

OREGON, OREGON STATE IN NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

# South Carolina eliminates Beavers

By Kristie Rieken  
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Aliyah Boston scored 19 points and top seed South Carolina dominated after a close first quarter to beat eighth-seeded Oregon State 59-42 in the women's NCAA Tournament, advancing to its seventh straight Sweet 16.

The Gamecocks (24-4) led by a point after one quarter but had built a 12-point lead by halftime and were up 53-29 by the start of the fourth.

"This is a huge lift off of our shoulders because that was a hard game," coach Dawn Staley said. "I know the score doesn't say that. But ... Oregon State is a really good, efficient basketball team."

South Carolina will appear in the regional semifinals for the 11th time overall.

"Our players didn't want to pack and head home," Staley said. "They wanted to stay a little bit longer. A lot of them, this is their first tournament experience ... and the deeper we go in this tournament, the more experience we have, the better off we'll be this year as well as in years to come."



Carmen Mandato/Getty Images-TNS

South Carolina's Zia Cooke (1) and Oregon State's Sasha Goforth (13) battle control of a loose ball Tuesday, March 23.

Taylor Jones scored 13 points for Oregon State (12-8), which ended a streak of four straight Sweet 16 appearances. Jones fouled out with about three minutes remaining.

Staley's plan was to get Jones into

foul trouble — and it worked, with Jones limited to 18 minutes.

South Carolina made just 1 of 15 3-pointers, but was able to control the game by outscoring the Beavers 34-24 inside.

# Harden, Nets nip Trail Blazers

By Erik Garcia Gundersen  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — James Harden had 25 points and 17 assists to lead the Brooklyn Nets to a 116-112 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night.

Jeff Green finished with 20 points, 15 in the first half and a pair of free throws to close it out with 4.8 seconds left. Nicolas Claxton had 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench for Brooklyn, which played without Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

The Nets also were nearly without Harden, who said he was close to sitting out with a sore neck. But Harden, who has played more games than anyone in the NBA since entering the league in 2009 with 871, takes great pride in being available for his team.

"That's just who I am, that's just how I'm built," Harden said. "If this thing was done tomorrow, I know I gave everything I had. I know I didn't shortcut at any point. It will be over one day but me in the back of my mind knowing, I have peace knowing I did that. I can live with that."

Enes Kanter had 19 points, 19 rebounds and six assists, while Damian Lillard had 22 points and nine assists for the Trail Blazers. Lillard and backcourt partner McCollum had a tough night against the Nets, going to a combined 10 for 35 (28%) from the field.

# Ducks advance to Sweet 16

By Kristie Rieken  
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Sedona Prince scored 22 points, Nyara Sabally took over late and sixth-seeded Oregon beat No. 3 Georgia 57-50 on Wednesday in the women's NCAA Tournament to advance to its fourth straight Sweet 16.

Sabally scored six straight

points — including a putback of her own missed shot — to break open a tie game and give the Ducks a 54-48 lead with less than a minute to go.

Oregon (15-8) is in the tournament for the 16th time overall, but this Ducks team came in less heralded than those led by Sabrina Ionescu, who missed out on her final chance at a national

title last year because of the pandemic.

After Sabally put the Ducks ahead to stay on a layup with 2:20 left, Georgia appeared to have tied the game with a jumper, but the officials said a foul was called before the shot. The foul call didn't stop play because the referee lost her whistle in her mask.

# Blazers: bring LaMarcus back

Time and time again, we have seen full circle moments in the NBA, as players looking for work return to the

team where they started their career.

Kevin Garnett heads back to the Twin Cities to rejoin the Timberwolves.

Dwyane Wade returns to South Beach to play for the Miami Heat again.

Now there's a chance for another reunion, and it's in Portland.

Come on, Trail Blazers, make a move for LaMarcus Aldridge.

Aldridge, in his 15th year in the league, recently said he and the San Antonio Spurs had agreed to part ways, thus making Aldridge a prime trade target with the NBA trade deadline arriving today. The seven-time All-Star has reached the tail end of his career, but in his prime of his nine-year run in Portland he was arguably the most underrated big man in the league.

Aldridge entered the league in 2006. Chicago took him with the second overall pick but traded him immediately to Portland for a draft pick and some role players. Aldridge helped the Blazers reach the playoffs six times, posting his best numbers in 2014-15, his final year in Portland, with 23 points and 10 rebounds per game.

But how does he fit with Portland's current roster?

The Blazers hold the sixth seed in the Western Conference at 25-18. Leading the way is Damian Lillard, one of the most clutch players in the league. With CJ McCollum and company beside Lillard, the Blazers have made the playoffs every season since Aldridge left.



COREY KIRK

In regard to the front court, the Blazers have Zach Collins and Jusuf Nurkic out with injuries. Enes Kanter starts at center, with the Swiss Army knife himself, Robert Covington, playing power forward. Coming off the bench Portland has

veteran Carmelo Anthony and young guys Nassir Little and Harry Giles III.

The addition of Aldridge would make an immediate impact on this depth chart.

Covington's versatility allows him to play small forward, allowing Aldridge to fit in at power forward, with Derrick Jones Jr. coming off the bench. Another option is to have Aldridge come off the bench.

What's the most vital thing Aldridge can bring to this team? More guidance.

Coming to Portland proved to be a wise decision for Anthony, who has accepted his supporting role. Aldridge will need to do the same, regardless of where he ends up.

He's average 13 points and four rebounds per game, the lowest since his rookie season. Gone are the days of Aldridge taking on a heavy workload, but his experience can be beneficial for the Blazers' younger frontcourt players.

Though it seems simple to have Aldridge reunited with the franchise where he played his best basketball, I know player deals in the NBA can be complex. Aldridge might have enough left in the tank that other teams will make a better offer, and seeing him back in a Blazers uniform will have to wait.

But I don't think a single Portland fan would be anything but excited to see Aldridge don the red and black, competing again at the Moda Center.

Corey Kirk is sports editor for the Baker City Herald.

# Peace of Mind

## Tires LES SCHWAB

### Our Best Tire Value PROMISE

Free Services with tires purchased at Low Bros. Tire

Custom Wheels, Lifts & Leveling Kits

FREE Rotations

FREE Rebalance

FREE Flats

## Low Brothers Tire Service

# 541-523-3679

210 Bridge St. Baker City, OR

“Advertising of any kind has been a challenge this past year - When? Where? Even Why?”

Being the new podiatrist in town especially during 2020 with all its new challenges, Juli has been nothing but completely amazing at helping us with different options and offers there are to choose from. I have been very impressed with the quick promptness and professionalism from her and am very happy choosing to advertise through Baker City Herald. Thank you for all your hardwork at keeping us up to date with our monthly stats and other advertising opportunities.



Dr Brian Sanders, DPM  
Sanders Podiatry

- Gain Exposure.
- Drive More Business.
- Find New Customers.

## Baker City Herald

Marketing assistance from the print and digital experts. Talk to our customer success team today.

541.523.3673

