

NFL

Bend's Hollister signs with Bills

Jacob Hollister will reunite with his college quarterback.

The former Seattle Seahawks tight end has signed a one-year contract to join the Buffalo Bills in 2021, according to a report.

Hollister and Bills quarterback Josh Allen were teammates at the University of Wyoming for two seasons (2015-2016).

Hollister, the former prep star at Mountain View High School in Bend, may have known his days could be numbered in Seattle after the Seahawks signed free agent tight end Gerald Everett on Wednesday. The addition of Everett increased the number of tight ends on the roster to three — Everett, Will Dissly, Colby Parkinson — with Hollister an unrestricted free agent.

Hollister, 27, is coming off a solid season in 2020. Hollister had 25 catches for 209 yards and three touchdown receptions.

Those numbers marked a decrease compared to his breakout season in 2019, when he posted 41 catches for 349 yards and another three touchdown catches in 11 games.

— The Oregonian

COLLEGE SPORTS

OSU to allow fans at outdoor games

Oregon State's spring sports will enjoy a welcomed sight starting tonight at some of its games: fans.

Thanks to new Oregon Health Authority guidelines released earlier this week, Oregon State has been cleared to allow fans — up to 15% of venue capacity — to attend Beavers outdoor games. The school is prioritizing player families and guests for ticket allocation, then, depending on the sport, opening venues up to season-ticket holders.

The OHA on Wednesday updated its guidelines for attendance at outdoor sporting events, increasing capacity limits based on a county's risk level, ranging from lower risk (50% capacity) to extreme risk (50 people). Benton County, where Corvallis is located, is currently a high-risk county, which the OHA has capped at 15%.

So when the Oregon State baseball team opened its Pac-12 slate against Washington State on Friday night, Goss Stadium allowed nearly 500 fans. It's the first time since the coronavirus pandemic shuttered sports last spring that OSU will host fans at sporting events.

OSU officials set aside tickets for player families and guests for the Beavers-Cougars baseball game and allocated others to season-ticket holders, based on "Beaver points."

Meanwhile, games involving softball and men's and women's soccer will be limited to player guests and families at this time, according to the university.

— The Oregonian

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

Ducks prep for VCU — Oregon has a plan to deal with Rams' star Nah'Shon Hyland. Details, **B3**.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Oregon State continues to roll



Paul Sancya/AP

Oregon State's Ethan Thompson (5) drives on Tennessee's Jaden Springer (11) during the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Indianapolis on Friday. Thompson had 13 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in the Beavers' upset victory over the fifth-seeded Volunteers.

Beavers, seeded 12th, continue to ride underdog wave to upset victories, oust 5th-seeded Tennessee 70-56 in 1st round

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS —

Oregon State opened the season picked to finish 12th in its conference but instead won its first Pac-12

Tournament title. The Beavers faced another No. 12 hurdle in the NCAA Tournament and pulled off the upset.

They're certainly enjoying this underdog role.

"We know there was some doubt and we had to ignore all that. We never threw in the towel, we never doubted ourselves, we just do what we do."

— Wayne Tinkle, Oregon State men's basketball coach

Roman Silva scored 16 points and Oregon State took advantage of Tennessee's icy perimeter shooting to become the latest No. 12 seed to win its opening NCAA Tournament game, beating the fifth-seeded Vols 70-56 in the Midwest Region Friday night.

"In the preseason, when we saw we were picked 12, it really lit a fire under us," said Silva, who made all eight of his shots.

Oregon State (18-12) was the first Pac-10/12 school to win the conference tournament after being picked to finish last. After another upset, the Beavers are the 51st 12th-seed to take down a fifth-seed since the NCAA Tournament bracket expanded in 1985.

The 7-foot-1 Silva bulled his way through the Vols after struggling in the Pac-12 Tournament to help Oregon State build a 14-point halftime lead. The Beavers then hit seven 3s in the second half to hold off a late charge and win their first NCAA Tournament game since reaching the 1982 Elite Eight.

Oregon State moves on to face Oklahoma State on Sunday.

It is quite the run for a team that struggled with injuries early and lost by 34 to Arizona in mid January.

"We know there was some doubt and we had to ignore all that," Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said. "We never threw in the towel, we never doubted ourselves, we just do what we do."

The Vols (18-9) opened their third straight NCAA Tournament shorthanded.

John Fulkerson was out with a facial fracture and concussion caused by a pair of elbows by Florida's Omar Payne in the SEC Tournament.

See Oregon State / B3

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

NCAA apologizes to women's teams for weight room inequities

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO — NCAA basketball administrators apologized to the women's basketball players and coaches after inequities between the men's and women's tournament went viral on social media and vowed to do better.

NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt vowed to do better during a Zoom call Friday morning, a day after photos showed the difference between the weight rooms at the two tournaments.

"I apologize to the women's student-athletes, coaches and committee for dropping the ball on the weight room issue in San Antonio, we'll get it fixed as soon as possible," Gavitt said.

During the call, other differences were raised: There are 68 teams in the men's field, 64 in the women; and the NCAA pays for the Men's National Invitational Tournament, but not the women's NIT.

"We fell short this year in what we have been doing to prepare in the last 60 days for 64 teams to be in San Antonio. We acknowledge that."

— Lynn Holzman, NCAA senior vice president of women's basketball an a former college basketball player

"The field size and NIT, those would be decisions made in conjunction with membership," Gavitt said. "Those are not decisions we could make independently. They are good questions and it's timely to raise those issues again."

In a step to solve the weight room issue, the NCAA modified space in the convention center to turn it into a usable workout facility. That work should be completed Saturday. The NCAA had offered to put a weight-lifting area in the open space next to the practice courts, but coaches didn't want that because then other teams would be in the vicinity when they were practicing.

Oregon State coach Scott Rueck, who met with the me-

dia on Zoom prior to the Beavers' first-round game against Florida State on Sunday, was asked about his thought on the discrepancy.

"Of course it's not okay," he said. "It's not what anybody would want. You know those things should be absolutely equal."

Rueck has been a coach or head coach of a women's basketball team for 28 years and said in most situations over that time things have been equal. And when they weren't he spoke out about it.

"So obviously there was a miss there somewhere. Where it is, I don't exactly know," he said. "Obviously it's being addressed and it will be in the future for sure."

See Inequities / B3

NFL

Free-agent RB Chris Carson agrees to return to Seahawks

BY BOB CONDOTTA
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Coach Pete Carroll said after the 2020 season that he wanted the Seahawks to run it more and better in 2021.

And on Friday, Seahawks fans learned it will be a familiar face heading up that task — Chris Carson.

The Seahawks and Carson agreed to a new contract Friday. It is a three-year deal worth up to \$24.625 million but voids to two years at \$14.625 million. So it's best viewed as a two-year deal, with the void year a way for the team to spread out more of the salary-cap hit.

The deal is reportedly back-loaded financially, with Carson reported to have \$5.5 million guaranteed in 2021 and the chance to earn up to \$6.9 million overall next season.

Carson has been the heart and soul of Seattle's running game since being taken in the seventh round of the 2017 NFL draft out of Oklahoma State.

He has rushed for 3,270

yards in four years, topping the 1,000-yard mark in both 2018 (1,151) and 2019 (1,230). He missed four games last season, contributing to him dropping to 681 yards, but he averaged a career-high 4.8 yards per carry.

The contract Carson will receive rivals the one the Raiders gave Kenyan Drake on Thursday — a two-year deal worth \$14.5 million.

That contract may have helped jump-start talks between Carson and the Seahawks, with running back having been a market slow to develop in the early days of free agency.

With Carson back, that leaves linebacker K.J. Wright as the most significant Seattle free agent still unaccounted for. Cornerback Shaquill Griffin signed a deal with Jacksonville this week.

Carson is the fourth Seahawks free agent to agree to re-sign, joining defensive tackle Poona Ford, center Ethan Pocic and fullback Nick Bellore.

See Carson / B2