

Sports

Texas Tech wins

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — More than 24 minutes into the game, the nation's best defense had yet to allow its 20th point.

Yes, Texas Tech makes it tough on people. One more clamp-down job like this and the Red Raiders will be D-ing up in the Final Four.

Jarett Culver's 22 points were a mere subplot in third-seeded Tech's 63-44 takedown of No. 2 Michigan in the West Region on Thursday night — a victory that set up an intriguing Elite Eight showdown against Gonzaga, which boasts the country's leading offense.

Texas Tech (29-6) is back to this point for the second straight year thanks to a shut-down job of epic proportions. The Raiders held an efficient-if-not-spectacular Michigan (30-7) offense to 16 field goals, 32 percent shooting and only a single 3-point basket on 19 attempts — a clunker by C.J. Baird in mop-up duty that drooled in with 21.8 seconds left.

"We guarded at a high level," coach Chris Beard said.

Sure did.

Only five players scored for Michigan, which was led by its brash playmaker, freshman Iggy Brazdeikis, who finished with 17, most of which came well after the game was out of hand.

BAKER BASEBALL

Bulldogs defeat Ketchikan 15-4

By Gerry Steele
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Baker completed its sweep through a high school baseball tournament at Arizona Thursday by stopping Ketchikan 15-4.

The win improves Baker's season record to 7-0.

Against Ketchikan, the Bulldogs took an 11-0 lead after two innings.

"The kids continued to hit the ball really well," said Baker coach Tim Smith.

"When a team goes up 11-0 early, it's hard for the other team to recover."

Spencer Smith and Mason Van Arsdall each had three hits. Van Arsdall led the Bulldogs with three RBIs.

Spencer Shirtcliff added two RBIs. Connor Lay picked up the win on

the mound with the help of two relievers.

Baker opens Greater Oregon League play April 6 at Mac-Hi.

Baker	5	6	0	2	0	0	2	—	15
Ketchikan	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	—	4

Lay, Curry (6), Bennett (7) and Van Arsdall. WP — Lay.
 Baker hits — Linscott, McCauley 2, Van Arsdall 3, Lay, Shirtcliff 2, Smith 3, Rohner. Baker RBI — Linscott, Bennett, McCauley, Van Arsdall 3, Lay, Shirtcliff 2, Smith, Rohner, Zellars, Owen.
 2B — McCauley, Van Arsdall, Shirtcliff. 3B — Smith.

Virginia outlasts Oregon 53-49

By Gary B. Graves
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Ty Jerome's 3-pointer was memorable not only for its timing, but because it marked one of the few Virginia made against Oregon.

Jerome gave the Cavaliers a three-point lead with 3:34 remaining, and then they used their trademark defense to smother the Ducks and make it stand.

No. 1 seed Virginia reached its second regional final in four years with a 53-49 victory over 12th-seeded Oregon on Thursday night in the NCAA Tournament. The Cavaliers face third-seeded Purdue in the South Regional finals Sunday for a trip to the Final Four.

The Cavaliers (32-3) shot 36 percent and matched a season low in scoring, but got baskets when needed to outlast the Ducks (25-13). Jerome's 3 was the biggest as he took Kihei Clark's pass and converted from deep to make it 48-45.

A follow-up from behind the arc would have been even better for the junior

guard, who obviously wanted breathing room in a tight defensive game.

"Honestly, right now I'm just thinking about the one I missed after that," said Jerome, who scored 13 points and made 3 of 8 from long range and 5 of 12 overall. "That would have really sealed the game."

Of his clutch shot, Jerome added, "We started doing a better job of moving. Kihei (Clark) found me in the right spot, and I think Dre (Hunter) or Mamadi (Diakite) set a great screen. I think they did a great job of finding me in the right spot."

Virginia clamped down from there holding Oregon scoreless for more than five minutes after the Ducks went ahead, 45-42, on Louis King's 3 with 5:43 left.

Clark tied it with a 3 with 5:21 left and De'Andre Hunter got free for a layup for 24 seconds left for a five-point edge that was enough to stop Oregon's 10-game winning streak.

"At times we struggled," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said, "but we made enough

offensive plays and certainly rallied defensively."

Most important for Virginia was moving a game closer to its first Final Four since 1984. That goal seemed shaky as the Cavaliers had to rally past No. 16 seed Gardner-Webb in the first round, but they recovered to win that game before beating Oklahoma.

Oregon presented a completely different challenge. The Ducks were on a roll and winning big thanks to a lineup featuring four 6-foot-9 starters, but the Cavaliers kept them from being a factor to reach the regional final.

"I mean, it's definitely a milestone for us," Virginia guard Braxton Key said. "But we're not done yet."

Clark finished with 12 points, six assists and four rebounds. Diakite grabbed 11 rebounds as Virginia edged Oregon 34-31 on the glass and held the Ducks to 38 percent shooting.

King's 16 points led Oregon, while Payton Pritchard had 11 and Paul White 10. The Ducks had hoped to reach their third Elite Eight in four years but struggled all night to score — especially down the stretch.

"They make a lot of people take bad shots," coach Dana Altman said. "But we didn't

handle that very well." TILL NEXT YEAR

Oregon's loss denied Altman from becoming the program's winningest coach. He entered the game tied with Ernie Kent at 235 wins but must wait until the Ducks' season opener for another chance to stand alone.

TECH, FALL, FAIL

Diakite and Oregon reserve guard Ehab Amin were each called for technical fouls following a second-half confrontation under Virginia's basket. Diakite swung around several times to get defenders off him, but ended up in a staredown with Amin, who suddenly fell to the floor in an apparent flop.

BY THE NUMBERS

Virginia held an opponent below 50 points for the 11th time this season. ... Oregon's bench outscored Virginia 8-0, all by Amin.

BIG PICTURE

Oregon: After beating opponents by an average of 18 points during their run, the Ducks were slowed down and then shut down by Virginia. They made just 9 of 25 from long range and were caught off guard defensively several times as Virginia found its post men inside and topped the Ducks 18-14 in the paint.

"We were right there, down to the wire," Pritchard said.

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WEEKEND AHEAD IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

■ **Softball:** Baker vs. Junction City, 11 a.m., Milton-Freewater; Baker vs. Yamhill-Carlton, 1 p.m. Milton-Freewater

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

■ **Softball:** Baker vs. Stayton, 11 a.m., Milton-Freewater; Baker vs. Santiam Christian, 3 p.m., Milton-Freewater

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 from April 1 to May 1.

The program, run by BHS coaches and athletes, will take place 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@bakersd.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.

Padres stop Giants 2-0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Manny Machado wasn't bothered a bit that he went hitless in his first game with the San Diego Padres.

The \$300 million slugger got a standing ovation as he walked to the plate for the first time with his new team at sold-out Petco Park. The crowd booed when he took a called strike from Madison Bumgarner, and then cheered again even after he struck out on three pitches.

The Padres went on to a 2-0 opening win against the San Francisco Giants on Thursday, ushering in a new era in a city desperate for a winner. Fernando Tatis Jr. singled twice in his big league debut and Wil Myers homered for the Padres, who popped above .500 for the first time since June 8, 2015.

"Awesome. Can't be any better," said Machado, who contributed two nice defensive plays at third base. "Coming out with the W, beating a good pitcher, couldn't start off the season any better."

The Padres signaled their intentions to move beyond the rebuilding stage when they signed Machado to a 10-year contract early in spring training. They then promoted the 20-year-old Tatis, baseball's top shortstop prospect whose father played in the big leagues for parts of 11 seasons, giving fans some hope after years of futility.

The two moves have energized a fan base that hasn't seen the Padres finish with a winning season since 2010.