

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Beavers hang on, top Trojans 58-56

CORVALLIS — Jarod Lucas and Ethan Thompson scored 13 points apiece and Oregon State beat Southern California 58-56 on Tuesday night, snapping the Trojans' six-game winning streak.

Both teams struggled offensively down the stretch as Oregon State did not make a field goal in the final 3:13 and USC did not score in the last 2:19. USC's Drew Peterson missed a 3-pointer with five seconds to go.

Roman Silva added 12 points for Oregon State (7-5, 3-3 Pac-12) on 6-for-7 shooting.

Evan Mobley scored 12 points for the Trojans (11-3, 5-2).

Both teams were 20-for-48 (42%) shooting. Oregon State was 6 for 15 (40%) from 3-point range and USC 6 for 20 (30%). The Beavers shot 12 for 14 from the foul line and USC went 10 for 18.

Oregon State is scheduled to play at No. 21 Oregon on Saturday.

— Associated Press

RUNNING

UO announces indoor/XC schedule

Oregon's indoor track and field season begins next week and the cross country season will begin next month.

After nearly one year between competitions, the Ducks are ready to run again. Oregon announced its 2021 overlapping indoor and cross-country schedules on Tuesday — both of which will include three meets before their respective national championships.

The Ducks will open the indoor season at the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville on Jan. 29-30 — the first of the three meets at the Randal Tyson Track Center for the Ducks, who are also entered in Arkansas' Tyson Invitational on Feb. 12-13 and the Camel City Invitational in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Feb. 19-20.

The NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships will held in Fayetteville on March 11-13.

Oregon was at the NCAA Indoor meet in Albuquerque, N.M., last March, warming up on the track when the meet was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ducks haven't competed since then as the 2020 outdoor season was canceled and the cross country season last fall was postponed.

"It's exciting to be at this point with a schedule in place," Oregon coach Robert Johnson said. "As we've seen and learned from other teams and sports that have started, being flexible will be really important for us. It's been 10 months since most of our team has been able to compete so ... we're trying to give our student-athletes as many opportunities as possible."

The cross country team will have considerably less travel than their teammates competing in track.

The Ducks will have two meets on the course at Lane Community College before the Pac-12 championship meet in Tacoma on March 5. The NCAA championships are March 15 in Stillwater, Okla.

The season-opener at Lane is the Oregon XC Open on Feb. 5. On Feb. 19, the Ducks will be at the LCCC Invitational.

— The Register-Guard

NBA Commentary

What's the plan for Portland?

Amid injuries, Trail Blazers must construct a new outline for Damian Lillard's era

BY JOHN CANZANO • The Oregonian

I'd typically note right up front that the Trail Blazers can't catch a break, but they've had two now in the last week.

C.J. McCollum has a small fracture in his left foot. He will be evaluated again in a month. The guard joins center Jusuf Nurkic (broken wrist) on the sidelines. Zach Collins (ankle surgery) is out, too.



Steve Dykes/AP file

Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard drives to the basket past Houston Rockets' Brodric Thomas last month in Portland.

What I'm saying is, this season is teetering. McCollum was a bright spot and deserved better for his efforts. It's going to be difficult for Portland to consistently compete in the next couple of months without two starters. The temptation today is going to be to throw hands up and declare it lost to the old franchise nemesis — tough luck. But I think there's a much bigger question for the front office.

It's this: What's the plan?

Got one?

Not for today, but for the rest of Damian Lillard's time in Portland. Lillard turns 31 in July. Last summer, the All-Star guard bought a home on five very-private rural acres in West Linn. He almost immediately began renovation and construction on the property. It was like the guy knew he had a limited window to get it right. In that, I sort of wish Lillard held the keys to Portland's personnel moves because his timeline is the one that matters most to this franchise right now.

Lillard's salary this season: \$31.7 million

Next season: \$43.8 million.

2022-23: \$47.3 million.

2023-24: \$50.8 million.

2024-25: Player option for \$54.3 million.

No fans in the home arenas in 2021. Half the schedule still unknown. I

don't think it's coincidental that we're seeing organizations make sweeping decisions amid this and pivot like they're operating with different agendas. The Rockets, for example, are starting all the way over. The Warriors, on the other hand, are acting like someone told them they'd be relegated to the G-League if they didn't finish above .500.

So what's Portland's plan exactly?

A couple of seasons ago, general manager Neil Olshey's master plan was simply to wait out the Warriors dynasty and bet heavy on Lillard and McCollum to stay healthy and productive. Then, make a deep run in the West after Golden State's dynasty aged

out. But that didn't account for the rest of the conference, which simply went about drafting well, signing All-Star free agents, and improving the rosters at a level the Blazers just haven't matched.

Portland isn't chasing Golden State anymore. The Blazers have been dusted in the standings by the Lakers and Clippers. Utah is in front of them, too. Phoenix has young talent. And while franchises such as Denver, Dallas and Memphis aren't consistently thriving this season in the win column, they've at least established clear timelines that make sense for their star talent.

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GOLF

Lower scores just an example of golf evolving

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU — Chris Kirk shot 65 four days in a row and it wasn't enough to win on the PGA Tour.

Joaquin Niemann can appreciate the feeling. The dynamic 22-year-old from Chile played both tournaments in Hawaii and was a combined 45-under par.

He lost in a playoff at Kapalua and finished one shot behind in the Sony Open.

For those who are either put

off or put to sleep by low scoring on the PGA Tour, relief is probably not on the way.

Next up is The American Express in the California desert, a tournament still known as the Bob Hope in some circles and defined by low scoring under any name. Since going to 72 holes in 2012, the highest winning score was 20-under 268 by Hudson Swafford. He won by one shot in 2017 over Adam Hadwin, a day after Hadwin shot 59.

None of this should be cause

for alarm. Some of it has to do with the weather.

The day after Kevin Na won the Sony Open by one shot over Kirk and Niemann, the wind blew so hard it felt as though the island of Oahu might get blown across the ocean. For the tournament week, there was barely enough wind to move a palm frond. A year ago, with 30 mph gusts every round until Sunday, the winning score was 10 shots higher.

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Steve Helber/AP file

Joaquin Niemann played both PGA Tour tournaments in Hawaii and was a combined 45-under par.

MOTORSPORTS

Women-led race team gearing up to run in Indianapolis 500

BY MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Beth Paretta and Simona de Silvestro will be teaming up to put another woman on the Indianapolis 500 starting grid this May.

They'll also be getting some help — from other women and IndyCar's most successful owner.

On Tuesday, Paretta Autosport and IndyCar officials announced they would work together to put a predominantly women-run team in the series' biggest race as part of an outreach to create more diversity in motorsports.

"Today is the beginning of a commitment to gender equity

"Being part of the goal of diversity and inclusion for everyone, and especially women in IndyCar, and in motorsports in general, is very important to me and how I would like to see the future of racing."

— Simona de Silvestro, race car driver

in sport, to encourage women to work hard so they can earn their seat at the table or spot on the grid," Paretta said in a statement. "IndyCar has been a leader and a welcoming place for women for many years because of the hard work of many women and men before us, but now we have a stronger commitment with IndyCar's Race for Equality & Change to make sure opportunities continue in the future."

De Silvestro, the 2010 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year, will attempt to qualify on the traditional 33-car starting grid in the No. 16 Chevrolet-powered car.

The announcement comes less than three months before IndyCar's season opener in Birmingham, Alabama, and less than five months after the rescheduled 500 ran without a female driver for the first time since 1999.

It's not the first time Paretta has accepted such a challenge.

In 2015, she announced that an all-female team that included driver Katherine Legge would attempt to qualify for the the 100th running of the 500 in May 2016.

But when Paretta's team couldn't find a suitable car, the effort stalled.

That shouldn't be a problem this year.

Team Penske, the most suc-

cessful team in Indy history with series owner Roger Penske at the helm, will provide Paretta's team with technical support for the May 30 race.

"We are pleased to welcome Beth and her Paretta Autosport team to IndyCar this year," Penske Entertainment Corporation president and CEO Mark Miles said. "(The addition) will ensure that IndyCar and the Indianapolis 500 continues the legacy of having a female driver qualify for the 2021 Indy 500. Of course, it will be up to Simona and the team to qualify the car for the grid, but knowing Beth, I know that her team will be up for the task."

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