



PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP | OREGON STATE 70, COLORADO 68

‘INCRECIBLE’ RUN

Oregon State's Jarod Lucas celebrates with teammates after defeating Colorado in the championship game of the Pac-12 men's tournament Saturday in Las Vegas.
John Locher/AP

Oregon State looking for more as emotions run deep following historic victory

BY NICK DASCHEL • The Oregonian
It was apparent when Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle sat down Saturday night to start his press conference, championship net around his neck, he was working overtime to keep it together emotionally. It was season that had myriad hairpin turns. One that threatened to get mothballed because of the pandemic. Early gut-punch

losses to big underdogs. Shut down for 10 days due to a COVID-19 pause. More painful losses, but eventually growth, maturity and a winning team that was easy to get behind. In the end, Tinkle was driving a beyond-capacity bandwagon to the finish line of the Beavers' first-ever Pac-12 tournament championship, clinched Saturday night in Las Vegas with a 70-68 win over Colorado.

The prize was a trophy and an NCAA tournament berth, OSU's second in five years. "The messages I've been getting, the shot in the arm that this has been for a lot of people that have been suffering, watching the Beavers go on this run. It provided some incredible, call it therapy, happiness, you name it," Tinkle said.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Rushing explodes in Mountain View comeback

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

Falling behind 13-0 in the first quarter against Aloha at Saturday's football game motivated Mountain View to push harder.

The Cougars racked up nearly 600 yards of offense and outscored the Warriors 55-14 to win their second game of the season.

Mountain View coach Brian Crum said there was no panic from the coaches or players once his team was in a two-score hole, and credited his team's maturing for how it responded.

"One thing that the pandemic teaches us is to be flexible," Crum said.

Senior running back Luke Roberts and junior running back Sayre Williamson provided a "thunder and lightning" rushing attack for the Cougars. Roberts ran for a bruising 234 yards and five touchdowns on 26 carries while Williamson gashed the Warriors defense for 15 yards, a carry en route to 229 yards and a score.

"I think that changed of pace helped us a lot — he lit a fire under us," said Crum. "Got to give credit to the offensive line. They were pushing (Aloha's defensive line) four to five yards downfield every play."

Roberts ran touchdowns came from seven, two, five, one and 17 yards out. Williamson scored on a 44-yard run, while junior quarterback Jakoby Moss tossed in two touchdown passes, one to James Tiboni and another to Jake Hatch.

Aloha did lose its quarterback in the first half, but after giving up 13 points in the first quarter, the Cougars only gave up two scores during the final three quarters and kept the vaunted Warrior passing attack in check while forcing four turnovers.

"Our defensive backs have been playing better than in years past," Crum said. "I was happy and impressed with what our players and staff did on defense."

With two wins in as many games, Mountain View will play its first home game of the year when it faces rival Bend High on Friday night.

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March Madness

BRACKETS ARE BACK



David Becker/AP

Gonzaga guard Andrew Nembhard (3) and forward Drew Timme (2) celebrate after they beat BYU for the West Coast Conference tournament championship Tuesday in Las Vegas. Gonzaga is the No. 1 overall seed in the 2021 NCAA men's basketball tournament.

BY EDDIE PELLIS • AP National Writer

The biggest unknown leading into a March Madness bracket reveal more than a year in the making had little to do with bubble teams or top seeds. Instead, it was the not-so-simple matter of which programs would be healthy enough to play.

Kansas and Virginia, two programs hit with COVID-19 breakouts over the past week, made it into the bracket released Sunday by the NCAA selection committee, signaling both teams believe they'll have enough healthy players to be ready for their tip-offs next weekend.

That there was any doubt about the Jayhawks and defending champion Cavaliers securing spots in the 68-team tournament was the most jarring reminder that the 2021 tournament itself is no sure thing.

"There were a lot of different things about this year's selection process," said committee chairman Mitch Barnhart, the athletic director at Kentucky.

A year after the tournament was canceled as the coronavirus was mushrooming into a pandemic, all 68 teams will gather in Indiana for all 67 games beginning Thursday and ending April 3 and 5 with the Final Four. But all it takes is a single outbreak to upend the finely calibrated beauty of that plan. More than one and the entire endeavor could crater.

There were no surprises among the four No. 1 seeds. Gonzaga, Baylor, Illinois and Michigan earned those slots — with the Bulldogs the 11-4 favorite to win it all and become the first team since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers to finish a season undefeated.

The last teams to earn the 37 at-large bids — one more than usual because the Ivy League canceled play this year — were Drake and Wichita State, which play Thursday in a First Four game, and UCLA and Michigan State, two decorated programs with surprisingly low seeds that meet in another play-in game.

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DUCKS | NO. 7 SEED

The Oregon Ducks (20-6) will open against No. 10 seed VCU (19-7) in the first round of the West region in the NCAA Tournament on Saturday in Indianapolis.

If Oregon wins, it will face the winner of the No. 2 seed Iowa (21-8) and No. 15 seed Grand Canyon (17-6) on Monday.

The Ducks enter the Big Dance with 11 wins in 13 games and as back-to-back Pac-12 regular season champions, though they lost to eventual Pac-12 tournament champion Oregon State in the semifinals of the conference tournament.

The Ducks are 25-15 all-time in the NCAA Tournament in 16 prior appearances, not counting qualifying for last year's tournament that was canceled due to the pandemic.

BEAVERS | NO. 12 SEED

The Oregon State Beavers (17-12) open first round play Friday against No. 5 seed Tennessee (18-8).

The Beavers earned a berth by winning the Pac-12 tournament, beating Colorado 70-68 in Saturday's championship game. OSU was one of 31 teams to earn an automatic bid. The Beavers landed in the Midwest Region, where Illinois is the top seed. Tennessee lost to Alabama in Friday's SEC semifinals. The Oregon State-Tennessee winner advances to Sunday's second round, where they'll face the Oklahoma State-Liberty winner.

This is Oregon State's 18th NCAA Tournament, but just its second since 1990. The Beavers' most recent appearance was 2016, when as a 7-seed they lost to Virginia Commonwealth 75-67 in Oklahoma City.

Oregon State is 12-20 all-time in NCAA Tournament games.

—The Oregonian