

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL  OREGON 80, OREGON STATE 67

Oregon clinches title; career high for Richardson

Associated Press

Will Richardson scored a career-high 22 points and Oregon made a season-high 15 3-pointers in beating Oregon State 80-67 on Sunday night to finish as the Pac-12 Conference's regular season champion for the second straight year.

Oregon has won five straight in just a span

of 11 days and is 10-2 since Feb. 4.

Richardson finished with career-high six-made 3s and only missed once from beyond the arc. As a team, it was the most made 3s by a Ducks unit since 2017 when they went 11 for 24. Oregon finished 15-for-23 (65.2%) from deep.

Eugene Omoruyi scored 18 points for Or-

regon, Eric Williams Jr. 14 and Chris Duarte and LJ Figueroa each scored 10.

Oregon (19-5, 14-4) built a 26-10 lead and never trailed. They led by double figures for most of the remainder.

Ethan Thompson scored 16 points for Oregon State (14-12, 10-10), Warith Alatishe 14, Jarod Lucas 12 and Roman

Silva 10.

Oregon State faces UCLA on Thursday in the post-season conference tournament in Las Vegas.

Oregon is the tournament's top seed. On Thursday it will face the winner of Wednesday's matchup between Arizona State and Washington State.

NBA All-Stars

STILL PERFECT

Team LeBron wins All-Star Game 170-150



Brynn Anderson/AP photos

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James smiles during the first half of basketball's NBA All-Star Game in Atlanta on Sunday.

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Even in the strangest NBA All-Star Game of them all, LeBron James was still the perfect captain.

Team LeBron showed off its high-flying and long-range skills during a dominating run to close out the first half, setting up a 170-150 romp over Team Durant in the league's 70th midseason showcase Sunday night.

This one sure was different than the previous 69 All-Star contests.

Determined to pull off an exhibition that is huge for TV revenue and the league's worldwide brand, the NBA staged the game in a mostly empty arena in downtown Atlanta, a made-for-TV extravaganza that was symbolic of the coronavirus era.

Even with intense safety protocols in place, two players didn't even make it to tipoff. Philadelphia stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons were ruled out because they got haircuts from a barber who tested positive for COVID-19.

But once the game began, it fell right in line with the three previous All-Star outings with the captain format. The top vote-getters in each conference pick the teams, a duty that James has earned all four years.



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving guards Indiana Pacers forward Domantas Sabonis during the first half.

He's now 4-0, having defeated Stephen Curry's squad in 2018 and teams selected by Milwaukee's two-time reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo the last two years.

This time, James drafted his two former adversaries to assemble a dominant squad that

blew away Kevin Durant's team.

Antetokounmpo was the game MVP after shooting 16 of 16 for 35 points. Curry chipped in with 28 points, while Damian Lillard had 32. James spent most of the night admiring his drafting skill, playing less than 13 minutes and finishing with four points.

The only good thing for Durant: He didn't have to participate in this shellacking, sitting out the game with an ailing hamstring.

Bradley Beal led Team Durant with 26 points.

On a night highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Team LeBron swept the first three quarters and was first to reach the final target score, earning a total of \$750,000 for its charity, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The game got out of hand late in the second quarter.

With scant defense being played, Team LeBron took turns dunking off alley-oop passes. Chris Paul delivered back-to-back lobbs that Lillard and Curry slammed through. Then, it was Paul on the receiving end of a payback pass from Curry.

After showing they could handle shots up close, Team LeBron headed outside in the final seconds of the half.

See **All-Star** / A6

PGA

DeChambeau outlasts Westwood

The long ball helped Bryson DeChambeau outlast Lee Westwood on Sunday to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational, only the key shots were as much with his putter as his driver.

DeChambeau holed a 40-foot birdie putt on the front nine and a 50-foot par putt early on the back nine. He closed it out with a nervy 5-foot par putt for a 1-under 71 and a one-shot victory over the 47-year-old Westwood.

It matched the low score of the day, one of only three rounds under par in the toughest final round at Bay Hill in 41 years.

DeChambeau and Westwood were never separated by more than one shot over the final 15 holes, a fascinating duel of generations that came down to the last shot.

For the second straight day, DeChambeau revved up thousands of fans on the par-5 sixth hole by smashing driver over the lake and leaving himself 88 yards away on the 565-yard sixth hole. Westwood was 168 yards behind him, and raised both arms to jokingly mimic DeChambeau's reaction from the day before. They both made birdie.

Westwood closed with a 73, not a bad score considering the average of 75.49 was the highest for a final round since 1980.

DeChambeau rose to No. 6 in the world with his ninth PGA Tour victory, and he became the first player this season with multiple victories, to go along with his U.S. Open title in September.

NASCAR

Larson nabs 1st win since suspension

Kyle Larson is back in NASCAR and back in victory lane.

On Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Larson raced to his first NASCAR victory since he was reinstated from a nearly year-long suspension. He ran just the first four races last season, then lost his job for using a racial slur while playing a video game early in the pandemic.

He worked all last year on rebuilding his image and was hired by Hendrick Motorsports when NASCAR said the suspension would lift at the start of this year.

"Thanks Mr. H. for believing in me," Larson radioed to boss Rick Hendrick after crossing the finish line.

He then celebrated his first career on an intermediate track with a smoke-filled burnout. Bubba Wallace, NASCAR's only Black full-time driver, was the first competitor to congratulate Larson at his car. Larson's move to Hendrick was expected to be electric.

— Bulletin wire reports

Blazers' Covington falls short but donates big

BY ARON YOHANNES

The Oregonian

The Portland Trail Blazers didn't have the strongest start to NBA All-Star Weekend festivities at State Farm Arena in Atlanta.

Participating in the 19th Taco Bell Skills Challenge on Sunday, veteran Blazers forward Robert Covington was among the first players to be eliminated in the competition. The eight-year pro was bested by Orlando Magic big Nikola Vucevic in the first-round of the obstacle-course challenge that tests players'

skills in dribbling, passing, agility and 3-point shooting.

Vucevic eventually advanced to face Phoenix's Chris Paul, before falling short to Indiana's Domantas Sabonis in the finals.

Other players in the competition this year included Dallas' Luka Doncic and New York's Julius Randle.

Despite falling short in the Skills Challenge, Covington's early exit doesn't overpower the impact he made off the court at All-Star Weekend.

Before his matchup against Vucevic, Covington, surprised two virtual fans, who are also students at Covington's alma mater Tennessee State, with scholarships of \$25,000 each. Covington proudly represented his Tennessee State jersey during the competition, too — he's the NBA's lone alumni from an Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU).

HBCU's have been the spotlight during All-Star Weekend by the NBA. The league is committing more than \$2.5 million in funds and resources toward HBCUs.