

TRACK & FIELD

Ducks set to host meets at Hayward

The Oregon track and field team will host five meets at the new Hayward Field this spring, the school officially announced in a news release Wednesday.

The Ducks will host their first meet the weekend of April 2-3, the first meet Oregon has had at home since the 2018 NCAA Championships.

The season and the five-meet home slate will conclude with the NCAA Championships on June 9-12, the 17th time Hayward Field will have hosted the NCAA meet.

"The excitement level for this upcoming outdoor season and the return of Hayward Field to the competition schedule is at an all-time high," Oregon coach Robert Johnson said in the news release. "We can't wait to have track and field meets back in Eugene, and seeing the student-athletes competing at Hayward Field again will be a special moment for this program."

"This has been a long time coming and we are incredibly thankful to everyone involved in getting us to this point."

The capacity limits established through the updated public health guidance and county risk level will permit a limited number of guests of student-athletes and coaches during meets at Hayward Field, beginning with the Hayward Premiere on April 2-3. The Oregon athletic department will continue to work with public health authorities and the UO Incident Management Team regarding welcoming the public into campus athletic venues.

The remainder of the Ducks' home schedule at Hayward Field includes the West Coast Classic (April 17), Oregon Relays (April 23-24), Oregon Twilight (May 7) and NCAA Championships (June 9-12). The West Coast Classic will be held in conjunction with an additional site hosted by the University of Arizona in Tucson.

— (Eugene) Register-Guard

MLS

Portland Timbers' schedule released

The 2021 season schedule is set for the Portland Timbers as they begin their 11th season in Major League Soccer.

Portland's first two games previously had been announced, but on Wednesday MLS revealed the full 34-game schedule. The Timbers open April 18 against the Cascadia-rival Vancouver Whitecaps in Salt Lake City, and their home opener is April 24 against Houston.

The Timbers will take on the rival Seattle Sounders at Providence Park on May 9 and Aug. 15, and then visit the Sounders on Aug. 29.

Portland will have three-game homestands twice, in early August and late September, with five consecutive road games sandwiched in between.

Current Oregon Health Authority regulations cap fan attendance at Timbers games to 25% capacity, or about 6,300 fans. Timbers fans will be welcomed back to Providence Park for the first time in more than a year when Portland takes on C.D. Marathón in CONCACAF Champions League play on April 13.

— The Oregonian

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Ducks return to Sweet 16 with win over Georgia



Eric Gay/AP

Oregon's Sedona Prince, center, celebrates with teammates after the Ducks defeated Georgia in the second round of the women's NCAA Tournament at the Alamodome in San Antonio on Wednesday. Oregon won 57-50.

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Sedona Prince scored 22 points, Nyara Sabally took over late and sixth-seeded Oregon beat No. 3 Georgia 57-50 on Wednesday in the women's NCAA Tournament to advance to its fourth straight Sweet 16.

Sabally scored six straight points to break open a tie game and give the Ducks a 54-48 lead with less than a minute to go. She finished with 15 points, including 10 in the second half, and nine rebounds.

"Ny and I talked before the fourth quarter and we were like: 'We're going to go to the Sweet 16,'" Prince said.

Oregon (15-8) is in the tour-

namment for the 16th time overall, but this Ducks team came in less heralded than those led by Sabrina Ionescu, who missed out on her final chance at a national title last year because of the pandemic.

"Everybody knows what we had and the opportunity and capability of doing in this tournament last year and it was taken away from us ... and the expectations weighed heavily on them," coach Kelly Graves said.

And then when you start losing a few games and people start to question your program and then your own players sometimes maybe question themselves, (this) is great redemption."

Jenna Staiti had 18 points and nine rebounds for Georgia (21-7), which was looking to reach its first Sweet 16 since 2013.

Staiti was encouraged by the step forward the Lady Bulldogs took this season.

"This is the standard," she said. "This group of seniors and this team put Georgia back where it needs to be."

After Sabally put the Ducks ahead to stay on a layup with 2:20 left, Georgia appeared to have tied the game with a jumper, but the officials said a foul was called before the shot. The foul call didn't stop play because the referee lost her whistle in her mask.

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RODEO

Rodeo is back in Redmond

The High Desert Stampede makes it return with sold-out performances Thursday through Saturday

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

After a year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the High Desert Stampede rodeo makes its return to the Deschutes County fairgrounds' First Interstate Bank Center in Redmond this week.

Rodeo performances are scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, starting at 7 p.m. each night.

The High Desert Stampede is part of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) ProRodeo Tour, and is anticipated to be "one heck of a rodeo," according to High Desert Stampede chairman Denis Fast.

"The show itself is going to be bigger and better," Fast said. "We have a great list of entries, contestants from all over the country, and multiple world champions coming. The talent is as big as I have ever seen in the Northwest. It is going to be a great rodeo. I just wish more people could see it live."

Due to COVID-19 protocols, at-



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file photo

Kenny Haworth, of Orofino, Idaho, rides Scarlett Pearl during the bareback event of the High Desert Stampede rodeo in Redmond in 2019.

"The show itself is going to be bigger and better. We have a great list of entries, contestants from all over the country, and multiple world champions coming. The talent is as big as I have ever seen in the Northwest. It is going to be a great rodeo. I just wish more people could see it live."

— Denis Fast, High Desert Stampede chairman

tendance is limited to 25% capacity, Fast said. Tickets for the event are sold out for each night, but rodeo fans can watch the action on the Cowboy Channel (www.thecowboychannel.com).

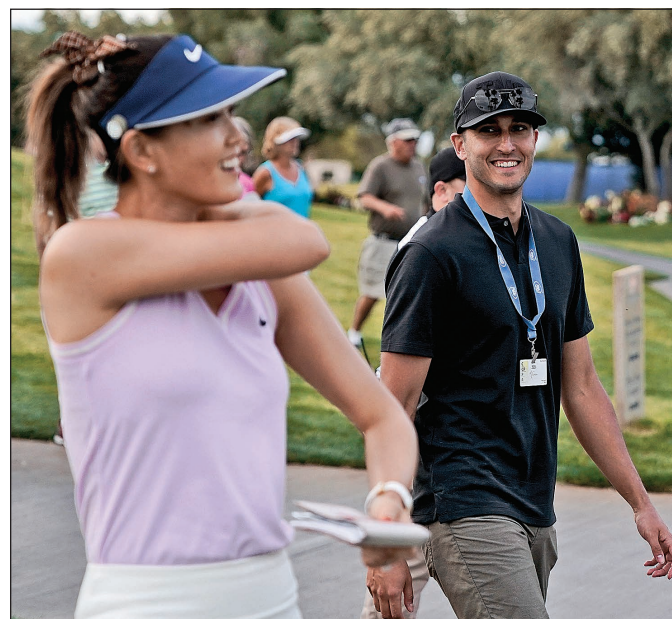
Face coverings will be required, as will 6 feet of social distancing. The annual Redmond rodeo has been a big draw for Northwest rodeo fans since 2015.

But this year, many would-be spectators have been turned away due to the capacity limit.

"People really want to come," Fast said. "But because of the safety plan, we have to limit (ticket sales), and that has been difficult."

While the event will be downsized, the talent of the competition will not be. Some of the top rodeo riders from throughout the West are expected, as are cowboys and cowgirls from Canada, Louisiana, Texas, Florida and Virginia.

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Chris Carlson/AP file

Michelle Wie, left, walks off the ninth green with Jonnie West during the 2019 LPGA Tour ANA Inspiration tournament in Rancho Mirage, California.

GOLF | LPGA TOUR

New mom Wie West makes her return

BY BERNIE WILSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — New mom Michelle Wie West is looking forward to being nervous again on the golf course.

It's been nearly two years since she played a competitive round on the LPGA Tour and nine months since she gave birth to daughter Makenna.

She figured the beginning of the West Coast swing was the perfect place to return, particularly because she now lives in San Francisco with husband Jonnie West, the director of basketball operations for the Golden State Warriors, and their daughter.

Wie has been away long enough that when she arrived this week for the Kia Classic at Aviara in Carlsbad, she didn't recognize a number of her fellow tour pros, in part because there are a lot of rookies and also because it's more difficult because everyone is wearing a mask. But playing in the pro-am brought back a familiar feeling.

"I'm definitely nervous but also grateful to feel nervous again," Wie West said in a videoconference Wednesday from the course in northern San Diego County.

Wie West said she's been practicing in earnest for her return since the first of the year.

She said it's hard to tell where her game is because she's been away so long. "But I'm pretty proud of myself for grinding it out there. I've been grinding. Like I said, I'm just grateful I'm out here. I'm enjoying myself and having a lot of fun."

She tees off Thursday afternoon in the first round of the tournament being played without fans.

"You know, it's fun hitting balls on the range, fun to kind of mess around, hit a couple chips, but there is nothing like hitting golf shots that matter and you kind of feel those first-tee jitters," she said.

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