

SPORTS

B

THE BULLETIN • SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

bendbulletin.com/sports

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Beavers rally for win over Cardinal

STANFORD, Calif. — Jarod Lucas scored a career-high 26 points to lead Oregon State to a 73-62 victory over Stanford on Saturday.

The Beavers (13-11, 9-9 Pac-12) took the lead for good with about 14 minutes to play and led 65-54 with 3:11 remaining when Lucas hit a deep 3-pointer from the center of the arc.

Oregon State swept both Stanford and California on the road for the first time since the 2008-09 season, while the Cardinal (14-11, 10-9) had not lost to Oregon State and Oregon at home in the same season since 1985-86.

Ethan Thompson had 13 points for the Beavers. Warith Alatishe added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Ziaire Williams scored 14 points off the bench to lead Stanford. Lukas Kisunas matched his career best with 12 points and Spencer Jones had 10. The Cardinal had a 10-point lead in the first half, but the Beavers closed on a 14-5 run to cut the deficit to 34-33 at the break.

Oscar da Silva, the Cardinal's leading scorer and rebounder, missed his second straight game due to a lower extremity injury.

Oregon State, which has won three of its last four games, plays at Utah on Wednesday and ends its regular season at home against Oregon on March 7.

The Cardinal will look to end a three-game losing skid when they face No. 19 Southern California on Wednesday to end their regular season.

—Associated Press

L.J. Figueroa leads Oregon past Cal

BERKELEY, Calif. — L.J. Figueroa had 20 points, a career-high 14 rebounds and five steals, Eugene Omoruyi scored 21 points and Oregon beat California 74-63 on Saturday.

Oregon scored the first four points of the game and led the rest of the way. Figueroa, Omoruyi and Chris Duarte combined for 38 second-half points, while Oregon held Cal to 36. Figueroa had 15 points after the break, Duarte added 13 and Omoruyi 10 as Oregon shot 56%.

Figueroa scored the final seven points of a game-changing 11-0 run for a 63-45 lead with 7:34 left. Omoruyi had the other four points — all from the line.

Duarte finished with 17 points for Oregon (16-5, 11-4 Pac-12), which only got four points from its bench. Oregon turned 11 Cal turnovers into 27 points, including 18 in the second half.

The Ducks have won seven of their last eight games with a 72-58 loss to No. 19 USC.

Ryan Betley scored 13 points, and Andre Kelly and Matt Bradley each added 12 for Cal (8-19, 3-17), which lost its fourth straight game to close its regular season. Jarred Hyder had 10 points.

Oregon is scheduled to play three games next week while Cal is off. The Ducks host Arizona on Monday and UCLA on Wednesday before heading to Corvallis to play Oregon State on March 7.

—Associated Press

PREP SPORTS

Busy 1st week for Central Oregon high school sports

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

The streak of 353 days without high school sports in Oregon will be snapped on Monday, when high school athletes return to competition for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the calendar reads March, it is the traditional fall sports that are kicking off the start of their six-week seasons.

The first Central Oregon teams to venture into the return Monday include La Pine girls soccer, which hosts Creswell, and Madras boys soccer, which welcomes Molalla.

Due to the condensed seasons and different guidelines and restrictions in school districts and counties around the state, team schedules are much more regional compared with years past. And without a traditional postseason, leagues and conferences are not operating as they typically would. For example, Mountain Valley Conference teams, which include Salem and Bend schools, will not face one another in a regular capacity in 2021.

On Tuesday the hyper-local schedules begin in earnest. Of the seven lo-

cal contests, five of them are Central Oregon teams against Central Oregon teams. In volleyball, Mountain View hosts Summit, Sisters hosts Bend

High and Crook County travels to Redmond. On the soccer field, the Redmond boys play host to Mountain View while the Redmond girls host Bend High. Only La Pine volleyball (hosts Harrisburg) and Madras girls soccer (at Molalla) play against non-Central Oregon Schools.

Wednesday brings a doubleheader for Central Cristian volleyball against

Hosanna-Triad and Rogue Valley Adventist; La Pine boys soccer hosts Creswell and Madras girls soccer plays Molalla for the second day in a row. Wednesday is also the first area cross-country meet with Madras, Culver and Trinity Luther competing in the Madras XC Triangular at Juniper Hills Park.

By Thursday, the prep sports season will be in full swing. While spectators are still prohibited from attending games, there will be streaming available on the National Federation of High School Sports Network (www.nfhsnetwork.com).

See Prep sports / B3

Inside
See the prep sports events schedule in Scoreboard, B2

PREP SPORTS



Together again

Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file photos

Runners make their way through the course while competing in the Oxford Classic cross-country race in Bend's Drake Park in 2019.

High school cross-country season finally gets underway in Central Oregon

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

Perhaps more than any other sport, running allows for athletes to train on their own. But there is something special, something human, about being part of a team.

Cross-country teams across Central Oregon are officially back together practicing, preparing for a season that will have multi-team meets, but is unlikely to have district meets and will not have a state meet.

For now, runners and coaches will take what they can get.

"It's so fun to have the kids out there," said Bend High cross-country coach Lisa Nye.

"I'm really impressed with how respectful they've been with safety protocols and adhering to those. It just feels really good to have your team together outside running. As long as we can keep safety number one, from there, we all just have a new appreciation of being together. The last year has certainly ... there's a lot to process. It's been a challenging time."

Nye said the focus for this cross-country season — which started with official practices Monday and will run through early April along with football, soccer and volleyball — is allowing the athletes to run safely with their friends.

"I don't think this is the time right now to put a ton of pressure on kids for



Runners fill the course during the Oxford Classic cross-country race in Bend's Drake Park in 2019.

"It's so fun to have the kids out there. I'm really impressed with how respectful they've been with safety protocols and adhering to those. It just feels really good to have your team together outside running. As long as we can keep safety number one."

— Lisa Nye, Bend High cross-country coach

ultra-competitive experience, because there are so many other factors going on in their lives, all our lives," Nye said. "We're not operating on 100%. I certainly have a greater appreciation for being in-person versus not. I think that longing of being with your people is a very human trait."

Summit is hosting the Central Oregon XC Rust Buster Relays on Saturday.

The meet will include Bend, Mountain View, Redmond, and several other smaller Central Oregon cross-country teams.

Storm coach Kari Strang said it is designed as a fun, low-key event with two-person relays, each runner completing a different series of distance loops.

"It's a way for them to get the nerves out, because it has been, for so many of them, almost a year or longer since they truly competed," Strang said. "We plan to make it as fun and celebratory as possible. The rest of the meets will be regular 5K distance."

Summit has won 17 state championships since 2008 and the Storm girls have claimed a record 12 straight state titles, including a national championship in 2018 at the Nike Cross Nationals.

See Cross-country / B3

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMENTARY

Names of Black athletes need to adorn stadiums

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

As Black History Month comes to a close, there have been myriad tributes to the accomplishments of African Americans in sports arenas across the land.

That's not nearly enough. Not after the racial awakening this country went through last summer. Not when major college athletic facilities are still named almost exclusively for whites, ignoring the rich history of African Americans in the two biggest sports, football and basketball.

Why isn't the basketball arena at UCLA known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Pavilion? Why doesn't Georgia's football stadium honor Herschel Walker? Shouldn't Jim Brown's name be on the dome at Syracuse?

See Stadiums / B3

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Players set for puck drop at Madison Square Garden

BY JOHN WAWROW
AP Hockey Writer

Hilary Knight has played in rinks large and small spanning the globe during her 14 years representing USA Hockey.

That doesn't prevent the three-time Olympian from getting chills in anticipation of hitting the ice for the first time at Madison Square Garden on Sunday for the opening stop of the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association Dream Gap Tour's second season.

"I'm a little nervous to be honest. It's been so long," Knight said, noting it's been nearly a year since she and her teammates played in a competitive setting as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. "And then to underpin it by, oh, by the way, you guys are playing at the Garden. There's a lot of things to be happy and excited about."

The matchup between the PWHPA's two hubs of New Hampshire and Minnesota will be the first professional women's hockey game played at MSG.

See Hockey / B3