

WOMEN'S
COLLEGE HOOPSBeavers thump
the Trojans 77-52

Oregon State dominated USC in nearly every statistical category, thumping the Trojans 77-52 Friday afternoon in Los Angeles.

The Beavers outscored USC in every quarter on the way to an unexpected rout. Oregon State (7-6, 5-6 Pac-12) won for the fourth time in five games.

Freshman Talia von Oelhoffen hit three 3-pointers and scored 19 points off the bench to lead the Beavers. Aleah Goodman scored 17 points and Ellie Mack 13 for OSU.

OSU shot 54.2% (26 of 48) from the floor, and 9 of 14 from 3-point range. Conversely, the Beavers held USC to 31.7% (20 of 63) shooting. The Beavers limited USC's leading scorer, Endyia Rogers, to eight points.

Oregon State pounded USC (10-9, 8-8) on the glass, out-rebounding the Trojans 44-25. Taylor Jones led the way with 13 rebounds for the Beavers.

Friday's win sets up a Sunday showdown against No. 8 UCLA. A high-profile win over the Bruins would enhance the Beavers' bid for a spot in the NCAA tournament. The Bruins routed No. 13 Oregon 83-56 Friday night.

Oregon State led 37-23 at halftime after holding USC to 29% (9 of 31) shooting. The Beavers never trailed during the opening half, jumping to an 18-9 lead. OSU led 21-16 after the first quarter after Goodman hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from 10 feet behind half court.

The Beavers' defense smothered USC during the second quarter, limiting the Trojans to only seven points on 2 of 17 shooting.

Alissa Pili hit back-to-back 3-pointers early in the third quarter as USC eventually cut the deficit to nine points. The Trojans never got any closer.

—The Oregonian

MLB

Mariners ink
reliever Ken Giles

The Seattle Mariners finalized a \$7 million, two-year contract with reliever Ken Giles on Friday that includes a club option for the 2023 season.

Seattle signed Giles knowing he won't pitch for the Mariners this season while recovering from Tommy John surgery. Manager Scott Servais stressed that no matter how far along Giles gets in his recovery, he won't pitch in the majors in 2021.

"There is no chance of that happening," Servais said. "We will not let that happen. That's not the agreement and everybody understood you to do the right thing and taking our time getting him back."

When healthy, Giles has been one of the top relievers in the American League. He had 34 saves and a 2.70 ERA in 63 appearances in 2017 for Houston. He had another 23 saves and a 1.87 ERA in 53 games for Toronto in 2019. Giles had 83 strikeouts and just 17 walks in 53 innings pitched for the Blue Jays.

But arm trouble emerged last season. Giles appeared in just four games before deciding in late September to undergo Tommy John surgery.

—Associated Press

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Kansas State edges Oregon State 3-2 in season opener

BY JOE FREEMAN
The Oregonian

It was a quintessential good news, bad news kind of day for the Oregon State Beavers baseball team on Friday.

Kevin Abel made his long-awaited return from Tommy John surgery, pitching 4½ strong innings in the opener of the Sanderson Ford College Baseball Classic in Surprise, Arizona.

But his feel-good homecoming was spoiled by the Kansas State Wildcats, who used timely hitting and the dominance of left-hander Jordan Wicks to beat the Beavers 3-2

in the season opener for both teams.

Abel allowed just one earned run and one hit in his first start since March 2019. But he was upstaged by Wicks, a first-round Major League Baseball draft prospect who was virtually unhittable Friday at Surprise Stadium.

The preseason All-American surrendered just three hits and struck out 10 for Kansas State, baffling Beavers batters with a low-90s fastball and nasty changeup.

Wicks allowed just five balls out of the infield and grew stronger as the game went on,

Next up

Oregon St. vs.
New Mexico

When: 11 a.m.
Saturday

TV: FLOSPORTS



retiring 20 of the last 22 hitters he faced. When he struck out Justin Boyd to end the bottom of the seventh, Wicks celebrated with a fist pump as he strolled to the dugout, punctuating his final out.

The Beavers' offense only threatened Wicks once, loading the bases in the bottom of the second inning with no

outs after Troy Claunch and Tyler McMahan drew walks and Joe Casey followed with a bunt single. But Wicks effortlessly worked out of the jam, striking out Boyd and Wade Meckler before inducing an inning-ending groundout from Andy Armstrong.

Abel matched Wicks through four innings, striking out six of the first 16 batters he faced. But he ran into trouble in the top of the fifth, when he beamed No. 8 hitter Kamron Willman to lead off the inning. Caleb Littlejim followed with a sacrifice bunt to first, but Boyd misplayed the ball and,

suddenly, the Wildcats had runners on first and second with no outs. Two batters later, things unraveled, as freshman Nick Goodwin lined a 1-2 pitch down the left field line to score two.

It was the first hit of Goodwin's career — and the first hit allowed by Abel in the game. Abel responded by striking out Zach Kokoska for the second out, but was promptly pulled from the game.

Abel's final line: 4½ innings, one hit, one earned run, two walks, seven strikeouts and 79 pitches.

See **Baseball** / B2

TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Experience
vs. youth

Novak Djokovic seeking 18th
Grand Slam title and Daniil
Medvedev his 1st when they face
each other in the final on Sunday

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Novak Djokovic lost his first career Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open. Then he won his second, which came at the Australian Open.

And look where he is now, more than a dozen years later:

One victory from a ninth championship at Melbourne Park and his 18th major title overall, which would put him two behind rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the most by a man in tennis history.

Daniil Medvedev also lost his first career Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open. And now he will try to win in his second try, which comes at the Australian Open on Sunday (at 7:30 p.m. local time, 12:30 a.m. PST) — against Djokovic.

"I know that to beat him, you need to just show your best tennis, be at your best physically, maybe four or five hours, and be at your best mentally, maybe for five hours," Medvedev said.

"I would say to win a Slam, especially against somebody (like) Novak, is already a big motivation, and I don't think there is anything that can make it bigger."

It is an intergenerational showdown — Serbia's Djokovic turns 34 in May; Russia's Medvedev just



Andy Brownbill/AP

Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Aslan Karatsev in their semifinal match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday.

"I know that to beat (Djokovic), you need to just show your best tennis, be at your best physically, maybe four or five hours, and be at your best mentally, maybe for five hours."

— Daniil Medvedev

turned 25 — and another in the simmering standoff between the Big Three and the next wave of up-and-coming players hoping to supplant the group that has dominated for more than 15 years.

Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have combined to win 14 of the past 15 majors (Dominic Thiem at last year's U.S. Open was the exception), and 57 of the last 69.

"Spice it up a little bit," by adding a new name to the list of Slam champs, suggested Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 22-year-old who came back from two sets

down to eliminate Nadal in the quarterfinals before losing to Medvedev 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in the semifinals. "Wouldn't be bad."

Here's part of what makes this final intriguing: It pits one of the greatest ever to play the sport, and at a site he's dominated, against a player who currently is playing better than anyone in men's tennis.

The No. 1-seed Djokovic is 17-0 in Australian Open semifinals and finals, making him nearly as much of a lock on the blue hard courts of Melbourne Park as Nadal is on the red clay courts of Roland Garros.

"The more I win, the better I feel coming back each year," Djokovic said. "I think it's kind of also logical to expect that. The love affair keeps going."

No. 4 Medvedev, meanwhile, is on a 20-match winning streak dating to last season, a run that features 12 victories against members of the Top 10 (one against Djokovic).

See **Tennis** / B2

NHL

Tahoe hosting outdoor games this weekend

BY JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

STATELINE, Nev. — Some players snapped pictures of Lake Tahoe and the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains as they came out for their first look at the picturesque outdoor rink that will host a pair of NHL games this weekend.

Others just soaked in the environment before taking the ice for a practice that took them back to their childhood, when many got started playing hockey on frozen ponds and lakes.

It's fair to say none of those makeshift rinks was quite like the one that will be used for the games this weekend between Vegas and Colorado and Philadelphia and Boston in one of

the most scenic settings imaginable.

"Anywhere where they can build outdoor rinks, there's always a competition on the street whose dad can build a better rink," Vegas coach Peter DeBoer said Friday after his team practiced in preparation for Saturday's game against the Avalanche.

"Every year you come back and someone adds lights or a scoreboard. This is a drop the mic type outdoor rink. It's the nicest I've ever seen. The guys really, really enjoyed it today. It's awe-inspiring when you walk out there and see the mountains and the lake in the background. The only thing we're missing is fans."

With the COVID-19 pan-

demic limiting attendance at games, the NHL took the opportunity to hold a pair of outdoor games at a unique setting unlike the 30 previous outdoor games at stadiums.

They built a rink on the 18th fairway of the golf course of the Edgewood Tahoe Resort, which is located on the shores of Lake Tahoe and surrounded by trees with the snow-covered Sierra Nevada mountain range towering in the background.

"It's a really cool feeling," Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "The surroundings speak for themselves. You can see that in pictures. But it still doesn't really do it justice."

See **NHL** / B2



Rich Pedroncelli/AP

Workers put the finishing touches on the temporary ice rink on Friday, built at the Edgewood Tahoe Resort, that will host two NHL games this weekend in Stateline, Nevada. The Colorado Avalanche will play the Vegas Golden Knights Saturday and the Philadelphia Flyers will face off against the Boston Bruins Sunday.