

# Oregon women top Georgia 57-50, return to Sweet 16 as 6 seed

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Sedona Prince scored 22 points, Nyara Sabally took over late and sixth-seeded Oregon beat No. 3 Georgia 57-50 on Wednesday, March 24, in the women's NCAA Tournament to advance to its fourth straight Sweet 16.

Sabally scored six straight points — including a putback of her own missed shot — to break open a tie game and give the Ducks a 54-48 lead with less than a minute to go. She finished with 15 points, including 10 in the second half, and nine rebounds.

"Ny and I talked before the fourth quarter and we were like: 'We're going to go to the Sweet 16,'" Prince said.

Oregon (15-8) is in the tournament for the 16th time overall, but this Ducks



Oregon forward Nyara Sabally, left, drives around Georgia guard Que Morrison (23) during the first half of a college basketball game in the second round of the women's NCAA tournament at the Alamodome in San Antonio on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Eric Gay/Associated Press

team came in less heralded than those led by Sabrina Ionescu, who missed out on

her final chance at a national title last year because of the pandemic.

"Everybody knows what we had and the opportunity and capability of doing

in this tournament last year and it was taken away from us ... and the expectations weighed heavily on them," coach Kelly Graves said. "And then when you start losing a few games and people start to question your program, and then your own players sometimes maybe question themselves, (this) is great redemption."

Jenna Staiti had 18 points and nine rebounds for Georgia (21-7), which was looking to reach its first Sweet 16 since 2013.

Staiti was encouraged by the step forward the Lady Bulldogs took this season.

"This is the standard," she said. "This group of seniors and this team put Georgia back where it needs to be."

After Sabally put the Ducks ahead to stay on a layup with 2:20 left, Georgia appeared to have tied

the game with a jumper, but the officials said a foul was called before the shot. The foul call didn't stop play because the referee lost her whistle in her mask.

"Any time you take points off the board, does it change momentum? Sure it does," Georgia coach Joni Taylor said. "It's a tie ballgame at that time, and then it turns into a four-point swing for them."

Georgia opened the fourth quarter with an 8-2 run to get within 42-41 with about six minutes to go, and it was back and forth from there until Sabally came through for Oregon.

The Ducks relied on their starters, and only four players scored. Taylor Mikesell had 11 points and Erin Boley finished with nine.

Poor long-range shooting hurt Georgia, which went 1 of 13 from 3-point range.

## PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale coming to Pendleton

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The best professional bull riders in ProRodeo are heading to one of the most iconic settings in rodeo for the Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale.

The event that crowns the Xtreme Bulls Tour champion will take place Sept. 13-14 in the scenic Happy Canyon Arena prior to the Pendleton Round-Up, the PRCA, Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon announced Tuesday, March 23.

The event will be the final Xtreme Bulls event of the ProRodeo season and will pay out \$110,000, making it a key step on the road to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in December in Las Vegas.

"The Pendleton Round-Up is one of the most iconic rodeos in the world," PRCA CEO George Taylor said in a news release. "This is an incredible opportunity



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Sage Steele Kimzey, of Strong City, Okla., hangs on to Hell Hound for a 90.5-point ride to win the 2019 Pendleton Round-Up bull riding competition. The Pendleton Round-Up, Happy Canyon and the PRCA announced Tuesday, March 23, 2021, that the 2021 Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale will be held at the Happy Canyon Arena Sept. 13-14.

to crown ProRodeo's bull riding tour champion on an amazing stage."

The Xtreme Bulls Finale

will be a two-day event, with two rounds the first day and a third long-go and a progressive round the second day.

The finale will consist of 24 contestants who qualify through a semifinals event before the finale.

"We are excited to host the Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale and bring the top 24 professional bull riders to the Happy Canyon Arena," Happy Canyon and Pendleton Round-Up Bulls/Concert Chair Kipp Curtis said. "Adding another signature event to the week of Round-Up will provide our fans the opportunity to watch the crowning of the Xtreme Bulls Champion."

The Pendleton Round-Up is scheduled to take place Sept. 11-18 and is a major stop on the ProRodeo Tour. The Pendleton Round-Up had a payout in excess of \$500,000 in 2019.

The Xtreme Bulls Tour Finale will air exclusively on The Cowboy Channel and will stream live on the PRCA on Cowboy Channel Plus App.

## Bucks: 'This has been circled on my calendar forever'

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your eyes is the measly six points a game the Bucks allow.

Junior linebacker Kyle Liscom has 45 tackles in three games, and the Bucks use their team speed to disrupt and pick off passes.

"The kids want to win football games," Davis said. "Defensively, we fly around, and we are selfish in the way we play."

Redmond (1-1 SD1, 2-1 overall), is coming off a 27-0 victory over Ridgeview.

The Panthers average 20 points a game, and allow seven, making the March 26 game an interesting matchup.

The Panthers have gotten a lot of mileage out of senior running back Austin Carter, who has 289 yards and four touchdowns in three games.

### A family affair

Davis graduated from Redmond High School in 1994, his dad, Kurt, was a longtime wrestling coach and assistant football coach, and his older brother, Kris, is the Panthers' offensive coordinator.

"This has been circled on my calendar forever," Davis said. "These are the games



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Pendleton's Payton Lambert (32) hauls in a touchdown pass during the 26-6 defeat of the Hood River Eagles on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

you want to win."

Kris admits he also has been looking forward to the game.

"Nothings slips past us," Kris said. "We are pretty competitive. There's that, and sibling rivalry. We've been that way for a long time, whether it's a family Wiffle ball game or a football game. It's always competitive."

The game also gives the

brothers a chance to catch up in person.

"We are always busy," Kris said. "We see each other at sporting events or Christmas. It's good for us and our kids to get together."

To add a little flair to the game, Erik's son, Jack, is a sophomore quarterback for the Bucks, while Kris' son, Kole, is a senior slot receiver for the Panthers.

The Bucks have had success the past few years, going deep in the state playoffs, which gives Kris cause for concern.

"Erik has been successful in everything he has done," Kris said. "We have our work cut out for us. I'm happy for him as a brother. Hopefully, he learned a little from me or our dad. Sometimes, dad gives us advice we don't want to hear."

## Protector:

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this year has been comforting to me. Whether he is at guard or snapping the ball, Josh is going to do what he can to make the team the best it can be.

"We run up his butt a lot," Elliott continued. "Being 340, he is a big body up front, and his pass blocking is really good. I will miss him. We won't have anyone to fill that size."

Faeteete's experience also has been a big help to Fernandez and the

other linemen.

"He understands what we are going through in the game," Fernandez said. "He makes football so special — it's not just a game, but a big family on the field."

### A memorable event

When Fernandez was a freshman, he got an opportunity to play on the offensive line with his brother A.J. during the Bulldogs' playoff run that ended with a 5A state title in 2017.

It was just a few plays during one game, but it meant a lot.

"Playing next to my brother was a once-in-a-life-

time experience," Fernandez said. "It's not something everyone gets to do. Every once in a while, I put on my championship ring and remember that day. I'm grateful for all the opportunities I've had in high school."

It is moments like that, that Faeteete enjoys.

"That was pretty cool," Faeteete said. "Two brothers on the field together. I'm glad we were able to make that happen."

### A family affair

Fernandez has been playing football since the first grade. His dad Tony (Moose)

was his first coach.

"My dad coached me and my brother's team," he said. "That's what my life is wrapped around."

But football wasn't always his first love.

"When I was younger, my favorite sport was baseball," he said. "I was more free because my dad wasn't coaching me."

When he was older, Fernandez realized his dad, who played high school football at Riverside, helped him beyond measure.

"I appreciate all he did for me," Fernandez said. "I'm decent in high school because of him."

## Heppner:

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"He's like 150 pounds. He also played linebacker, and now we have moved him to safety. Bodie wanted to play quarterback, but we had to move him to tight end. He has done an amazing job blocking. There is no quit in this kid. Both of them have been huge for us."

The Pioneers, under first-year head coach Jorge Estrada, are looking for their second win after beating Irrigon last week.

**IRRIGON AT UMATILLA:** Both teams have had their struggles this season, but should be evenly matched in the Thursday, March 25, Blue Mountain

Conference matchup.

Irrigon (0-1) has played just one game, while Umatilla (1-2) is playing with a small lineup because of injuries and academic probation.

**PILOT ROCK AT IONE/ARLINGTON:** Defense has been an issue for both teams, but the March 26, Special District 2 contest should give each team an opportunity to flex a little muscle on offense.

The Rockets (1-2) are coming off a 30-24 win over Imbler, while the Cardinals are recovering from a 52-14 loss to Dufur.

**JOSEPH AT ECHO:** The undefeated Eagles (3-0) visit the Cougars (0-3) on March 26.

Joseph has beaten its three opponents by an average of 20 points.

## PREP STANDINGS

### PREP FOOTBALL

#### 5A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1

Team	League	Overall
Pendleton	3-0	3-0
Hood River Valley	2-1	2-1
The Dalles	1-0	1-1
Redmond	1-1	2-1
Ridgeview	1-2	1-2
LaSalle Prep	0-1	2-1
Parkose	0-1	0-3
Putnam	0-2	1-2

#### MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Chiawana	4-0	4-0
Kennewick	4-0	4-0
Kamiakin	3-1	3-1
Richland	2-2	2-2
Walla Walla	2-2	2-2
Hermiston	1-2	1-2
Pasco	0-3	1-3
Hanford	0-3	1-3
Southridge	0-3	0-4

#### 2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	3-0	3-0
Weston-McEwen	2-0	3-0
Stanfield	1-2	1-2
Umatilla	1-2	1-2
Irrigon	0-0	0-1
Riverside	0-1	0-1
Grant Union	0-2	1-2

#### 1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Team	League	Overall
Dufur	3-0	3-0
Wallowa	2-0	2-0
Powder Valley	1-0	3-0
Enterprise	1-1	1-1
Imbler	1-1	1-1
Pilot Rock	1-2	1-2
Elgin	0-0	0-1
Union	0-1	0-1
Cove	0-2	0-2
Ione/Arlington	0-2	0-2
Crane	0-3	0-3

#### 1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4 (6-MAN)

Team	League	Overall
South Wasco County	3-0	3-0
Joseph	2-0	3-0
Dayville/Monument	1-0	1-2
Sherman/Condon	1-1	2-1
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler	1-1	1-1
Harper Charter	0-1	0-1
Prairie City	0-2	0-3
Echo	0-3	0-3

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

#### 5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Crook County	4-0	7-1
Ridgeview	4-1	6-3
Pendleton	3-2	5-3
Hood River Valley	3-2	3-4
Redmond	1-5	2-7
The Dalles	0-5	0-6

#### 3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Burns	3-0	9-1
Vale	1-3	3-6
Irrigon	0-0	5-4
Umatilla	0-1	1-4

Nyssa	0-2	3-5
Riverside	0-2	1-6

#### 2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	4-0	5-1
Grant Union	3-1	4-3
Union	2-0	8-1
Weston McEwen	1-1	6-2
Stanfield	1-3	1-6
Enterprise	0-1	2-4
Pilot Rock	0-2	4-4

#### 1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Condon	5-1	5-1
Echo	5-1	5-1
Dufur	3-0	5-0
South Wasco County	3-1	3-5
Ione/Arlington	3-3	3-3
Sherman	3-3	3-3
Lyle/Wishram	2-1	2-1
Trout Lake	1-3	1-4
Mitchell/Spray	1-4	1-5
Glenwood/Klickitat	0-4	0-4
Bickleton	0-5	0-5

#### 1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Imbler	3-0	3-2
Powder Valley	1-0	7-0
Nixyaawii	1-0	5-3
Wallowa	1-1	5-2
Cove	1-2	2-4
Joseph	0-0	1-4
Griswold	0-0	1-6
Elgin	0-1	0-1
Pine Eagle	0-2	0-5

### PREP GIRLS SOCCER

#### 5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Redmond	1-0-0	4-1-0
Hood River Valley	0-0-1	1-4-1
Ridgeview	0-0-1	0-4-1
The Dalles/Dufur	0-0-0	2-2-0
Crook County	0-1-0	0-2-0
Pendleton	0-1-0	0-5-0

#### 3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Team	League	Overall
Riverside	2-0-0	5-1-0
Nyssa	1-0-0	3-1-0
Umatilla	0-1-0	1-2-1
Stanfield/Echo	0-1-0	0-3-1
Four Rivers	0-2-0	0-5-0

### PREP BOYS SOCCER

#### 5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Hood River Valley	3-0-0	3-2-0
Pendleton	1-0-0	1-1-0
Ridgeview	1-1-0	3-3-0
The Dalles/Dufur	1-1-0	2-2-0
Redmond	0-2-0	1-5-0
Crook County	0-2-0	0-5-0

#### 3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Team	League	Overall
Nyssa	1-0-0	2-3-0
Riverside	0-0-0	2-2-1
Umatilla	0-0-0	2-2-0
Irrigon	0-0-0	0-5-0
Four Rivers	0-1-0	0-4-1

## ON THE SLATE

### THURSDAY, MARCH 25

**Prep football**  
Hermiston at Chiawana, 7 p.m.  
Irrigon at Umatilla, 5 p.m.  
**Prep girls soccer**  
Hermiston at Walla Walla, 2 p.m.  
Prep slowpitch softball  
Hermiston at Pasco (2), 4 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

**Prep football**  
Pendleton at Redmond, 7 p.m.  
Stanfield at McLoughlin, 7 p.m.  
Joseph at Echo, 7 p.m.  
Pilot Rock at Ione/Arlington, 7 p.m.  
**Prep volleyball**  
Echo at Bickleton, 5 p.m.  
McLoughlin at Riverside, 1 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

**Prep football**  
Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 2 p.m.  
**Prep volleyball**  
Ridgeview at Pendleton, 11 a.m