

ELLIS from B1

"I had a whole conversation with an athletic director from another school and I thought he was talking about Elkton and I was like, 'Well, this won't work in our schedule.' And halfway through our conversation he goes, 'I'm talking about Days Creek,'" said Ellis. "That was difficult. So, I have to be really careful."

Ultimately, things went off seemingly without a hitch throughout the year. For Days Creek athletic director Dunn, any challenges were well worth it in order to preserve the continuity of Ellis' coaching career.

"That's probably the most important thing: continuity and coaching. Especially if you get a good coach. People jump around so much at the smaller schools. So, when you get quality and you get, in my case, I call it an investment. Stakeholders in the process," said Dunn.

It was not a forgone conclusion that this Days Creek team was going to be a title contender this season. In the first league game of the year, North Douglas beat Days Creek by 21 points and the team moved to 6-5 on the young season. From that point on, the team rallied off 16 straight wins, a school record, and did not lose until the state semifinals.

This group that Ellis had made sure he was going to stick around for was suddenly clicking. This three-point dependent side that features no one over 6-foot-2 had the mentality of "Why not us?" in a wide-open 1A race.

"I honestly, have never had a team like this. I've had some pretty good kids, I've always had good kids, but I've never had a

team that was this unselfish," said Ellis. "They just wanted to win. And they never gave up, they never quit."

Included in that run of successful wins was the game that Ellis was especially worried about. Worried not about how his team will play but on how people would respond. He was worried about coaching against Elkton.

"I was really concerned because you build relationships with these kids here. I was really concerned about what they would feel like. I was worried about what the community would feel like — but I got no negative backlash whatsoever," said Ellis who felt a wave of relief when a pair of Elkton players high-fived him during pre-game warm-ups. Once the game

started it was business as usual as the Wolves rolled to victories in both meetings.

At the state tournament this season, the Wolves, the No. 7 seed, were part of a string of upsets in the quarterfinals that saw the top four seeds all sent to the consolation bracket. Against Trinity Lutheran in the semifinals, the team lost by 13 but trailed by 3 with three minutes left in the game.

"We had to gamble a little bit down the stretch, and they hurt us when we trapped and got some easy buckets, but that's what happens. You either get the ball back or you give up some points. So, you know, that was disappointing. But I think I'm most proud of my kids for having lost that game and having come back the next day," said Ellis as his team scored a 56-53 victory over Prairie City to claim third place in state.

With the season wrapped up, Ellis' schedule becomes a little more open as the spring sports season begins and he has no practices to rush off to or games to coach. But now the question for Ellis is whether that becomes his new reality. Entering the basketball season, he had his eyes set on this being his last year as head coach but staring that prospect in the face is more difficult than he imagined.

"I really thought that this would be it for me. In my mind, my son is done, I've taken on a new job, I've moved on to a new chapter in my life and I would be done coaching. And it would be easy," said Ellis. "That has not proven to be true and it is far from being easy. I've learned that, and I knew I loved these kids already and I've known them forever, but it's going to be hard for me to walk away."



Ellis (right) and his Days Creek team take a picture with the third place state trophy.

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- 3:00 p.m. Track and Field @ Pleasant Hill
- 3/14
- 4:30 p.m. Baseball @ Stayton
- 3/15
- 4:00 p.m. Baseball @ Hidden Valley
- 4:00 p.m. Softball @ Hidden Valley
- 3/19
- 2:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Mazama
- 4:00 p.m. Baseball vs. Mazama

NORTH DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

- 3/13
- 4:30 p.m. Softball vs. Glide
- 3/14
- 4:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Lowell

YONCALLA HIGH SCHOOL

- 3/14
- 4:30 p.m. Softball vs. Perrydale
- 3/15
- 4:30 p.m. Softball @ Bandon
- 3/19
- 4:30 p.m. Softball @ Siletz Valley
- 4:30 p.m. Baseball vs. South Umpqua (JV)
- 3/22
- 4:30 p.m. Baseball @ Myrtle Point

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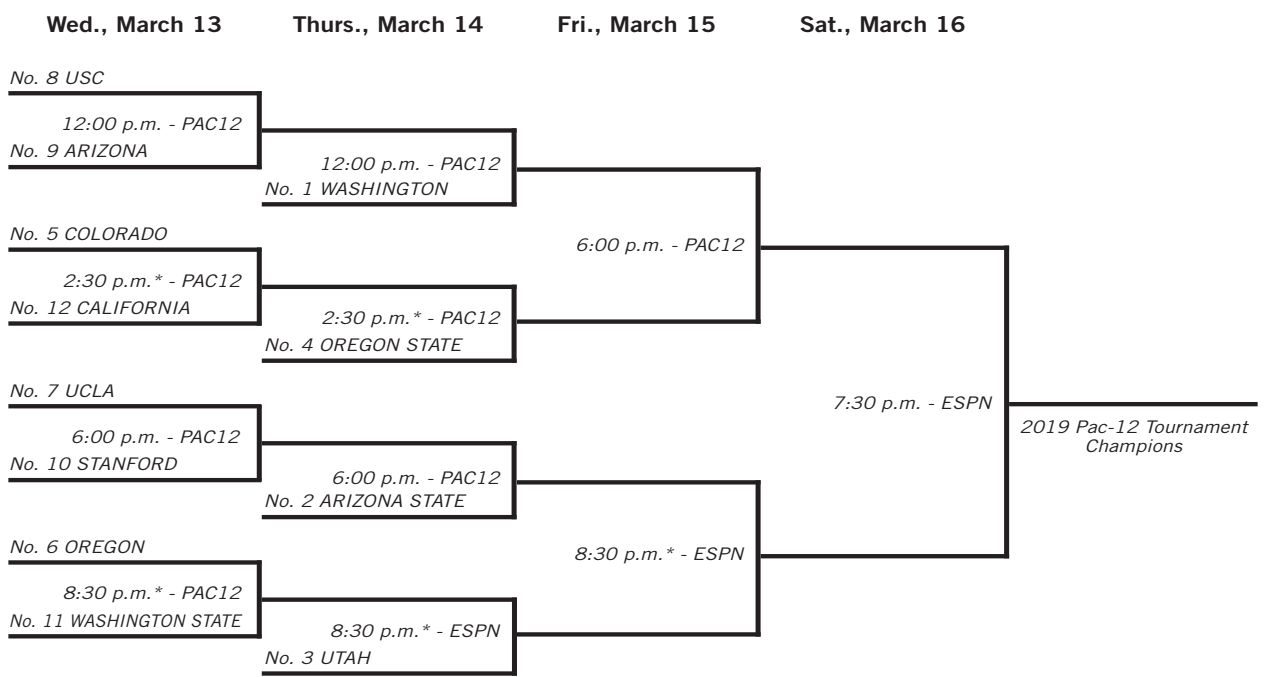
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2019 PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET
March 13-16, 2019 – T-Mobile Arena – Las Vegas



2019 Pac-12 Men's Basketball Tournament Schedule
T-Mobile Arena (Capacity: 18,000) – Las Vegas

Date	Game	Time	Network	Talent
Wed., March 13	Game 1: No. 8 USC vs. No. 9 ARIZONA	12:00 p.m. PT	PAC12	Roxy Bernstein, Don MacLean, Jill Savage
	Game 2: No. 5 COLORADO vs. No. 12 CALIFORNIA	2:30 p.m. PT*	PAC12	Roxy Bernstein, Don MacLean, Jill Savage
	Game 3: No. 7 UCLA vs. No. 10 STANFORD	6:00 p.m. PT	PAC12	Ted Robinson, Bill Walton, Lewis Johnson
	Game 4: No. 6 OREGON vs. No. 11 WASHINGTON STATE	8:30 p.m. PT*	PAC12	Ted Robinson, Bill Walton, Lewis Johnson
Thurs., March 14	Game 5: No. 1 WASHINGTON vs. Game 1 winner	12:00 p.m. PT	PAC12	Roxy Bernstein, Don MacLean, Jill Savage
	Game 6: No. 4 OREGON STATE vs. Game 2 winner	2:30 p.m. PT*	PAC12	Roxy Bernstein, Don MacLean, Jill Savage
	Game 7: No. 2 ARIZONA STATE vs. Game 3 winner	6:00 p.m. PT	PAC12	Ted Robinson, Bill Walton, Lewis Johnson
	Game 8: No. 3 UTAH vs. Game 4 winner	8:30 p.m. PT*	ESPN	Dave Pasch, Bill Walton, Molly McGrath
Fri., March 15	Game 9: Semifinal 1	6:00 p.m. PT	PAC12	Ted Robinson, Bill Walton, Lewis Johnson
	Game 10: Semifinal 2	8:30 p.m. PT*	ESPN	Dave Pasch, Bill Walton, Molly McGrath
Sat., March 16	Game 11: Championship	7:30 p.m. PT	ESPN	Dave Pasch, Bill Walton, Molly McGrath

Game times are local to site; * - approximate tip time