

Cimmiyotti said this year's turnout was one of the largest in years, partly due to the inclement weather in years past. He added that, with the 19 elite riders who took part in the race, it's clear the event is becoming more competitive.

"It's nice to see so many fast riders from

around the Northwest," said Cimmiyotti, who helped build the race trail years ago.

Riders started in downtown Echo. They were separated into groups based around the distance they signed up for — either 32, 23 or 14 miles — to abide by COVID-19 rules for outdoor recreational activities.

"Usually we don't have to do all these smaller waves," Cimmiyotti said.

All riders also wore masks at the start.

After riders exited the town, the race formally began when they reached the Sno Road Winery and Echo West Ranch & Vineyard mountain bike trail system — a lengthy, winding system of single-track trails that climb and descend rolling hills lush with sagebrush, wildflowers and wildlife.

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MAC-HI SOCCER

Pioneers making most of makeshift season

McLoughlin boys soccer team is 5-0-1

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — In his 30-plus years as soccer coach at McLoughlin High School, Jose Garcia has seen just about every team dynamic, good or bad.

With this season being played in the middle of a pandemic, Garcia is pleased to see the passing of the torch, so to speak.

"I didn't think it would be this good," Garcia said of his team's 5-0-1 start in a season filled with nonleague games. "With the pandemic, and what little time we had to prepare and condition, I didn't think we would work this well together. We have seven freshmen who are training with our seven seniors, and the older guys have done a great job working with them."

Which is a positive change from some years in the past.

"Before, they would be mean to one another," Garcia said. "The younger kids would be intimidated and afraid to make mistakes. Now, if they make a mistake, it's OK. They own it as a team. I wasn't expecting this from them. I was nervous to see what would happen."

The teamwork has resulted in the best season the Pioneers have had since 2017 when Mac-Hi finished

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Oregon soars past Iowa 95-80 into Sweet 16

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Oregon wove its way through a pandemic-altered season filled with injuries, pauses and uncertainty to win a conference title.

When another kink surfaced in the NCAA Tournament, the resilient, adaptable Ducks shook it off and soared.

Off to another Sweet 16.

Chris Duarte scored 23 points and Oregon showed no signs of rust after a long layoff, beating No. 2 seed Iowa 95-80 on Monday, March 22, to reach the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in the past five NCAA Tournaments.

"The guys fought through it, they stayed together," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "I'm proud of the way they responded."

The seventh-seeded Ducks (21-6) were put in an unprecedented spot, advancing to the West Region's second round without playing a game. Virginia Commonwealth's multiple positive COVID-19 tests took care of that, leaving Oregon with a nine-day break since losing in the Pac-12 Tournament semifinals.

Oregon's offense hummed like it was fresh off the line once the ball went up, kicking off the NCAA Tournament's first of the



Darron Cummings/Associated Press

Oregon players celebrate following a second-round game against Iowa in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament at Bankers Life Fieldhouse on Monday, March 22, 2021, in Indianapolis. Oregon won 95-80.

March 22 second-round games with a masterpiece.

The Ducks flowed on the floor and glowed on the scoresheet, shooting 56% and hitting 11 3-pointers. LJ Figueroa hit five 3s while scoring 21 points and Will Richardson added 19 points in an offensive domination.

"We just said keep our foot on the gas," Duarte said. "We did and it was a lot of fun."

The Ducks' sweet offensive movements left the Hawkeyes

(22-9) flailing, one game short of the Sweet 16 for the fourth time under Fran McCaffery.

Luka Garza played like a two-time All-American, bullying in for three-point plays, hitting mid-range jumpers and dropping in the occasional 3. He capped his stellar college career by tying the Iowa NCAA Tournament record with 36 points and grabbing nine rebounds before receiving a nice

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OSU bounces Oklahoma State, Cunningham from NCAAs

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Oregon State embraced the role of the Hickory Huskers — results and all.

Hours before their second-round NCAA Tournament game against Oklahoma State, the Beavers' basketball Twitter account posted a video of center Roman Silva carrying guard Gianni Hunt to the basket on his shoulders to measure the rim's height.

It recreated a scene from the 1986 movie "Hoosiers," in which small-town Hickory's coach tried to help his team relax about playing at massive Butler Fieldhouse. Hickory went on to win that fictional state title. On Sunday, March 21, the building now known as Hinkle Fieldhouse was the site of a real-life underdog story.

Ethan Thompson scored 26 points and No. 12 seed Oregon State neutralized Oklahoma State and star freshman Cade Cunningham, rolling to an 80-70 upset.

Oregon State (19-12) was picked to finish last in the Pac-12 and had to win the conference tournament just to make the NCAA field. The Beavers pulled that off, then

cruised past No. 5 seed Tennessee in the first round. They became the third double-digit seed to reach this year's Sweet 16, joining 15 seed Oral Roberts and Syracuse, an 11.

"We've always had that confidence," Thompson said. "But it kind of took us — we had to go to take a further step and kind of believe in ourselves and trust in each other. And as you can see, these wins that we've been having have been great team efforts."

Maurice Calloo, who transferred from Oklahoma State, scored 15 points and Jarod Lucas also had 15 for the Beavers, who advanced to play eighth-seeded Loyola Chicago in a Midwest Region Sweet 16 matchup that few could have predicted. Loyola overmatched No. 1 seed Illinois earlier on March 21.

Cunningham, a first-team All-American and possible top NBA draft pick, scored 24 points for Oklahoma State (21-9), but the fourth-seeded Cowboys rushed shots down the stretch and at times failed to get him the ball.

Avery Anderson scored 16 points and Keylan Boone added 13 for Oklahoma State in a game that was delayed for 20 minutes at the start by a power outage.