

## NBA

## Blazers trade for Raptors' Powell

PORTLAND — The Portland Trail Blazers have acquired shooting guard Norman Powell in a trade with the Toronto Raptors in exchange for Gary Trent Jr. and Rodney Hood.

Powell, 27, is averaging a career-best 19.6 points per game this season and is shooting 43.5% from beyond the arc. He scored a career-high 43 points against the Pistons earlier this month.

"We are a 3-point shooting team. He'll get good looks. And I think that really fits in with our style of play in some ways," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said.

Powell, who had a player option for next season, was expected to instead test free agency this summer.

He was the 46th overall pick in the 2015 draft out of UCLA by the Milwaukee Bucks, who dealt his draft rights to the Raptors. Powell won an NBA title with Toronto in 2019.

"He's got a lot of experience, winning experience," Stotts said. "He knows what it takes to win in this league. And that's why we got him. He's ready to help us compete at a high level."

The Blazers (26-18) are sitting in sixth place in the Western Conference, tied with the Denver Nuggets after defeating Miami on Thursday night.

Trent, a restricted free agent after this season, is averaging a career-best 15 points per game. The 22-year-old is in his third season. He was selected 37th overall in the 2018 draft by Sacramento.

Hood, 28, has averaged 4.7 points and 19.1 minutes in 38 games this season, with five starts.

—Associated Press

## NFL

## Seahawks, Dunlap agree on deal

RENTON, Wash. — Less than three weeks after being released in a salary cap move, Carlos Dunlap is returning to the Seattle Seahawks on a two-year deal. Dunlap's agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed Thursday night the sides agreed on a new contract that is expected to be worth more than \$16 million.

It's a major victory for Seattle bringing back its top pass rusher on a day filled with news about its defensive line.

Earlier Thursday, the team officially announced the signing of free agent defensive end Kerry Hyder Jr., but also seemed on the verge of saying goodbye to veteran defensive tackle Jarran Reed. Reed tweeted a goodbye to Seattle fans amid reports he could be traded or released due to his contract situation.

Dunlap was released because Seattle desperately needed salary cap space and letting go of the pass rusher saved the Seahawks \$14.1 million. But there was optimism about bringing Dunlap back to Seattle depending on what the free agent market yielded.

Dunlap, 32, was a major boost to Seattle's pass rush following his midseason arrival in a trade from Cincinnati. He appeared in eight regular-season games for the Seahawks with five sacks and 14 quarterback hits. He was the spark for a Seattle pass rush that was among the better units in the league over the second half of the season.

—Associated Press

## MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

## PAC-12 FLEX

Outgoing commissioner Larry Scott is not upset that Pac-12 Conference teams received low seeds

BY BEN BOLCH  
Los Angeles Times

Larry Scott is coming to Indianapolis, where he might be joined — at least virtually — by the only bigger champion of the "Conference of Champions."

"Somehow," Scott, the outgoing Pac-12 commissioner, said in a telephone interview Tuesday, "I have a sneaking suspicion that CBS or Turner will get a hold of Bill Walton sometime over this next weekend."

Walton, the UCLA legend and legendary absurdist broadcaster who picked five Pac-12 teams to make the Final Four, has a few things in common with Scott, who measures every word as if nuclear codes might be divulged if he says the wrong thing.

Both relentlessly tout the strength of a conference given little respect nationally.

Both are wearing the smile of someone with inside information.

"We've seen it coming for some time," Scott said. Widely disparaged for his handling of a conference lagging in both revenue and prestige, Scott also happens to preside over teams responsible for the best story of the NCAA Tournament.

UCLA, USC, Oregon and Oregon State have all advanced to regional semifinals next weekend, making the Pac-12 the first conference to have four teams seeded No. 4 or lower reach that round.

Take that, selection committee. Oregon was given a No. 7 seed despite winning the conference's regular-season title and being nationally ranked for much of the season. UCLA was handed a No. 11 seed and shipped to West Lafayette, Indiana, for a First Four game despite playing for the conference title on the last weekend of the regular season.



Oregon's Eric Williams Jr. (50) and Will Richardson (0) celebrate a basket against Iowa during the the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Indianapolis on Monday. The Ducks face Southern Cal in the Sweet 16.

"I think if you asked any of my peers across the country, how would you feel about having two teams playing (against each other) in the Sweet 16, it's good news. You have two teams and you have at least one advancing, but certainly also some disappointment because I think both USC and Oregon have the potential to be not just Elite Eight teams but Final Four and beyond."

— Larry Scott, Pac-12 commissioner

The way the Ducks and Bruins responded, winning every game, has apparently put Scott in a forgiving mood. Rather than slam the selection committee for undervaluing his teams, Scott said he didn't assign any blame, noting COVID-19 disruptions and truncated nonconference schedules stemming from the pandemic led to blurry evaluations of teams.

"I think it's important to show grace to the com-

mittee this year," said Scott, whose conference has twice as many teams left as the far more ballyhooed Atlantic Coast and Southeastern conferences.

The Pac-12 teams still alive haven't just won but dominated, prevailing in their most recent games by double digits. USC thwacked Kansas by 34 points, giving the storied Jayhawks their worst loss in NCAA Tournament history.

See Pac-12 / B4

## OLYMPICS

## Torch relay for Tokyo Games kicks off its 121-day journey

BY STEPHEN WADE  
Associated Press

TOKYO — The torch relay for the postponed Tokyo Olympics began its 121-day journey across Japan on Thursday and is headed toward the opening ceremony in Tokyo on July 23.

The relay began in northeastern Fukushima prefecture, the area that was devastated by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors. About 18,000 died in the tragedy.

The first runner with the torch was Azusa Iwashimizu, a key player in the Japan team that won the Women's World Cup in 2011.

Wearing a white track suit, she carried the torch out of the J-Village indoor soccer training center and was surrounded by 14 other members of that 2011 World Cup squad and coach



Japanese torchbearer Azusa Iwashimizu, center, a member of Japan women's national football team, arrives at a torch kiss point to pass on the flame during the torch relay grand start outside J-Village National Training Center in Naraha, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan, on Thursday.

Norio Sasaki at the rear. They were also decked out in white track suits.

The ceremony was closed

to the public because of the fear of spreading COVID-19 but was streamed live.

See Olympics / B5

## WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Familiar faces joined by a few new ones in Sweet 16

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The women's NCAA Tournament regional semifinals field is set with many familiar faces like UConn, Baylor, Stanford and South Carolina. There's also some fresh ones, including Michigan and Arizona.

The Sweet 16 will tip off Saturday with a much anticipated matchup between UConn and Iowa. The schools are led by heralded freshmen Paige Bueckers and Caitlyn Clark. Geno Auriemma, who will be coaching the Huskies for the first time in the tournament after being sidelined with COVID-19 the first two rounds, couldn't remember a time when there was so much hype around two freshmen.

"It's been a while since you have two kids that have had this kind of an impact, both on their teams and on the game

itself nationally. To have one is kind of cool. To have two and to be so alike in so many ways?" Auriemma said. "And yet unfortunately, they're going to be put in a situation where it's like a big football game, where they say it's (Tom) Brady versus Aaron Rodgers. It couldn't be further from the truth."

"It's two really, really young kids, really good players that do a lot for their teams."

Clark has led Iowa back to the Sweet 16. The Hawkeyes are one of a record four Big Ten teams in the regional semifinals with Michigan, Indiana and Maryland joining them.

Wolverines coach Kim Barnes Arico is happy to have her team in the regional semifinals for the first time as opposed to Connecticut, which is making its 27th consecutive appearance in the round of 16.

See Sweet 16 / B5