

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Beavers men edge Sun Devils 80-79

CORVALLIS — Ethan Thompson scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half and assisted on a dunk by Warith Alatishe with 4.1 seconds left to help Oregon State beat Arizona State 80-79 on Saturday.

Thompson was 6-of-11 shooting and finished with five assists. Sophomore Jarod Lucas, who made his first career start, made 4 of 6 from 3-point range and led Oregon State (6-5, 2-3 Pac-12) with 18 points.

Thompson converted a three-point play to give the Beavers a 64-57 lead with 9:23 left, but Marcus Bagley scored 11 points in a 15-6 run to give ASU a two-point lead with 3:52 remaining. After Remy Martin hit two free throws to make it 76-75, Lucas was fouled by Alonzo Verge Jr. on a 3-point shot and made all three foul shots to put OSU back in front. Bagley hit a 3-pointer with 11 seconds to go but Thompson found Alatishe for the go-ahead dunk.

Martin missed a potential winning shot from near midcourt as time expired.

Bagley led Arizona State (4-6, 1-3) with 19 points. Martin and Josh Christopher added 14 points apiece and Chris Osten scored a career-high 12. Christopher and Osten each grabbed seven rebounds.

Oregon State hit nine of 21 from long-range.

The Beavers committed seven more turnovers than the Sun Devils, but Oregon State also outrebounded Arizona State 35-27, including 13 offensive boards.

The game featured 17 ties and 20 lead changes.

— Associated Press

NFL

Packers	32
Rams	18
Bills	17
Ravens	3

INSIDE

• Aaron Rodgers and the Packers roll over Rams' defense; Bills' D shines against Lamar Jackson, Ravens. Roundup, **B3**

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

2 more national TV games for Ducks

EUGENE — Oregon women's basketball will play two more nationally televised games this regular season.

The No. 10 Ducks (9-3, 6-3 Pac-12) will host No. 11 Arizona (Feb. 8) and No. 1 Stanford (Feb. 15), each at 4 p.m. PT on ESPN2.

UO's remaining nine regular season games — the postponed game at Arizona State has not been rescheduled — will be televised on Pac-12 Network, the conference announced Saturday.

Oregon hosts Washington State at 5 p.m. Friday and Washington at 2 p.m. Jan. 24 and wraps up the month at Utah (Jan. 29, 2 p.m.) and Colorado (Jan. 31, 11 a.m.).

The Ducks host ASU on Feb. 5 (8 p.m.), followed by Arizona, Cal on Feb. 12 (4 p.m.) and Stanford. They travel to UCLA on Feb. 19 (5 p.m.) and USC on Feb. 21 (noon) before closing the regular season against Oregon State on Feb. 28 (3 p.m.).

— The Oregonian

Community Sports

Youth hoops still in doubt



Courtesy photos

Youth girls basketball teams compete last season in the Bend Park & Recreation District program.

Bend Park & Recreation District basketball programs at risk of being canceled, or postponed until spring

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

Some parents in Central Oregon are desperate to find their kids a sport to play this winter, as youth recreation basketball programs have been continually delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We put together an impromptu flag football program on Wednesday and 80 spots filled within two hours,” said Rich Ekman, sports program coordinator for the Bend Park & Recreation District.

According to Ekman, the youth basketball programs are set to go, with teams, coaches, times and locations all determined. But Deschutes County must move down from the extreme risk level for indoor sports of any kind to occur, per the Oregon Health Authority guidelines.

The next update of the guidelines is expected on Jan. 26. If Deschutes County moves down from the extreme level, then Ekman said the third- through fifth-grade youth basketball program can start on Jan. 30 and run through March 20. (It was originally scheduled to start on Jan. 9.) If the program cannot start by Jan. 30, it will be canceled for the winter.



Youth boys basketball teams compete last season in the Bend Park & Recreation District program.

“I think (parents) are so excited to give their child an opportunity to do something, that they’re hanging in there. We’ve had only two drops after two delays.”

— Rich Ekman, sports program coordinator for Bend Park & Recreation District

“We will cancel the program and offer credit or refunds and turn our focus to providing outdoor sports opportunities for kids this spring,” Ekman said.

Even if the program can be held, it will be only skills and drills, with no scrimmaging or games allowed, in order to

adhere to the OHA guidelines for contact sports.

“Each kid will have their own ball and they’re doing their own drills,” Ekman said.

Face masks and social distancing will be required, he added.

About 300 kids are registered for third- through fifth-grade basketball — scheduled for once a week on Saturdays — and very few have dropped out even after all the delays, according to Ekman.

“That’s been a surprise,” Ekman said. “I think (parents) are so excited to give their child an opportunity to do something, that they’re hanging in there. We’ve had only two drops after two delays.”

See **Youth hoops** / B3

NFL

Saleh’s hiring a source of pride for the Muslim community

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — Robert Saleh has made history that extends far beyond any football field.

The New York Jets’ new head coach has families and community leaders excited in neighborhoods all across the country, celebrating the first known Muslim American to hold that position in the NFL.

That’s a source of great pride for a group that has been generally underrepresented in the league’s on-field leadership roles.

“It’s something that shows the growing diversity of our nation, the inclusion we’re trying to achieve at all levels of our society,” said Ibrahim Hooper, national communications director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. “And I think it’s a very positive sign.”

See **Saleh** / B3

PREP SPORTS

Transgender athletes look to changing of guard in White House

BY PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

Transgender athletes are getting an ally in the White House this week as they seek to participate as their identified gender in high school and college sports — although state legislatures, Congress and the courts are all expected to have their say this year, too.

Attorneys on both sides say they expect President-elect Joe Biden’s Department of Education will switch sides in two key legal battles — one in Connecticut, one in Idaho — that could go a long way in determining whether transgender athletes are treated by the sex on their birth certificates or by how they identify.

Debate is also expected in statehouses. Last year, bills to restrict transgender athletes’ participation to their gender assigned at birth were brought up in 17 states, although only one, Idaho’s, became law.

See **Transgender** / B3

NHL

Mentors wanted: Virus limits vet-rookie time away from rink

BY PAT GRAHAM AND DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writers

Colorado defenseman Ian Cole has taken a young kid under his wing as he starts his 11th season in the NHL, dining with him and going the extra mile to make sure his needs are met.

Of course, this is Cole’s infant son, who was born over the summer.

Someday, maybe Cole will

serve again as a full-blown mentor for an NHL rookie. For now, in this COVID-19 climate, that’s harder to do.

Bonding between veterans and youngsters has been a time-honored tradition in hockey, with older players routinely inviting rookies to live with them during their first season to help them get settled in. Building that kind of off-ice camaraderie is far more chal-

lenging now because of the pandemic.

“The directive that we’re getting is don’t hang out with anyone outside the rink. Don’t go to dinner. Don’t have dinner parties. Don’t do anything like that. Don’t see anybody,” Cole explained. “It’s tough to build that chemistry away from the rink.”

Veterans across the league credit those unofficial rookie-year mentorships as in-

strumental in launching their careers. That was the case for Cole, who was guided by Barret Jackman while both were in St. Louis. Jackman was married with a family. Cole was young and living alone. Still, they built a strong relationship that translated into better on-ice performance.

“It’s not like we would hang out and go bar hopping by any means,” Cole said. “We built

that chemistry at the rink and we were able to do it. I think that now may be more challenging but not impossible.”

The league rules are explicit and include: Avoiding close, social contact with non-family members; staying away from restaurants, bars, and clubs during road trips; and not eating meals with anyone outside the household.

See **Mentors** / B3