

HIGH SCHOOL  
ALPINE SKIINGLocal teams fare  
well at state meet

Central Oregon teams performed well at the 2021 Oregon high school alpine state championships, staged at Mt. Hood Skibowl on Thursday and Friday.

The Central Oregon Storm (made up of Summit skiers) finished second in the combined team standings (boys and girls) and Sisters finished sixth. The Bachelor Tree Rats (made up Mountain View skiers) finished seventh. Central Catholic of Portland finished atop the combined team standings.

In the girls combined teams standings (slalom and giant slalom), the Central Oregon Storm claimed second, finishing just 1.83 seconds behind winner Oregon Episcopal School (OES). The Bachelor Tree Rats finished sixth and Sisters was 11th.

In the boys combined team competition, won by Central Catholic, the Central Oregon Storm finished fourth and Sisters took fifth. The Bachelor Tree Rats were 11th.

The Central Oregon Storm girls team won the giant slalom, finishing with a combined time of 4:20.44. Nicole Fournier of the Storm finished second in 1:24.26 and her teammate Zoe Dodden was fifth (1:25.63).

Annie Hendrickson of OES won the girls individual combined competition in 2:35.10. Fournier finished fifth (2:43.68) and Morgan Berg was 10th (2:48.49) for the Bachelor Tree Rats.

Parker Andersen of Riverdale won the boys individual combined in 2:31.98. Bela Chladek of Sisters finished fourth (2:39.42) and Harrison Schock of the Central Oregon Storm was 17th (2:47.78).

Competing without a team, Aidan Donohue of Bend High finished third in the boys giant slalom (1:20.29).

More information and results are available at [www.ski3rivers.org](http://www.ski3rivers.org).

— Bulletin staff report

## NFL

Seahawks to  
release DE Dunlap

SEATTLE — The Seattle Seahawks released veteran defensive end Carlos Dunlap after the sides could not agree on a contract extension that would soften the blow of a \$14.1 million salary cap hit.

Dunlap was acquired in a trade with Cincinnati midway through last season, but will now get a chance to test free agency.

Dunlap, 32, was a major boost to Seattle's pass rush. He appeared in eight regular season games for the Seahawks with five sacks and 14 quarterback hits. He was the spark for a Seattle pass rush that was among the better units in the league over the second half of the season.

But his salary for 2021 was always going to be a point of contention, especially with Seattle tight against the salary cap. When the trade was made, Seattle agreed to let Dunlap test free agency if an extension could not be reached.

Dunlap posted a thank you to the Seahawks on social media Monday.

If Seattle can't find another option in free agency, it will be the third straight year the Seahawks will go into the season with questions about their pass rush.

— Associated Press

## RUNNING

Bad timing  
for Bend  
Marathon

Popular running event is canceled for the 2nd straight year due to the pandemic

BY MARK MORICAL  
The Bulletin

Of all the sporting events that have been canceled over the past year in Central Oregon, perhaps none has endured worse luck than the Bend Marathon.

The event — which was scheduled for April 18 and includes a marathon, half marathon, 10-kilometer, and 5K race on roads and paved trails throughout Bend — has been canceled for the second consecutive year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the first major events to be canceled in 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, the sixth edition of the in-person Bend Marathon will now be pushed back to 2022.

At last week's Bend City Council meeting, councilors were unable to come to an agreement on issuing the Bend Marathon a special event permit.

Marathon organizers Max King and Kari Strang had submitted a proposal that featured several safety protocols, including wave starts of no more than 75 runners, which would adhere to state and county guidelines for outdoor gatherings.

"They didn't want to risk it," a disappointed King said. "The spirit of the guidelines are that you don't get that many people together, and we weren't getting that many people together."

King said he was expecting a total of about 900 runners across the four races. About 600 had registered before the event was canceled. In 2019 more than 2,400 runners and walkers participated in the Bend Marathon's events.

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Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Participants in the 2019 Bend Marathon make their way along the course shortly after the start. The event was canceled in 2020, and has been canceled again in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## NBA

Exciting 2nd half awaits, but  
virus may still have a say

BY BRIAN MAHONEY  
AP Basketball Writer

While LeBron James was largely resting through the All-Star Game, the Brooklyn Nets were adding another piece for a run at his title.

With James near the top of his game and the Nets on top of the league in scoring, it's easy to envision a coast-to-coast NBA Finals when a champion is crowned in July.

But, when most teams resume play Thursday — the same date last season was suspended — the leaders in the Eastern Conference might be doing so without their two best players.

As proven again when Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons had to sit out the All-Star Game, the coronavirus might still have a say on this season, making uncertainty a sizable obstacle in the title chase.

"You're playing every other day. You don't know when you're going to have practice time. You don't know as far as what the restrictions and with COVID and things of that nature if you're going to have all your guys," James said. "So it's very challenging for all teams, not just us."

The bigger problem for the Lakers has been the absence of All-Star Anthony



Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP

MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo throws down a slam dunk during the NBA All-Star Game in Atlanta on Sunday.

Davis because of a right calf injury. The defending champions have struggled without him, dropping six of eight to end the first half and falling 3½ games behind surprising West leader Utah.

The Nets have also been without an All-Star, though they've hardly missed Kevin Durant because of the brilliance of James Harden and Kyrie Irving. Blake Griffin agreed to join them Sunday night after the six-time All-Star cleared waivers after securing his buyout from Detroit.

"We're fortunate to be able to add a player of Blake's cali-

ber to our roster at this point in the season," Nets general manager Sean Marks said.

Brooklyn comes out of the break a half-game behind Philadelphia. Embiid has been a force this season and become a leading MVP candidate, but he and Simmons were ruled out of the All-Star Game on Sunday morning because they got haircuts from a barber who tested positive for COVID-19.

They may not be cleared to return until the weekend, after the Sixers have played their first two games of the second half.

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

Don't bet against Ducks,  
coach Dana Altman in March

BY JOHN CANZANO  
The Oregonian

Several years ago, I walked through the casino floor of the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas during the Pac-12 Conference men's basketball tournament and came upon Dana Altman.

It was mid-morning.

The Oregon Ducks men's basketball coach was sitting at a roulette table.

Years before I sat beside then-Louisville basketball coach Denny Crum at a Black Jack table. He played \$5 hands, stayed on every 16 and seldom risked busting. I also played craps once with former UCLA great Ed O'Bannon.

He pressed every early winning bet and acted like there was no tomorrow. I think you can learn something about a person by watching the way they wager, how they play, and studying tendencies.

Altman?

He wasn't gambling that day, turns out. The roulette table wasn't even open. Altman was just sitting there, in sweats, back to the wheel. He was watching the activity on the floor like a guy sitting on a park bench. We said hello.

He told me he wasn't much of a gambler. But I realize all these years later, that Altman might be the biggest gambler in college basketball.

It feels like he doubles down every March.

Last month, I watched as Oregon reeled off five straight victories before losing badly to USC. Oregon missed its first 12 shots in that game, had no energy, and got beat by double digits. It was a puzzling performance. One that left Altman in the postgame dejected and seeking answers.

"We were just stuck in the mud," he said.

A couple of weeks later, the Ducks are conference regular-season champions and the No. 1 seed in this week's Pac-12 Tournament. They beat Oregon State on Sunday, capping another improbable five-game winning streak that also included victories over Stanford, Cal, Arizona and UCLA.

The run shouldn't have been a surprise. Because this is what Oregon basketball does under Altman with uncanny consistency.

I'm not convinced the Pac-12 is very good in men's college basketball. There have been bad non-conference losses and little consistency. The NCAA Tournament will probably only feature four conference teams — Oregon, UCLA, USC and Colorado. And among those, frankly, the Ducks are the only team I'd trust to get out of the opening weekend.

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