

## MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Beavers fall to the Trojans 75-62

LOS ANGELES — Evan Mobley had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Southern California pulled away over the final 10 minutes to beat Oregon State 75-62 on Thursday for its eighth win in nine games.

Mobley had five dunks on his way to the freshman's seventh double-double of the season.

Isaiah White and Noah Baumann added 11 points each and Ethan Anderson had 10 points for the Trojans (13-3, 7-2 Pac-12). They avenged a two-point loss to the Beavers on Jan. 19 that snapped USC's six-game winning streak.

"We didn't play a perfect game, but we grinded out a home win," USC coach Andy Enfield said. "They played a physical and energetic basketball game for 40 minutes."

Ethan Thompson had 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and Jarod Lucas added 18 points for the Beavers (8-6, 4-4).

"They're a really good team this year and they're not easy to score on," Anderson said.

It wasn't until the Trojans put together their biggest spurt of the game that they got any breathing room. They outscored the Beavers 18-6 to take a 65-49 lead, their largest of the game. Chevez Goodwin scored six points during the spurt. He finished with 10 rebounds, helping the Trojans dominate the boards, 48-30.

Baumann and Goodwin's efforts led USC's reserves, who outscored the Beavers' bench 31-10.

— Associated Press

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Ducks make DC DeRuyter official

EUGENE — Nearly a week since he agreed to come to Oregon, Tim DeRuyter is officially the school's new defensive coordinator.

The Ducks officially named DeRuyter, who served at Cal the past four seasons, their new defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach on Thursday.

"We are excited to add a coach of the caliber and experience as coach DeRuyter to lead our defense," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said in a statement. "He is a proven difference maker with a track record for developing players to their full potential."

Previously the head coach at Fresno State from 2012-17 and defensive coordinator at Texas A&M, Air Force, Nevada, Ohio and Navy, DeRuyter has been a defensive coordinator in 20 of his 31 seasons as a college coach.

He succeeds Andy Avalos, who left UO earlier this month to become head coach at Boise State, and inherits a defense that returns seven starters, including All-American defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux.

"I am beyond thrilled to be joining coach Cristobal's staff here at the University of Oregon," DeRuyter said in a statement.

— The Oregonian

## INSIDE

• Players who opted out of the 2020 season knocking off rust in the Senior Bowl, B5

## College Baseball

## Beavers are underdogs

*But Oregon State brings 'unheard of' depth and championship hopes into 2021 season*

BY JOE FREEMAN • The Oregonian

The ominous message blared over the cabin speakers of the commercial airliner, just after the Oregon State baseball team settled into its seats outside the gate at Portland International Airport.

There was a last-second change of plans and the Beavers would not be flying to Tucson for a series against Arizona. They needed to deboard the plane immediately.

"I thought they were joking at first," OSU catcher Troy Claunch said. "It was a little shocking. We knew that everything was up in the air at that moment, but we didn't really know what was going on."

It was March 12, 2020, and this is what was going on: The college baseball season had been paused and was on the verge of collapsing as the coronavirus rapidly spread across the United States. So the Beavers hastily departed the plane, collected their baggage and climbed into a bus for a ride back to Corvallis and an uncertain future.

Within hours, sobering clarity arrived. The NCAA canceled its spring sports championships, including the College World Series. Days later, the Pac-12 Conference shuttered spring sports. The Beavers' season ended before it really started as the world was



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian file

Oregon State Beavers coach Mitch Canham, center, gathers the team before a practice in Corvallis in February 2020. Canham is looking forward to seeing his team back on the practice field on Friday after the bulk of the 2020 season was lost due to the pandemic.

*"We love being the underdog. We almost prefer it. We have no problem proving we're the best team in the country day-in and day-out for the next five months. They can keep leaving us out, it's fine with us."*

— Kevin Abel, Oregon State starting pitcher

thrust into the chaos of a once-in-a-100-years global pandemic.

"After putting in all that work for months and months, it was hard to accept," Claunch said. "It was pretty disappointing, pretty heartbreaking."

The Beavers can finally start to let go of that heartbreak on Friday, when they gather at Goss Stadium in Corvallis for the first full practice of the 2021 season.

"I can't tell you how excited we are to be playing baseball," OSU coach Mitch Canham said. "Sometimes it takes hardship to open eyes and see what's important."

As eyes shift toward another baseball season in Corvallis, expectations will be as high as ever for the Beavers internally — with national championship aspirations — but as low as ever externally.

The USA Today Sports preseason coaches poll has not been released, but the Beavers were not included in Top 25 preseason polls from Baseball America or D1Baseball.com.

"We love being the underdog," ace righthander Kevin Abel said. "We almost prefer it. We have no problem proving we're the best team in the country day-in and day-out for the

next five months. They can keep leaving us out, it's fine with us."

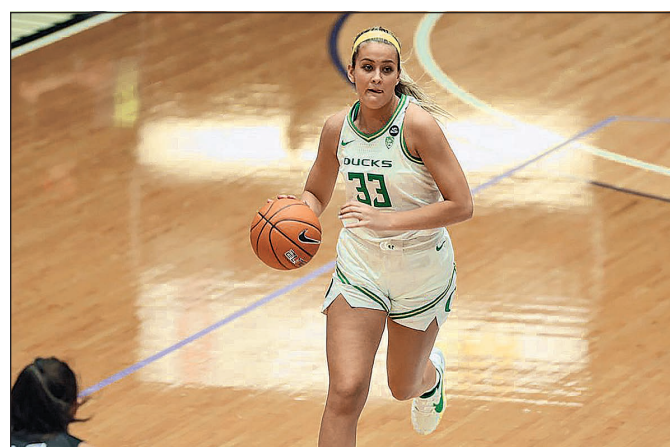
National pundits are overlooking the Beavers in large part because of how they played before they were forced to deboard that plane last March.

Oregon State sputtered to a 5-9 record last season, ending with a five-game losing streak — which included a stunning home-opening series sweep — before COVID-19 prematurely ended things. It was the program's worst start since 1991.

Along the way, OSU was anemic at the plate, batting just .267 while producing three shutouts, and careless in the field, committing 14 errors. During that series sweep at Goss, the Beavers were outscored by UC Santa Barbara 13-2 and committed nine errors.

See Beavers / B5

## WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Oregon's Sydney Parrish brings the ball up the floor against Portland in November. The improved play of Parrish, a freshman, of late has helped the Ducks recover from a midseason lull.

## Ducks getting better defense, improved play from freshmen

BY RYAN THORBURN

The (Eugene) Register-Guard

Defense doesn't always win high school championships.

The main reason Hamilton Southeastern won the Indiana state title was because Sydney Parrish erupted for 21 of her 30 points in the second half to lead the way.

Even a player as skilled as Parrish, the highest ranked prospect in the nation's No. 1 recruiting class, has a steep learning curve on the other end of the court after joining the Oregon women's basketball program.

"Defense is one of my weaknesses. Growing up that has

always been one of my weaknesses," Parrish said during a Zoom session with the media Wednesday. "I've had to learn a lot coming in. I was pretty bad coming in the first few practices. The first few months of practicing, my defense was really struggling."

Not so much in 2021.

Oregon coach Kelly Graves was more impressed with Parrish's defensive effort than the true freshman guard's 12 points in 19 minutes during the Ducks' 69-52 win over Washington on Sunday.

"Defensively, she's always in the right place," Graves said.

See Ducks / B4

## WINTER X GAMES | SNOWBOARDING

## After time off, Chloe Kim returns to superpipe rested, healthy, wiser

BY EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

ASPEN, Colo. — Chloe Kim took some time off to heal her body and broaden her mind.

Mission(s) accomplished, and now that she's back at her day job — best female athlete in the superpipe — it looks as though she never left.

Now 20, and with a year at Princeton under her belt, the Olympic champion is in the lineup for the Winter X Games, going for her fifth gold medal on the superpipe in Aspen on Saturday night. Her chance to defend the Olympic title is a scant 13 months away.

If she lost much during her 22 months off the snow, it doesn't show. Kim's first contest back — last week in Laax, Switzerland — ended like most of them do: with a gold medal hanging around her neck and the rest of the field contemplating a superpipe-sized gap between them and the champion.

Not that she took any of it for granted.

"I was so anxious because not only have I not done any of that in almost two years, but it was more with COVID and quarantining, and sitting around and freaking out,"

Kim told The Associated Press. "I'm thinking, 'What if this doesn't go the way I want? What if I don't know how to do anything anymore?'"

Not likely. But the year in college did give Kim an unflinching look at some things she really couldn't do — things that never really came up during a childhood during which she blended home-schooling with a busy travel schedule and a life synched around the rhythms of the yearly the snowboard circuit.

"I learned how bad I was at time management," she said. "All my friends had planners, calendars, they were writing schedules out. I was like, 'What is that?' I had always lived life on the go. Very flexible. But if you're in school, assignments are due at 11:59 p.m."

Her Olympic victory in Pyeongchang three winters ago validated the massive hype that surrounded Kim and her story. She was the teenage phenom from California but with Korean roots, poised to take the gold medal on "home turf" of sorts, and with her grandma in the stands, to boot.

All that happened, and Kim's post-Olympic life was

the kind you would expect, filled with walks down the red carpet, hundreds of interviews with everyone from sports to lifestyle writers — "What's the one beauty rule you swear by? Moisturizing." — ambushes from the paparazzi and, of course, a Chloe Kim-inspired Barbie doll.

All of it great. But after a rough landing at the Burton U.S. Open in March 2019 left her with a broken ankle, Kim came to terms with the reality that her body, and mind, needed a break. She had been snowboarding almost nonstop throughout her childhood.

"I need to be human, need to be a normal kid for once," she explained in an October 2019 video announcing that she had enrolled at Princeton.

She put the snowboard away, and insisted her main form of exercise to stay in shape were her fast-paced walks across campus. She tried as hard as she could to blend in. She made new friends.

"I think one of the most important things I learned was you can make a really good connection with people who don't have the exact same interests as you," Kim said in her interview with AP.

See Kim / B4