

## NBA

## Lakers great, Elgin Baylor, dies at 86

Elgin Baylor, the Lakers' 11-time NBA All-Star who soared through the 1960s with a high-scoring style of basketball that became the model for the modern player, died Monday. He was 86.

The Lakers announced that Baylor died of natural causes in Los Angeles with his wife, Elaine, and daughter Krystal by his side.

With a silky-smooth jumper and fluid athleticism, Baylor played a major role in revolutionizing basketball from a ground-bound sport into an aerial show. He spent parts of 14 seasons with the Lakers in Minneapolis and Los Angeles during his Hall of Fame career, teaming with Jerry West throughout the '60s in one of the most potent tandems in basketball history.



Baylor

Baylor's second career as a personnel executive with the woe-be-gone Los Angeles Clippers was much less successful. He worked for the Clippers from 1986 until 2008, when he left the team with acrimony and an unsuccessful lawsuit against owner Donald Sterling and the NBA, alleging age and race discrimination.

The 6-foot-5 Baylor played in an era before significant television coverage of basketball, and little of his play was ever captured on film. His spectacular style is best remembered by those who saw it in person — including West, who once called him "one of the most spectacular shooters the world has ever seen."

Baylor had an uncanny ability to hang in mid-air indefinitely, inventing shots along the way with his head bobbing. Years before Julius Erving and Michael Jordan became international superstars with their similarly acrobatic games, Baylor created the blueprint for the modern superstar.

Baylor soared above most of his contemporaries, but never won a championship or led the NBA in scoring largely because he played at the same time as centers Bill Russell, who won all the rings, and Wilt Chamberlain, who claimed all the scoring titles. Knee injuries hampered much of the second half of Baylor's career, although he remained a regular All-Star.

West and Baylor were the first pair in the long tradition of dynamic duos with the Lakers, followed by Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the 1980s before Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal won three more titles in the 2000s.

But Baylor's Lakers lost six times in the NBA Finals to the Boston Celtics and another time to the New York Knicks. Los Angeles won the 1971-72 title, but only after Baylor retired nine games into the season.

Baylor arrived in the NBA in 1958 as the No. 1 draft pick out of Seattle University. He immediately set new superlatives for individual scoring, with a 55-point game in his Rookie-of-the-Year season before scoring 64 on Nov. 8, 1959 — then the NBA single-game record, and the Lakers record for 45 years until Bryant broke it.

—Associated Press

## MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Oregon soars past Iowa into Sweet 16

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Oregon wove its way through a pandemic-altered season filled with injuries, pauses and uncertainty to win a conference title.

When another kink surfaced in the NCAA Tournament, the resilient, adaptable Ducks shook it off and soared.

Off to another Sweet 16. Chris Duarte scored 23 points and Oregon showed no signs of rust after a long layoff, beating No. 2 seed Iowa 95-80 on Monday to reach the Sweet

16 for the fourth time in the past five NCAA Tournaments.

"The guys fought through it, they stayed together," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "I'm proud of the way they responded."

The seventh-seeded Ducks (21-6) were put in an unprecedented spot, advancing to the West Region's second round without playing a game. Virginia Commonwealth's multiple positive COVID-19 tests took care of that, leaving Oregon with a nine-day break since losing in the Pac-12 Tournament title game.

Oregon's offense hummed like it was fresh off the line once the ball went up, kicking off the NCAA Tournament's first Monday of second-round games with a masterpiece.

The Ducks flowed on the floor and glowed on the score-sheet, shooting 56% and hitting 11 3-pointers. LJ Figueroa hit five 3s while scoring 21 points and Will Richardson added 19 points in an offensive domination.

Oregon moves on to face either Kansas or Southern Cal in the Sweet 16.

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Oregon forward Eugene Omoruyi (2) shoots against Iowa Monday during the second round of the NCAA tournament at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Paul Sancya/AP

## PREP BOYS SOCCER

## Storm continues strong short season with dominating win

*Summit is happy to be competing again, even if it must face the same teams multiple times*

BY MARK MORICAL

The Bulletin

Sure, Summit would like to play for a league and state title this year.

But the Storm boys soccer team is just happy to be playing at this point.

"Yes, they would like a more traditional season, where they're playing for a league title," said Summit coach Ron Kidder. "But they just want to play, so I'm grateful they have the opportunity to play."

The Storm made the most of that opportunity Monday evening in a dominating 9-1 victory over Bend High at 15th Street Field.

Junior Alex Grignon and sophomore Grayson Barker led Summit with two goals apiece as the Storm (4-1 overall) cruised to a 4-0 lead by halftime.

Summit also got goals from Nathaniel Depero, Max Anders, Bowen Teuber, Aiden MacLennan and Kaden Barker.

"That's been a big goal of ours this season, just scoring more," Grignon said. "I think that showed, scoring four in the first half. We like to come out and put our opponents on their back foot. Scoring early and scoring fast really helps our game."

In a shortened schedule with restricted travel and no postseason due to COVID-19, Summit has three matches remaining: one against Mountain View, which they defeated 5-0 last Wednesday, and two more against the Lava Bears.

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Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photo

Summit's Kaden Barker (8) battles for the ball with Bend's Nicholai Moroukian (16) and Carson Rider (5) during the boys soccer match in Bend Monday.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

## OSU climbs mountains on the way to the Sweet 16

BY JOHN CANZANO

The Oregonian

A men's basketball team from Oregon State, coached by a man named Wayne Tinkle, advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday night.

The uninvited guests, picked to finish dead last in the Pac-12 Conference, had some fun with the whole thing. At the morning shoot around, in fact, one OSU player got on the shoulders of another at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis and used a tape measure to check the dis-

tance from the rim to the floor.

"10 feet" someone cried, "just like Gill Coliseum."

The Beavers eliminated No. 4-seed Oklahoma State, 80-70. My wife thinks Ray Liotta should play Tinkle in the movie version of this magical basketball season. Liotta is 10 inches shorter than the 6-foot-10 Tinkle, but Hollywood will have to make it work. Because what we've seen over the last few weeks from the Beavers goes down as one of the most remarkable, impressive, heartwarming journeys our state

has seen.

Nobody wants it to end except a 101-year old nun.

Sister Jean has already had her fun, though, hasn't she? She watched Loyola Chicago knock out No. 1 seed Illinois earlier on Sunday. That book-makers immediately installed Oregon State as a seven-point underdog in their Sweet 16 matchup tells you where the Beavers stand today.

Legendary OSU baseball coach Pat Casey once told me on the eve of winning a na-

tional championship, "I don't need all the best players. I just need some of them."

So how about the fight of Ethan Thompson? And the bounce of Jarod Lucas? And center Roman Silva is 7-foot-1-lunch-bucket good, isn't he? What I see when I look at Tinkle's team on the floor is just that — a true team. One that is playing with unusual comfort and confidence while the tournament around them is crumbling amid the stakes.

*Who's going to stop Oregon State? Who's going to tell the Beavers they don't belong today? Those have become questions to ask. OSU has devoured those kinds of doubts in the last two weeks.*

— John Canzano

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