

OSU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tinkle familiar with Loyola Chicago

Playing Loyola Chicago in the NCAA Sweet 16 on Saturday will have extra meaning for Wayne Tinkle.

Oregon State's men's basketball coach grew up in Chicago, where his father — also named Wayne — was dean of students at Loyola.

Tinkle brought up the connection during his postgame press conference Sunday night after the 12th-seeded Beavers had advanced with an 80-70 win against fourth-seeded Oklahoma State in an NCAA tournament second-round game in Indianapolis.

"I grew up on their campus," Tinkle said. "Some of my most fond memories were in the summer, going to his office at Water Tower Place," just a few blocks from Lake Michigan.

Tinkle would go to work in the morning with his dad, who would ask people to keep his son out of trouble.

He recalls at 5 or 6 years old watching Ramblers men's basketball games. The team was coached by George Ireland, who guided Loyola to the 1963 national title. Ireland finished his 23-year career with the Ramblers with a school-record 321 wins.

The Tinkle family eventually moved to Spokane, Washington. But Chicago and Tinkle's time there still bring back memories.

"Coach (Porter) Moser is doing a great job and they're a hell of a team. But this is really going to mean something extra special for me and my family," Tinkle said.

— Albany Democrat-Herald

NFL

Mariota expected to stay with Raiders

Marcus Mariota is expected to re-sign with the Las Vegas Raiders for the 2021 season, according to a report.

The backup quarterback and former Oregon Ducks star will sign a restructured contract with a \$3.5 million base salary, but with incentives that could boost his compensation to \$8 million. Mariota is expected to be the backup to Derek Carr.

Mariota's renegotiated contract marks a significant reduction from the \$10.625 million he was originally slated to receive in the final year of the two-year, \$17.5 million contract he signed in 2020. However, the Raiders didn't want to pay Mariota and reportedly issued an ultimatum last week to Mariota — accept a \$7 million pay cut or be traded or released.

A restructured contract makes it easier to trade him if a team has a need to acquire a quarterback either in training camp or during the season.

Mariota reportedly had been unwilling to accept a restructured deal to facilitate a trade a month ago, possibly in an effort to force the Raiders to release him, which would have allowed Mariota to pick a team that was in need of a potential starting QB and negotiate a new contract.

The final year of Mariota's original contract includes incentives that would increase his total compensation north of \$20 million in 2021. That amount reportedly scared off potential trade partners.

— The Oregonian

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Beavs bow out

Top-seed South Carolina dismantles Oregon State 59-42 in the 2nd round

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO —

Aliyah Boston scored 19 points and top seed South Carolina dominated after a close first quarter to beat eighth-seeded Oregon State 59-42 in the women's NCAA Tournament, advancing to its seventh straight Sweet 16.

The Gamecocks (24-4) led by a point after one quarter but built a 12-point lead by halftime and were up 53-29 by the start of the fourth.

"This is a huge lift off of our shoulders because that was a hard game," coach Dawn Staley said. "I know the score doesn't say that. But ... Oregon State is a really good, efficient basketball team. If you allow them to do what they set out to do, they're very good at it."

South Carolina, which won a na-



Eric Gay/AP

Oregon State's Taylor Jones (44) grabs a rebound over South Carolina's Victoria Saxton, left, during the second round of the women's NCAA tournament in San Antonio on Tuesday night. Jones led the Beavers with 13 points.

"They were disruptive all day, closed gaps really quickly defensively. During a key stretch of that second quarter (they) turned us over, turned it into quick points at the other end, which is obviously a staple and a hallmark of what they do. It's when they're at their best."

— Scott Rueck, Oregon State women's basketball coach

tional title in 2017, improved to 8-1 in the second round under Staley and will appear in the regional semifinals for the 11th time overall.

"Our players didn't want to pack and head home," Staley said. "They wanted to stay a little bit longer. A lot of them, this is their first tournament

experience ... and the deeper we go in this tournament, the more experience we have, the better off we'll be this year as well as in years to come."

Taylor Jones scored 13 points for Oregon State (12-8), which ended a streak of four straight Sweet 16 appearances. Jones fouled out with about three minutes remaining.

Staley's plan was to get Jones into foul trouble — and it worked, with Jones limited to 18 minutes.

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Sue Ogrocki/AP

Seattle Mariners' Evan White bats in a spring training game against the Oakland Athletics earlier this month.

MLB

Mariners' Evan White hopes to rediscover success at the plate

BY RYAN DIVISH
The Seattle Times

PEORIA, Ariz. — The batter's box can be a lonely place when the opposing pitcher is pumping mid-90s heaters and snapping off breaking pitches at you, the catcher is framing up off-the-plate pitches for called strikes and the umpire's strike zone resembles a floating Rorschach test.

As a hitter, if you are looking for any words of encouragement or advice, well, it's a conversation with yourself.

It's not an uncommon sight to see a baseball player talking to himself for a variety of reasons.

There were times last season when Evan White would be in the batter's box trying to talk to himself about how to get a hit in that at-bat ... only he wouldn't get a response.

The old joke of "I keep playing mind games with myself ... and losing" felt applicable.

It should've been the best year of his life, getting married, signing a six-year contract extension for \$24 million to get financial security and jumping from the Class AA level to the everyday first-base job for the Mariners.

Instead, COVID-19 reduced the 2020 season to just 60 games and an early slump sunk

White into a hole he couldn't climb out, made him tentative at the plate while trying to get four hits for every swing to fix his sub-.200 batting average and led to striking out more than he'd ever endured in his baseball-playing life.

"I really felt like I kind of lost who I was at the plate," White said after the season.

In an effort to get back to who he was at the plate, White went back to his college days at the University of Kentucky and the teachings of his hitting coach, Rick Eckstein, who is now a hitting coach with the Pirates.

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Oregon set to face Southern Cal in Sweet 16 heavy on Pac-12 flavor

BY RYAN THORBURN

The (Eugene) Register-Guard

Dana Altman was disappointed the Ducks' stay in Las Vegas ended early.

But suddenly the men's NCAA Tournament in Indianapolis has a Pac-12 Tournament feel to it.

Oregon, the No. 7 seed in the West Region and the regular-season Pac-12 champion, is joined by three of its conference peers in the Sweet 16.

And to survive and advance to the regional final, the Ducks (21-6) will have to get through No. 6 USC on Sunday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse (approximately 6:45 p.m., TBS).

"The Pac-12 has shown exactly how strong it was. I'm so proud of the conference. For us to be the champions of the regular season, I'm proud of that. And I'm proud of the guys, the way they responded."

— Dana Altman, Oregon men's basketball coach

"The Pac-12 has shown exactly how strong it was," Altman said after Oregon's 95-80 victory over No. 2 Iowa on Monday.

"I'm so proud of the conference. For us to be the champions of the regular season, I'm proud of that. And I'm proud of the guys, the way they responded."

Oregon State and UCLA are also in the Sweet 16.

The No. 12 Beavers play No. 8 Loyola Chicago in the Midwest Region on Saturday. The No. 11 Bruins play No. 2 Alabama in the East Region on Sunday.

Colorado blew out Georgetown in the first round but lost to Florida State on Monday.

The Pac-12 is 9-1 in the NCAA Tournament so far, a record that does not include Oregon's no-contest against VCU in the first round.

"We're obviously putting everybody on notice," Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle said after his team's 80-70 second-round win over Oklahoma State and projected No. 1 overall NBA draft pick Cade Cunningham. "I'm very happy for our program, but I'm extremely happy for the Pac-12 conference. Maybe now we'll get some damn respect."

It was only three years ago when the conference only had three teams selected to the field

with none advancing beyond the first round of the 2018 tournament.

Oregon made the Sweet 16 in 2019 as a No. 12 seed after playing its way into the field by winning the Pac-12 Tournament.

"I've been at Oregon 11 years. We've had some years that we haven't played well in the tournament, and I thought we played pretty good during the year, and the tournament didn't prove it out," Altman said. "This year we had a good conference season. Whether it's matchups, whatever it is, our teams are playing really well."

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