

Sports

Ducks to take on Badgers in NCAA tourney

By John Marshall
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Oregon was the Pac-12's preseason favorite, yet did not play like it through most of the season. The Ducks were inconsistent, lost their star freshman, had some ugly losses.

After four days of dominating defense, the Ducks are going dancing again.

Sparked by do-everything point guard Payton Pritchard, Oregon shut down Washington 68-48 Saturday night to become the second team to win four games in four days at the Pac-12 tournament.

"In my 39 years in coaching, I've never seen a team grow up that much that fast," Oregon coach Dana Altman said.

The Ducks landed a 12 seed in the South Region and will play No. 5 seed Wisconsin on Friday at about 1:20 p.m. The game will be televised on TBS.

The Ducks (23-12) had some dark days during the regular season, notably a home loss to Texas Southern and an epic meltdown at home against UCLA. Freshman Bol Bol also went down with a season-ending foot injury, leaving Oregon without one of its best players.

Instead of playing as the favorites, the Ducks arrived in Las Vegas needing to win four games in four days to clinch an NCAA Tournament berth.

Sparked by a lineup change late in the regular season, Oregon was clearly the best team on the floor all four days in Sin City, returning the NCAA Tournament after missing the field of 68 last season.

The Ducks capped it by holding Washington to the lowest point total in championship game history and join Colorado in 2012 as the only team to win four Pac-12 tournament games in four days.

"Everyone kind of came together at the right time," said Oregon's Louis King, who had 15 points.

Showing no signs of fatigue after three games in three days, sixth-seeded Ducks clamped down on Washington in the second half turning a close game into a 16-point lead. Pritchard led the charge up top with four steals and Kenny Wooten did his damage on the back line, blocking four shots while changing several others.

"Game in game out, we just came prepared," said Pritchard, named tournament MVP after finishing with 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds in the title game. "Fatigue never hit us."

The top-seeded Huskies (26-8) looked like the tired team, struggling against Oregon's defensive pressure.

Washington had a long scoring drought in the second half, shot 33 percent and went 5 for 23 from the 3-point arc. The Huskies had no double-figure scorers and could have some anxious moments on Selection Sunday.

"I thought we got decent shots. We got the ball where we wanted to get it and sometimes the ball just doesn't fall," Washington

BAKER BASEBALL PREVIEW



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sam McCauley, shown playing last season, leads Baker's pitching lineup.

Bulldogs in GOL title picture

By Gerry Steele
gsteale@bakercityherald.com

Baker hopes to be in the midst of the Greater Oregon League baseball championship picture this spring.

The Bulldogs lost just one player to graduation from a year ago and return eight players from last year's play-off team.

Returning players are Connor Lay, Dawson Linscott, Morgan Bennett, Spencer

Smith, Jack Rohner, Sam McCauley, Justin Miller and Mason Van Arsdall.

"We've got a good crew on the hill," said Baker coach Tim Smith.

Smith expects to see innings from Lay, Linscott, Bennett, and McCauley.

"McCauley has worked hard," Smith said. "He's one of the best at the Class 4A level."

Van Arsdall returns at

catcher, along with Rohner.

The infield will be a combination of Lay, Linscott, Smith, McCauley, Spencer Shirtcliff, Gavin Curry and Riverside transfer Andrew Zellars, depending upon who is on the mound.

The outfield positions will made up from the group of Linscott, Rohner, Miller, Hayden Owen, Justin Eskew and Logan Braschler.

BAKER BASEBALL AT FRUITLAND

Baker opens with 3 wins

By Gerry Steele
gsteale@bakercityherald.com

Baker's baseball team was in mid-season form during the weekend, sweeping a trio of opponents at the Fruitland, Idaho, tournament.

Friday, the Bulldogs defeated Fruitland 16-2. Sam McCauley and Andrew Zellars combined to throw a no-hitter.

Saturday, Baker topped Vale 11-1 and New Plymouth 15-0.

"The kids played outstanding baseball," said Baker coach Tim Smith "They excelled in all three phases of the game — pitching, hitting and defense."

Baker (3-0) outscored its opponents 42-3, outthrew them 44-6, and committed just four errors in the three games.

Against Fruitland, McCauley led Baker's offense with four hits, including a pair of doubles, and four RBIs.

Spencer Smith added three hits, and four other Bulldogs had two hits each.

Against Vale, Justin Miller had three hits.

Connor Lay added two hits, including a bases-loaded triple, and three RBIs.

Mason Van Arsdall added two hits and two RBIs.

Lay was the winning pitcher with relief help from Morgan Bennett.

Against New Plymouth, Dawson Linscott had two hits and three RBIs.

Zellars, Lay and Spencer Shirtcliff each added two hits.

Linscott and Shirtcliff combined to throw a two-hitter. Linscott got the win.

Baker travels to Nyssa Tuesday.

At Fruitland, Baker's JVs swept three games from Fruitland, Ontario JV and New Plymouth.

Friday game	
Baker	0 2 2 0 4 8 — 16
Fruitland	0 0 2 0 0 0 — 2
— McCauley, Zellars (4) and Van Arsdall. WP — McCauley.	
Baker hits — Linscott 2, Bennett 2, McCauley 4, Van Arsdall, Lay 2, Shirtcliff 2, Smith 3, Rohner. Baker RBI — Linscott 2, Owen, Bennett, Curry, McCauley 4, Van Arsdall, Smith, Braschler 2, Miller, Zellars.	
2B — McCauley 2, Lay, Shirtcliff.	

Saturday, Game 1	
Vale	0 0 0 0 1 0 — 1
Baker	2 1 2 0 5 1 — 11
— Lay, Bennett (6) and Van Arsdall. WP — Lay.	
Baker hits — Bennett, McCauley, Van Arsdall 2, Braschler, Lay 2, Shirtcliff, Miller 3.	
Baker RBI — Bennett 2, McCauley, Van Arsdall 2, Lay 3, Shirtcliff 2, Miller.	
2B — Van Arsdall 3B — Lay.	

Saturday, Game 2	
Baker	2 0 0 3 2 8 — 15
New Plymouth	0 0 0 0 0 0 — 0
— Linscott, Shirtcliff (5) and Van Arsdall, Zellars (4). WP — Linscott.	
Baker hits — Linscott 2, McCauley, Zellars 2, Curry, Lay 2, Shirtcliff 2, Smith, Rohner, Eskew, Miller, Braschler. Baker RBI — Linscott 3, McCauley 2, Van Arsdall, Zellars, Curry, Lay, Shirtcliff 2, Eskew, Miller, Braschler 2.	
2B — Linscott, McCauley, Zellars, Miller.	

Timbers remain winless

CINCINNATI (AP) — Allan Cruz and Mathieu Deplagne scored two minutes apart in the second half and expansion FC Cincinnati won for the first time in MLS, topping the 10-man Portland Timbers 3-0 on Sunday in its home debut.

Kendall Waston scored FC Cincy's first home goal in the MLS in the 15th minute by heading home Leonardo Bertone's free kick in front of a sold-out crowd of 32,250 at Nippert Stadium, including MLS Commissioner Don Garber.

Cruz scored on a back-heel shot in the 61st, settling a deflected shot and rolling it inside the far post. Two minutes later, Deplagne finished off a busy sequence in the box with a redirection.

MLS expansion teams are 9-6-2 in their opening home matches.

Beavers left out of NIT field

The Oregon State men's basketball team was not in contention for a berth in the NCAA tournament after losing to Colorado in the quarterfinals of the Pac-12 tournament Thursday, and the Beavers were also left out of the 32-team field for the National Invitation Tournament.

Colorado was the lone Pac-12 team chosen

to play in the National Invitation Tournament.

The Beavers declined to participate in the pay-for-play College Basketball Invitational tournament.

Oregon State, which finished with an 18-13 record, posted a 10-8 mark in Pac-12 play.

That was the Beavers' best conference record since the 1989-90 season.

McCollum hurt as Blazers lose to Spurs

By Raul Dominguez
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers can accept losing a tough game on the road to the San Antonio Spurs. They are hoping they did not suffer a greater loss to injury.

DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points and the Spurs extended their winning streak to eight games with a 108-103 victory Saturday night over the Trail Blazers, who lost C.J. McCollum to a left leg injury.

Damian Lillard scored 34 points for Portland, which had won three straight but had difficulty closing the game without McCollum.

"He's so big for our team," Lillard said, after first stating he was worried for McCollum's health. "You're just concerned for that, too. That's a big blow. He's a guy that plays a huge role for us and is a big part of our team."

McCollum exited under assistance with 7:03 remaining in the third quarter. He remained on the court for a few minutes clutching his left leg in great pain after tumbling out of bounds when his driving left-handed layup was blocked by Jakob Poeltl. McCollum had his left foot trapped under Poeltl's right foot as both landed, leading the Blazers guard to tumble

out of bounds next to the stanchion.

"I feel bad for C.J. I hope he's OK," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's a great player and a great kid."

The Blazers said McCollum had a "left leg injury" after X-rays were negative. He will undergo an MRI on Sunday morning. McCollum said he did not hear his knee pop but felt immediate pain and discomfort in it.

"I don't know the extent of it," McCollum said. "I don't know if it's lateral. I don't know. I just know that it's not normal."

McCollum finished with 10 points in 22 minutes.

Poeltl's block was one of a season-high 11 for the Spurs.

San Antonio (41-29) is sixth in the Western Conference, one game behind Oklahoma City for fifth. The Spurs, who host Golden State on Monday, have won 10 straight at home.

Portland (42-27) is fourth in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of the Thunder.

There were 14 lead changes and 12 ties in a contest as evenly matched as the standings.

"That was actually a lot of fun," Spurs guard Bryn Forbes said. "Just to be in a game with such a talented

basketball team as the Trail Blazers, it's always going to be fun down the wire because both teams are giving it their best and they are very talented."

Forbes had nine points in the fourth quarter and made two of the Spurs' four 3-pointers in the period. Davis Bertans also made three free throws to put San Antonio up 98-92 with 3:06 remaining after being fouled by Al-Farouq Aminu on a 26-footer.

Forbes finished with 11 points.

"I think we worked hard for 48 minutes," Popovich said. "We were up, we were down but they just kept playing."

Lillard moves to 2nd on Blazers' scoring list

By Les East
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — In a game marked by milestones, it was Damian Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers who had the most to celebrate.

Lillard scored 24 points and became the second-leading scorer in franchise history as Portland defeated the New Orleans Pelicans 122-110 on Friday night.

Lillard passed LaMarcus Aldridge (12,562) on the team's list, giving him 12,584 and leaving only Clyde

Drexler ahead of him with 18,040.

"To move up the list with such a great organization, so many great players that came before me and to move up again is an honor," Lillard said. "One more person to go."

C.J. McCollum added 23 points, and Enes Kanter and Rodney Hood each had 17 points for the Trail Blazers, who improved to 8-3 since the All-Star break. Zach Collins scored 12 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 11 points and 12 rebounds as Portland handed New Orleans its fifth consecutive loss despite impressive

performances by a couple of Pelicans.

"Zach came off the bench and did a great job defensively," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "Rodney made some big plays down at the end that were important."

New Orleans' Julius Randle had a career-high 45 points and 11 rebounds, falling four assists short of a triple-double. Elfrid Payton had his third consecutive triple-double, finishing with 14 points, 12 rebounds and a career-high 16 assists.

Payton has played in just 31 games in his first season with the

Pelicans because of multiple injuries.

"I think I have a good feel for where my teammates like the ball for the most part," Payton said. "It's just so unfortunate that I've missed so many games this year, so I'm just trying to finish strong."

Frank Jackson added 16 points and Jahli Okafor had 10 for the Pelicans, who made just 12 of 25 free throws.

The Pelicans led by one point at halftime, but Lillard and McCollum led the way as the Blazers had a 66-point second half.