Sports

Virginia shakes off Purdue to win South Region

By Gary B. Graves
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — From embarrassment to exhilaration. From early exit to regional champ. From bracket busters to net cutters.

Virginia, the first No. 1 seed to lose to a 16 seed a year ago, survived overtime and Carsen Edwards' staggering 3-point show Saturday night to make it to the Final Four for the first time since 1984.

The top-seeded Cavaliers needed a last-ditch buzzer-beater to send the game to overtime and finally contained Edwards in the extra period to hang on for an 80-75 victory over Purdue in the South Region final.

The Cavaliers (33-3) redeemed themselves from last year's loss to UMBC by relying on veterans, sound defense, poise, controlling the ball and a failure to be rattled even when the Boilermakers had the chance to ice the game in regulation at the foul line.

Their balance and experience allowed them to overcome a brilliant performance by Edwards, whose 10 3-pointers were one shy of the NCAA Tournament record. Edwards finished with 42 points for third-seeded Purdue (26-10) and none of his teammates scored more than seven each.

Edwards was named the Most Outstanding Player of the South regional, becoming the first player to win the honor from a losing team since Stephen Curry in 2008. Fitting, too, since Edwards scored the most points (139) through four NCAA Tournament games since 2000; Curry had the previous most with 128 points for Davidson.

De'Andre Hunter scored four points in overtime, including the go-ahead layup with 29 seconds remaining, while Kyle Guy and Kihei Clark each added two free throws as Virginia finally broke free from Purdue.

"I was definitely flashing back to when I was on my knees last year, and I did it again," Guy said of the celebration. "Just overflowing with joy. So happy for my teammates and my coaches and myself to be able to break through in the way that we did this year."

Virginia got a last-gasp jumper from Mamadi Diakite as time expired to force overtime.

WEEK AHEAD IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 1
- **Golf:** Baker at Pendleton, noon

TUESDAY, APRIL 2
- **Tennis:** Ontario at Baker, 2 p.m.
- **Baseball:** Baker JV2 at La Grande, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
- **Softball:** Weiser at Baker, 3 p.m.; Weiser JV at Baker, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
- **Track:** Powder Valley at Carnival of Speed, 10 a.m., Milton-Freewater; Baker at Prairie City Invitational, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
- **Track:** Powder Valley at Oregon Trail Invitational, 11 a.m., Vale
- **Softball:** Baker at Mac-Hi (2), noon; Baker JV at Mac-Hi (2), noon
- **Baseball:** Baker at Mac-Hi (2), noon; Baker JV at Mac-Hi (2), noon
- **Tennis:** Mac-Hi at Baker, 1 p.m.

AT A GLANCE

Louisville stops Oregon State

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Louisville coach Jeff Walz breathed a big sigh of relief. His top-seeded Cardinals clamped down on defense again and now they're headed to the Elite Eight.

"We knew coming into this it was going to be a hard-fought game," Walz said after his Cardinals defeated No. 4 seed Oregon State 61-44 in the Albany Regional semifinals on Friday night.

"We did a really, really good job of preparation and our players were confident in what we had gone over. That's half the battle. It gives you a good sense of calm."

Sam Fuehring and Asia Durr each had 17 points for the Cardinals, who held the Beavers to 2-of-22 shooting from beyond the arc, 0 for 5 in the decisive third quarter. They shot 38 percent from 3 during the season but had struggled in the tournament, shooting just 30 percent in the first two games.

"I loved our effort tonight," Oregon State coach Scott Rueck said. "I thought we played an excellent game, with the exception of shooting the ball. The ball just didn't fall and that's basketball.

"They did a nice job taking the rim away, forced us into perimeter shots. That's something that we're very comfortable with. For whatever reason they just didn't go."

Auburn upsets North Carolina

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The euphoria of reaching the Elite Eight for the first time in 33 years had already worn off and Auburn coach Bruce Pearl was left to arrange his bravest smile on his face.

His trigger-happy Tigers were moving on in the NCAA Tournament.

They were doing it without their most versatile player.

Behind yet another 3-point barrage, No. 5 seed Auburn overcame a slow start to roar past top-seeded North Carolina 97-80 in the Midwest Region semifinals Friday night.