

## MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Ducks advance via no-contest

INDIANAPOLIS — Oregon advances to the second round of the NCAA Tournament because of COVID-19 protocols.

The NCAA announced Saturday's game between No. 7 seed Oregon and No. 10 seed VCU was declared a no-contest.

"The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has declared the VCU-Oregon game scheduled for Saturday night ... a no-contest because of COVID-19 protocols," the NCAA announced. "This decision was made in consultation with the Marion County Public Health Department. As a result, Oregon will advance to the next round of the tournament. The NCAA and the committee regret that VCU's student-athletes and coaching staff will not be able to play in a tournament in which they earned the right to participate."

The Oregon athletic department released a brief statement that read, "During these challenging times, health and safety is the highest priority. We would like to wish the VCU student-athletes and staff all the best, and congratulate them on an outstanding season. We hate to see a team's season end this way after all the hard work these student-athletes have put in. This isn't the way we wanted to advance, but we are excited to be moving on, and we will start our preparation for Monday's game."

The Ducks advance to face No. 2 seed Iowa (22-8), which defeated 15 seed Grand Canyon 86-74, in the second round on Monday.

— The Oregonian

## OLYMPICS

## Spectators from abroad barred

TOKYO — At last it's official: Spectators from abroad will be barred from the postponed Tokyo Olympics when they open in four months.

The decision was announced Saturday after an online meeting of the International Olympic Committee, the Japanese government, the Tokyo government, the International Paralympic Committee, and local organizers.

Officials said the risk was too great to admit ticket holders from overseas during a pandemic. The Japanese public has also opposed fans from abroad. Several surveys have shown that up to 80% oppose holding the Olympics, and a similar percentage opposed fans from overseas attending.

Japan has attributed about 8,800 deaths to COVID-19 and has controlled the virus better than most countries.

"In order to give clarity to ticket holders living overseas and to enable them to adjust their travel plans at this stage, the parties on the Japanese side have come to the conclusion that they will not be able to enter into Japan at the time of the Olympic and Paralympic Games," the Tokyo organizing committee said in a statement.

Organizers said 600,000 tickets were sold to fans from outside Japan. They have promised refunds, but this will be determined by so-called Authorized Ticket Resellers that handle sales outside Japan.

— Associated Press

## PREP FOOTBALL

## Cougs hang on to beat rival

Mountain View pulls away in the second half to defeat Bend High, 33-21

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

Mountain View coach Brian Crum said his players had some long faces in the locker room at halftime.

The Cougars found themselves tied 21-21 with rival Bend High, giving up three touchdowns to a team that had not scored in its first two games.

"We just talked about, it's 0-0 at half, so let's go play," Crum said.

"I think they relaxed a little and our kids didn't panic. What I know about this group, is they're going to finish. They're going to do their thing, they're going to play hard, and that's what we did in the second half — we finished."

Behind another prolific rushing performance from running back Luke Roberts, and an efficient outing from quarterback Jakoby Moss, the Cougars hung on to defeat the Lava Bears 33-21 Friday night at Mountain View High School.

It was Mountain View's fifth straight win in the crosstown rivalry,



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Mountain View's Jake Hatch (22) fights his way to the goal line to score a touchdown during the fourth quarter against Bend High on Friday night.

"We just had to refocus, and come back out and keep playing. It's great to be part of this team. Everyone did their part."

— Luke Roberts, Mountain View High School running back

which was played for the 41st time.

"We just had to refocus, and come back out and keep playing," said Roberts, who finished with 16 carries for 121 yards and three touchdowns. "It's great to be part of this team. Everyone did their part."

The Lava Bears (0-3) outgained the Cougars (3-0) in total offense, 361

yards to 297, getting a breakout performance from fullback Benjamin Martin (159 yards rushing and two touchdowns). Jacob Winchester also rushed for 87 yards. But turnovers and allowing big plays ended up dooming Bend in the second half.

Kyle Gilbert's deft reception in the back of the end zone for Bend tied the

game 21-21 at the end of the first half.

But after that halftime talk, the Cougars started the third quarter with a bang.

James Tiboni returned the opening second half kickoff 53 yards, setting up a 4-yard touchdown run by Roberts to give Mountain View a 27-21 lead after the extra point attempt failed.

Bend then put together another impressive drive, but Roberts, who plays linebacker on defense, intercepted a Seve Castillo pass in the end zone.

See **Cougs** / B4

## WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

## Tournament 'wide-open a year as any'

BY DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO — This year's women's NCAA Tournament may be one of the most wide open in years, with nearly a dozen teams having a good chance to win the championship.

The uncertainty seems apropos after a pandemic-stressed season of stops, pauses and cancellations.

The top seeds Stanford, South Carolina, N.C. State and UConn are definitely the favorites to win the title on April 4 at the Alamodome. The four No. 2s also

are among the favorites to win it all with Louisville, Maryland, Baylor and Texas A&M all title contenders.

"This is as wide-open a year as any. Last year maybe it was Oregon or people might say South Carolina," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "Past years there's been Baylor with Britney Griner or Connecticut with Maya Moore but I think this year is wide open. There are a lot of different teams that could win this tournament. I think it will be very exciting and great for TV."

See **Tournament** / B3



Bryan Steffy/Pac-12 pool/The Oregonian/TNS file

Stanford's Lexie Hull steals the ball from Oregon State's Aleah Goodman during the Pac-12 women's tournament March 5 in Las Vegas. Stanford is the top overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, which begins Sunday.

## ALPINE SKIING ROUNDUP | WORLD CUP

## Pinturault claims men's crown; Vlhova wins women's overall title

Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Rising to the moment on his 30th birthday, French skier Alexis Pinturault secured his first overall World Cup title on Saturday.

Pinturault won a giant slalom giving him an unbeatable points lead in the season-long standings over breakout Swiss star Marco Odermatt, who placed 11th in Saturday's race on home snow at Lenzerheide.

"What a day," Pinturault said in an interview with Swiss broadcaster RTS. "It was a really beautiful battle with Marco. He will really be a big champion in our sport."

Pinturault is the first men's overall champion from France in 24 years, since Luc Alphand won. The only other



Gabriele Facciotti/AP

France's Alexis Pinturault competes in a World Cup giant slalom in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, on Saturday.

Frenchman to win was Jean Claude-Killy, in the first two seasons after the World Cup circuit started in 1967.

The giant slalom was key

because Odermatt skips slalom, which is the season-ending race on Sunday when Pinturault is also a threat to win.

See **Skiing** / B3

## NBA

## The night C.J. McCollum got his groove back for the Blazers

BY AARON FENTRESS

The Oregonian

Portland Trail Blazers guard C.J. McCollum wasn't supposed to play Friday night when he scored 32 points in 28 minutes during a 125-119 win over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Blazers were playing the second game of a back-to-back, originally a no-no for McCollum while he worked his way back into playing shape after missing 25 games with a broken left foot.

But McCollum, after struggling in his first two outings against New Orleans on Tuesday and Thursday, didn't want to sit against the Mavericks. So, he talked coach Terry Stotts into letting him play.

"When the game started, I told him I feel better now than

I did for the first two games and it's a back-to-back, so I think I'll be OK," McCollum said.

McCollum said he told Stotts that he would gauge how he felt during the game and if fatigue set in, he would let his coach know. That moment never came.

"I got 23 shots up in 28 minutes," McCollum said.

"But I think for the most part, I had good balance, missed short a few times, I didn't have any turnovers, and I think, defensively we did a pretty good job being active and I did what I was supposed to do."

Restrictions on McCollum's playing time have been removed moving forward.

See **McCollum** / B4