

Sports

Stanford outlasts Missouri State

By Jay Cohen
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Even Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer grew concerned while the Cardinal kept missing its shots — over and over again.

Not Alanna Smith and company. They figured they would find a way at the end.

Smith and Stanford outlasted Missouri State for a 55-46 victory on Saturday in the NCAA Tournament, sending the cold-shooting Cardinal back to the Elite Eight for the third time in four years.

Stanford shot a season-low 25 percent (17 for 68) in its second-lowest scoring game. But Smith and Anna Wilson supplied just enough offense, and the Cardinal used its superior length to hold the 11th-seeded Lady Bears to 25.4 percent shooting (16 for 63), also a season low for the last double-digit seed left in March.

“I think the feeling on the team was we weren’t

worried,” said Smith, who finished with 13 points. “We know that we can hit down those shots, and we weren’t today, so we had to go to something else.”

VanDerveer seemed to get a kick out of Smith’s confidence.

“I don’t know what game she was at,” VanDerveer cracked. “I mean, wow. We just — we tried a lot of different things. We tried a lot of different people, and we struggled.”

Next up for No. 2 seed Stanford (31-4) is defending national champion Notre Dame on Monday in the Chicago Regional final. The Fighting Irish advanced with an 87-80 victory over Texas A&M.

“We know it will be a big challenge, but I have a lot of confidence in our team,” VanDerveer said. “We know we’ll have to play better.”

Danielle Gitzen had 14 points and eight rebounds for Missouri State.

Texas Tech locks down Gonzaga

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — One player came all the way from Italy. Another arrived from rural Illinois after a stop in South Dakota. Still another could’ve gone a lot of places but chose to stay home and see if he could help Texas Tech make the big time.

It can’t get much bigger than this.

Coach Chris Beard and his group of unheralded grinders notched a victory for everyone with a chip on their shoulder Saturday, gutting out a 75-69 win over Gonzaga that’s sending the Red Raiders to the Final Four.

Davide Moretti of Bologna, Italy, made the two most important 3-pointers of his life to open a sliver of a

cushion, then defense sealed the deal — and wrapped up a trip to college basketball’s biggest stage for the first time in the 94-year history of the program.

“Texas Tech is going to the Final Four,” Beard said. “Some of you look surprised. But Texas Tech is going to the Final Four.”

Anyone who has caught even a glimpse of this team’s nation-leading defense wouldn’t have been surprised. It was typical of the Red Raiders (30-6) — in this case, an inch-by-inch take-down of the nation’s most prolific offense, punctuated by Tariq Owens’ major rejection of Rui Hachimura with 56 seconds left — one of Texas Tech’s seven blocked shots, to go with nine steals and 16 forced turnovers.

Pistons end Trail Blazers streak

DETROIT (AP) — On the night the Detroit Pistons honored the “Bad Boys”, the current roster had to play the same kind of defense that led to championships in 1989 and 1990.

The Pistons missed their first 13 field-goal attempts and didn’t make a 3-pointer until the second half but were still able to end the Portland Trail Blazers’ six-game winning streak with a 99-90 victory on Saturday night.

“Our defense saved us tonight,” Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. “We couldn’t make a shot, but we stepped up on the other end and kept ourselves in the game.”

One of the reasons for Detroit’s offensive struggles was the unexpected absence of Blake Griffin, who was a late scratch with a sore left knee.

“He told me he would give it a try in warmups, but he couldn’t go,” Casey said. “That’s a shock for the rest of the team — one minute he’s out there and then he’s not.”

Reggie Jackson scored 28 points, Andre Drummond had 22 points and 19 rebounds, and the Pistons won their 11th straight home game to maintain a half-

game lead over the Brooklyn Nets for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference.

“We knew we had to step it up without Blake,” Jackson said. “It’s tougher for us when he’s not out there, and we weren’t hitting shots, so we had to grind it out and get this win.”

Damian Lillard scored 23 points and Enes Kanter added 20 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, which fell a half-game behind the Houston Rockets for the third seed in the Western Conference.

“We prepared for Blake to play, but that’s still a good NBA team that can win games without him,” Maurice Harkless said. “He’s one of their better players, so it is good for us, but we still didn’t come away with a win.”

Jackson hit a 17-foot jumper with 4:48 left in the first quarter for Detroit’s first basket. The Pistons shot 14.3 percent in the quarter, but only trailed 14-11 as the Trail Blazers managed just 25.9 percent.

“That was a brutal quarter of basketball,” Portland coach Terry Stotts said. “We had a lot of opportunities to take a bigger lead, but we didn’t take advantage.”

BAKER HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Bulldogs winless at Mac-Hi tourney

MILTON-FREEWATER — Baker’s softball team went winless in four games at the Mac-Hi tournament Friday and Saturday.

Friday, the Bulldogs (0-6 overall) lost 19-1 to Junction City and 17-7 to Yamhill-Carlton. Saturday, Baker fell 19-5 to Stayton

and 6-4 to Santiam Christian. No other information was available. Baker hosts Weiser Thursday at the Baker Sports Complex.

NCAA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Oregon women advance to Final Four

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Off to Oregon’s first appearance in the Final Four, guard Sabrina Ionescu set the theme for the second-seeded Ducks.

“All I gotta say is we’re not done yet,” Ionescu said after she had 31 points, eight assists and seven rebounds in Oregon’s 88-84 victory Sunday over top-seeded Mississippi State.

Satou Sabally had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Ducks (33-4), who head to Tampa, Florida, to face the winner of Monday’s game between top overall seed Baylor and Iowa.

At the final buzzer, Ionescu jumped into teammate Ruthy Hebard’s arms and coach Kelly Graves flashed an “O” with his hands to the crowd. The Ducks had been eliminated in the Elite Eight the past two seasons.

As Ionescu cut down a piece of the net, fans at the Moda Center chanted “One more year!” at the junior guard, who has been dogged by rumors she may skip her final year to go pro.

Teaira McCowan had 19 points and 15 rebounds in her final game for the Bulldogs (33-3), who had played in the NCAA title game for the past two seasons. Two of Mississippi State’s losses this season were to Oregon, and the first one was a true road game in Eugene.

It certainly had the feeling of an away game for Mississippi State, even

though the Bulldogs wore their home whites. Attendance at the Moda Center was announced at 11,534, with the vast majority cheering on the Ducks — a tough draw for a top seed.

“For us, man, I just can’t be prouder of my team today. You talk about competitive, tough. I just thought my team just fought tooth and nail today in a really hostile environment,” Bulldogs coach Vic Schaefer said.

Ionescu’s jumper put Oregon up 78-73 with just under three minutes left. After McCowan made a pair of free throws, Ionescu added a 3 that put the crowd on its feet and essentially put it away for the Ducks.

Bre’Amber Scott’s layup with 54 seconds left pulled the Bulldogs within 81-77, but Maite Cazorla answered with a 3-pointer for the Ducks. Jazzmun Holmes’ jumper cut the margin to five points with 26.4 seconds to go, but Mississippi State could not catch up.

Oregon also beat Mississippi State in December, ending the Bulldogs’ streak of 46 consecutive regular-season nonconference wins.

Ionescu averaged 19.6 points, 8.3 assists and 7.5 rebounds going into Sunday’s game. The Pac-12 Player of the Year has 18 career triple-doubles, an NCAA record among men and women, including eight this season.

“I’m never amazed at anything she does really, after three years,” Graves said. “You just expect the incredible.”

Narvaez, Bruce lead Mainers to win

By Daimon Eklund
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The rebuilding Seattle Mariners are off to a surprising start.

The lineup is leading the way.

Omar Narvaez hit a three-run homer off Rick Porcello in Seattle’s seven-run third inning, sending the Mariners to a 10-8 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday.

Dee Gordon had two hits and three RBIs as Seattle put together another impressive performance at the plate. The Mariners scored 34 times while taking three of four from the defending World Series champions in their first series at home.

“Right now we’ve got really good confidence, and we know what we can do,” Narvaez said. “Everybody’s basically enjoying the game. Laughing, putting a smile on our face.”

Jay Bruce also connected for Seattle, and Mitch Haniger had two hits and two RBIs. The Mariners have 15 homers, hitting at least one in every game in their 5-1 start.

“I knew we’d hit some homers,” Seattle manager Scott Servais said. “It seems like the ball is carrying here, but those balls are hit. Not too many cheap ones getting out of here.”

Porcello (0-1) allowed nine

runs, four earned, and six hits in 2 2/3 innings. The 2016 AL Cy Young Award winner struck out three and walked four.

Starters Porcello, Chris Sale, Nathan Eovaldi and Eduardo Rodriguez combined to give up 22 earned runs on 27 hits in the four games against Seattle.

“If you told me coming into the series that it was going to be this way I’d say, ‘No chance,’” Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. “But it’s baseball. Those guys are going to be OK throughout the season. We know that.”

The Red Sox almost came back in the ninth. Cory Gearrin came in to pitch for

Seattle and walked the bases loaded with one out. Gearrin was then replaced by Chasen Bradford, who walked pinch hitter Blake Swihart to force in a run before retiring Christian Vazquez and Jackie Bradley Jr. to end the game.

Narvaez’s drive to right put Seattle ahead to stay. Haniger capped the big inning with a two-run double. Mariners starter Wade LeBlanc (1-0) allowed six runs, four earned, and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

J.D. Martinez hit an RBI single in Boston’s three-run first, and then belted a three-run drive in the fourth for his 1,000th career hit.

Ibrahimovic goals lead Galaxy past Timbers

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored on a pair of penalty kicks to help the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Portland Timbers 2-1 on Sunday night.

Ibrahimovic capped the scoring in the 65th minute in his return from an Achilles injury in the opener March 2. Midfielder Romain Alessandrini also came back from a

hamstring injury sustained in the opener.

The 37-year-old Ibrahimovic told reporters Friday, when asked about his ability to return from setbacks, that he needs, “20 minutes, not more.”

Turns out, he wasn’t far off.

The Swedish forward changed a remarkable shot off the post in the 16th minute before giving the Galaxy (3-1-0) a 1-0 lead in the 33rd, converting from the spot after

drawing a foul.

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