

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

COVID derails
tournament teams

A year to the day after COVID-19 brought the college basketball postseason to a halt, the pandemic continues to disrupt the sport, with three premier programs forced to abandon their conference tournaments because of positive coronavirus tests.

No. 16 Virginia — the most recent national champion — and No. 11 Kansas were forced out of the semifinals of their tournaments on Friday, a day after Duke also dropped out, ending a disappointing season for coach Mike Krzyzewski's storied program.

There's no guarantee that Kansas or Virginia will be back for the NCAA Tournament, potentially depriving the sport's annual showcase of two title contenders.

The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big 12 tournaments continued without the virus-affected schools.

The NCAA Tournament will be held entirely in the state of Indiana to create what NCAA senior vice president of basketball Dan Gavitt has called a "controlled environment" instead of a bubble.

The tournament protocols include requiring each member of a team's travel party to complete seven negative COVID-19 tests before leaving for Indianapolis. Gavitt has said a team can continue to play if it has five players available through those safety protocols.

If a team is placed in the field but then cannot participate before the tournament begins on March 18, it will be replaced by a team among the first four out. There will be no re-seeding.

— Associated Press

MLB

2 players test
positive for COVID

NEW YORK — Two tests were positive for COVID-19, both among players, during 14,704 samples collected in the past week under Major League Baseball's monitoring program.

That comes to a positive rate of 0.01%. Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto had tested positive, the Reds said Wednesday.

There have been 12 positive tests — nine for players, three for staff, among 43,928 monitoring tests during spring training, a rate of 0.3%, the commissioner's office said Friday. The positive tests were among nine of the 30 teams.

Including intake testing upon arrival at spring training, there have been 27 positive tests — 21 players, six staff — among 49,281 tests, a positive rate of 0.5%. The positive tests were among 17 teams.

All players on 40-man rosters and players with minor league contracts invited to big league training camp are screened. Also tested are all other on-field personnel such as managers, coaches and athletic trainers, strength and conditioning staff and physicians.

In the final figures released last year, MLB said it had collected 172,740 samples and that 91 had been positive, or 0.05%. Fifty-seven of 91 positives were players.

— Associated Press

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | PAC-12 TOURNAMENT

Beavers headed to title game

Oregon State beats top-seeded Oregon 75-64 in semifinals

BY JOHN MARSHALL

AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — Ethan Thompson scored 16 points, Rodrigue Andela added 13 and Oregon State withstood a late rally to beat top-seeded Oregon 75-64 in the Pac-12 Tournament semifinals Friday night.

The fifth-seeded Beavers (16-12) reached the conference semifinals for the first time since 2012 and dominated early, building a 19-point lead by the midpoint of the second half.

The Ducks (20-6) stormed back, going on a 15-3 run to pull within 61-56 with 4½

minutes left. Oregon State's Jarod Lucas hit a 3-pointer to stop the run and the Beavers quickly pushed the lead back to 12.

Picked to finish last in the Pac-12, Oregon State will play in its first Pac-12 title game since 1988. The Beavers will face the winner between Colorado and No. 23 Southern California — who played later on Friday — in Saturday's championship game.

Oregon had a hard time with Oregon State's pressure early and struggled from the perimeter all night, going 6 for 25 from the arc after making 15 3-pointers in a win over the

Beavers on Sunday.

Chris Duarte, LJ Figueroa and Eugene Omoruyi had 14 points each for the Ducks.

The rivals split the season series, with the Ducks beating the Beavers by 13 in the regular-season finale to win their second straight Pac-12 title.

Oregon beat Arizona State by 18 to get to the tournament semifinals and Oregon State outlasted No. 4 seed UCLA by four.

The rivals traded runs throughout the first half of the third go-round.

The Beavers had the early advantage Friday night, holding the Ducks without a field



Courtesy Pac-12

Oregon's Eugene Omoruyi (2) defends Oregon State's Ethan Thompson (5) during the Pac-12 Conference tournament semifinals on Friday night in Las Vegas. Thompson had a game-high 16 points.

goal for 5½ minutes to build a seven-point lead.

Oregon scored 10 straight points, then Oregon State went on a 12-3 run to go up 38-26.

The Beavers led 38-28 at halftime and kept building from there.

Up next

Oregon State will play the Colorado-USC winner in Saturday's championship game.

Oregon should be in good shape to make the NCAA Tournament on Selection Sunday.

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Outlaws stun Cougars, fans return

Aidan Eckert's last-minute goal gives Sisters a 2-1 win over Mountain View

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

SISTERS —

Aidan Eckert found himself at the top of the goalie box when the pass from Gavin Christian put him face to face with the goal with only the goalkeeper to beat.

With his left foot, the sophomore Eckert kept his composure and drove the ball into the left corner of the net to give Sisters a 2-1 win over Mountain View in a nonleague boys soccer match Thursday night at Sisters High School.

With fans finally back in the stands, the excitement was palpable.

"It felt perfect, I thought it was going to go in and it did," said Eckert, whose game-winning goal was his first varsity goal. "There was so much excitement. Everyone was so hyped, I was very hyped. It felt great after the game, everyone was giving me hugs, it just felt great."

The goal in the game's closing minutes against Class 6A Mountain View



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Sisters' Aidan Eckert kicks the ball down field during the second half against Mountain View on Thursday night.

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— Aidan Eckert, Sisters soccer player

gave the Class 4A Outlaws their third win in as many games. Three games into its eight-game schedule, Sisters has already eclipsed its win total from a season ago when it won just two

matches.

"Watching us warm up I was a little nervous, we seemed a little lackluster," said Sisters coach Jeff Husmann. "But boy, that first half we came out with

the gas pedal on and just brought energy."

In the game's 30th minute, Richard Huffman intercepted a clear attempt from Mountain View's goalkeeper then snuck it by him to break the scoreless tie.

"That is how a lot of (Huffman's) goals are, just hound, hound and press as the high striker just challenging every ball," Husmann said.

See Soccer / B2

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Ducks, Beavs renew rivalry at Oregon State

BY JAMES CREPEA

The Oregonian

EUGENE — It was nearly a year between baseball games for Oregon and every other team in the country. But it's been nearly twice as long between games against Oregon State.

Six hundred and seventy days have elapsed since the rivals last met on May 12, 2019, a 3-2 Oregon win at PK Park. That changed Friday night when the Ducks (6-2) opened a three-game set against the Beavers (10-1) at Goss Stadium (the game ended after The Bulletin's press deadline).

"I haven't played Oregon State since my sophomore year personally," Ducks designated hitter Kenyon Yovan said. "So

I've had it marked on my calendar for a while, especially going to Goss, going to Corvallis. It's something that I've been fired up to play a series against them. We get them six times this year so that's six times I get to prove a point and have two years of passion behind it.

"We're going to be coming out with a lot of fire, especially not being able to play them this last year. Everyone wants to be able to go out there and beat their rival. Everyone on our team takes it a little bit more personal when it comes to Oregon State. Everyone's ready."

Yovan, the Pac-12 and national player of the week, opened his season with a mammoth weekend and led the Ducks to a four-game

sweep of UC Santa Barbara.

Oregon's hitters did well in the series and most of the pitching staff did as well, including Robert Ahlstrom, who also made his season debut last weekend. The left-hander, who was UO's ace in 2019, is back to the top of the rotation this weekend and started the series opener.

"There's a little added incentive I guess you could say," said Ahlstrom, a Eugene native. "I think it's going to be an awesome series; both teams I feel are trending in the right direction. We're coming off a really good series and Oregon State's playing really good baseball."

Oregon also respects that Oregon State's lineup and rotation are going to be the best it



Chase Allgood/For The Oregonian/TNS file

Oregon's Kenyon Yovan rounds the bases against Oregon State in May 2018 in Eugene. Yovan and the Ducks have been looking forward to re-igniting their rivalry with the Beavers.

has seen to date. Six OSU starters are hitting over .300 and Kevin Abel (1-1, 0.57 ERA)

already has 26 strikeouts in 15.2 innings.

See Baseball / B2