

Sports

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Ducks advance to semifinals

By John Marshall
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Two down, two to go for the Oregon Ducks and their dominant defense.

Louis King and Payton Pritchard scored 20 points each, and Oregon shut down Utah 66-54 Thursday night in the Pac-12 quarterfinals.

"I loved our defensive effort," said Ducks coach Dana Altman, who agreed to a contract extension through 2025-26 earlier Thursday. "It kept us in the first half, and we were able to find a way in the second."

The sixth-seeded Ducks (21-12) had a second straight strong defensive game in the Pac-12 tournament to get

halfway to their goal of four wins in four days.

Oregon caused the Utes problems with its press even without forcing many turnovers, often making them run their offense deep into the shot clock. The Ducks had Utah's leading scorer Sedrick Barefield in foul trouble in the first half and held him to two points on 2-of-12 shooting. He was 1 for 9 from 3-point range.

Francis Okoro tied the Pac-12 tournament record with six blocked shots to help Oregon move on to face Arizona State in Friday's semifinals.

No. 3 seed Utah (17-14) struggled to find an offensive rhythm, shooting 34 per-

cent and 2 of 23 of from the 3-point line.

Donnie Tillman led the Utes with 18 points.

"Definitely give them credit," Utah coach Larry Krystkowiak said. "As we all know, it's Oregon's defense that's put them in the position they're in right now. And with as physical as the game is, it fits their blueprint."

The Ducks put on a defensive show in their Pac-12 opener, snagging 14 steals while holding Washington State to 31 percent shooting in the 55-47 win. It was the fifth straight game Oregon held its opponent to under 62 points, a run that began shortly after coach Dana Altman shifted to a start-

ing lineup with four 6-foot-9 players.

That earned the Ducks a rematch with Utah, which they beat by two in last year's Pac-12 semifinals on Kenny Wooten's game-ending blocked shot. Oregon also beat the Utes in their lone meeting this season, 78-72 in Salt Lake City.

Both teams clamped down on defense in the quarterfinals, neither giving an inch.

Utah had a stretch of more than six minutes without a field goal and shot 8 for 21 in the first half. Barefield was limited to eight minutes after picking up two fouls.

Oregon had a scoreless drought of 5 1/2 minutes and went 8 for 29.

The Utes led 24-18 at halftime.

"That first half, our defense did keep us in it," Altman said. "As poorly as we played offensively, we were still in the ballgame."

The Ducks started making shots in the second half and the Utes didn't. Oregon stretched the lead to nine with seven minutes left and never let Utah make a push.

Oregon made 17 of 28 shots in the second half. The Utes went 1 for 13 from the 3-point arc in the second half.

"It was just one of those games. Shots just weren't going in," Tillman said. "A number of great looks, it just wasn't falling."

WEEKEND AHEAD
IN HIGH SCHOOL
SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

■ **Baseball:** Baker at Fruitland tourney, 3:30 p.m.; Baker JV at Fruitland tourney, tba
■ **Track:** Powder Valley at Harper, 11 a.m.; Baker at Ontario, 2:30 p.m.

AT A GLANCE

Youth track to start April 1

The annual Baker City youth track program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade will run April 1-May 1.

The program, run by BHS coaches and athletes, will run Mondays and Wednesdays at the Baker High School track.

A parent meeting is scheduled at 5:45 p.m. April 3 at BHS. Cost for the program is \$20 per athlete with a \$60 family cap. Checks should be made out to Baker High School Youth Track.

More information is available from Suzy Cole, 541-523-2040, 541-524-2641, or suzy.cole@bakernsd.org.

Blake Marlia also will offer a free Baker City Running Club for adults on the grass area at the northeast corner of the BHS track.

The first meeting is at 5:30 p.m. April 1. The group will meet Mondays and Wednesdays during the youth track season.

Sand named GOL player of the year

Baker's Kaden Sand was named Greater Oregon League boys basketball most valuable player recently.

He also joined teammates Caden Long and Gabe Gambleton on the GOL boys first team all-league selections.

Baker runners compete in meet

TUALATIN — Two Baker runners competed in the "We Run Oregon" Distance Bash March 9. Lucas Stearns placed second in 3,200 in a time of 11:10.59.

Jake Cuzick was ninth in the 1,600 in a time of 5:00.61.

Brown places third at Houston

HOUSTON — Baker cowboy Jesse Brown placed third in steer wrestling at the Super Series 3 rodeo at Rodeo Houston recently.

Brown placed fourth in the first round, third in the second round, third in the third round and tied for third in the semifinal qualifying.

Cook playing at Blue Mountain

PENDLETON — Gussie Cook, a Baker graduate, is playing college softball at Blue Mountain Community College at Pendleton.

Through March 9, Cook, a freshman, was hitting .357 with three runs scored in six games.

She is 0-1 in one start in the pitching circle.

Former Bulldog runs at Chico St.

CHICO, Calif. — Annika Andersen, an OIT track and field distance runner from Baker City, competed in two races March 9 at the Chico State Wildcat Invitational.

Andersen, an OIT senior, placed 15th in the 5,000 in a time of 19:26.98.

She placed 23rd in the 1,500 in a time of 5:15.20.

Colorado eliminates Beavers in quarters

By John Marshall
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Colorado took one punch after another from Oregon State, watching what once seemed to be an insurmountable lead turn into a close game.

When the Buffaloes finally decided to strike back, they were able to hold off the Beavers.

McKinley Wright IV scored 17 points and Colorado blew most of a 21-point lead before knocking off Oregon State 73-58 Thursday in the Pac-12 quarterfinals.

"They started getting into us and heating us up and got on our heels," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "We finally

started attacking it, which is what you have to do."

The fifth-seeded Buffaloes (21-11) dominated early, racing out to a 21-point lead in the first half. Colorado bogged down when Oregon State turned up the defensive pressure, watching its lead dwindle down to six.

The Buffaloes gathered themselves and started stretching the lead back, overcoming 7-for-23 shooting in the second half to earn a spot in Friday's semifinals against top-seeded Washington.

"We just talked about being patient on offense and keep guarding the same way we did the first half," Colorado big man Evan Battey said.

"That's about it."

The fourth-seeded Beavers (18-13) came out tight after getting a bye into the quarterfinals and didn't crack double digits in points until 5:55 of the first half.

Oregon State used a pair 10-0 runs midway through the second half to get back in it, but couldn't dig all the way out of the big early hole.

Tres Tinkle led the Beavers with 23 points.

"Just picked the wrong game of the year to come out, not make shots, not defend with the intensity we needed to early on, and dug a big hole for ourselves," Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. "Great effort in the

second half to give ourselves a chance and I think we just ran out of steam."

The Buffaloes grinded out a 56-51 win over California in their Pac-12 opener, overcoming sloppy turnovers and holding on after blowing most of a double-digit lead.

Oregon State earned the tournament's No. 4 seed and a coveted first-round bye by beating Washington State in

its regular-season finale.

The Beavers won the lone regular-season meeting 76-74, but Colorado had the energy early in the rematch despite playing the day before.

Playing superbly at both ends, the Buffaloes raced out to a 28-8 lead and led 37-18 at halftime. Colorado made 15 of 28 shots and held the Beavers to 8 of 29, missing all nine of their 3-point attempts.

Baker softball opens season with loss

NOTUS, Idaho — Baker opened its softball season with a 15-0 nonleague loss to Notus Wednesday.

"We did a lot of things well for our first time on dirt," said Baker coach Sonny Gulick.

"We still have not been able to practice on our home fields."

Gulick said pitching was a highlight for Baker. He said Jordynn Fine and Bekah Davis threw well for their first time in the circle.

Adoptable Pet Of The Week

Kate

I'm Kate, a 7 month old female Lab mix. I'm in a foster home with other dogs learning how to be social and basic commands. I am looking for an active family with a secure yard. I am very smart and a fast learner!



Contact Best Friends of Baker at 541-519-7387 (no texting, please)

Sponsored by Steve & Diana Smith
In memory of Denali the Barn Cat

Thatcher's ACE Hardware & La Grande ACE Hardware

SALE
\$9.99/ea



Milwaukee® Tape Measure, Safety Utility Knife or Curved Jaw Pliers
2472587, 2802759, 2811610

SALE
\$12.99/ea



Milwaukee® Long Nose Pliers, Jobsite Scissors or 10-in-1 Multi-Bit Screwdriver 2802775, 2408672, 2811834

Now through March 31st

Thatcher's Ace Hardware
2200 Resort St, Baker City • 541-523-3371

La Grande Ace Hardware
2212 Island Ave, La Grande • 541-605-0152
Monday-Friday 7-6 • Saturday 8-6 • Sunday 9-5

photos for illustration only

TVS

TREASURE
VALLEY
STEEL, INC.

Quality Steel Roofing & Siding Products Since 1982

Manufacturing Zee & Cee Purlins
In-House Custom Cut Exact Lengths



DELIVERY
AVAILABLE

- 24 Colors
- Custom Trim
- 2 1/2" Corrugated
- Delivery Available
- Full Soffitt Line
- 3 ft. Gulf Coast Panel
- 3 ft. PBR Panel
- 3 ft. Mesa Panel
- 3 ft. Tuff Rib Panel
- Standing Seam
- 2 ft. Delta Rib
- 3 ft. Pro Panel

40 Year Full Paint Warranty • WeatherX Paint System



ONTARIO
541-889-4214
1460 N. Verde Dr.
Toll Free 1-866-887-8335

BOISE
208-336-7505
6619 S. Supply Way
Toll Free 1-888-717-8335

WWW.TREASUREVALLEYSTEEL.COM

