

COLLEGE
SPORTSNCAA chair: Emmert
doing a good job

The chairman of the NCAA's Board of Governors gave President Mark Emmert a vote of confidence Saturday, saying the association's top governing body was satisfied with how he has addressed inequities in the college basketball tournaments and with his leadership through a tumultuous 10 days.

Georgetown University President Jack DeGioia told The Associated Press the board met Friday, along with the Division I Board of Directors, to hear from Emmert and discuss issues that have cast a shadow over the tournaments.

With a recent TikTok video that went viral, Oregon's Sedona Prince gave fans a glimpse of the disparity in training equipment provided to men's and women's teams.

DeGioia said Emmert decided to hire a law firm to review potential gender equity issues related to how the NCAA conducts all its men's and women's championship events.

Emmert told the AP on Friday that a lack of communication between staffs working on each event and a focus on COVID-19 protocols led to oversights and inequities.

Emmert's contract runs through October 2023. The 68-year-old former president of the University of Washington and chancellor at LSU is in his 11th year leading the NCAA.

MOTOR SPORTS

Dirt race disaster?
NASCAR tries fixes

NASCAR feverishly tried to save its ballyhooed first Cup Series dirt race since 1970 from turning into a total disaster, the likes not seen since the 2008 tire debacle at Indianapolis made for one of the worst events in the sport's history.

The Cup Series is slated to race Sunday at Bristol Motor Speedway, where 2,300 truckloads of red Tennessee clay have filled the famed bullring for an experimental — some might allege gimmick — stab at grassroots racing.

But the dirt, the 28-degree Bristol banking and the leaden 3,400-pound cars appear to be a terrible fit.

Yes, drivers had a blast playing in the dirt, some for the first time since they were kids. But four Friday practice sessions ultimately showed the tires can't sustain the heavy wear. The three layers of dirt acted as a cheese-grater and the tires in turn dug deep divots into the surface.

NASCAR made several procedural changes Saturday in a desperate bid to save the show.

NASCAR extended the first stage by 25 laps, the second stage by 50 laps and added two competition cautions. It also allotted teams one extra set of tires.

The added competition cautions create additional opportunities for track prep.

NASCAR is also facing weather challenges — heavy rain drenched the dirt and delayed the start of Saturday activity before ultimately washing it out entirely. The heat races for both Cup and Trucks were scrapped and the Truck Series will run after the Cup race for a Sunday doubleheader.

— Bulletin wire reports

PREP FOOTBALL

Mountain View survives Summit scare

Cougars beat Storm
7-3 Friday night

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

In his pregame speech, Mountain View football coach Brian Crum told his players that 25 years from now, they were going to remember the night they squared off against cross-town rival Summit.

For 45 of the 48 minute game of the Cougars' 7-3 win over the Storm Friday

evening, it looked as though the "classic high school football game" was going to be a game the team would rather forget instead.

"We had a hard time getting out of our way," said Crum. "Nine guys were doing their jobs and two were not."

Mountain View's offense had been humming entering Friday's matchup on their home turf, averaging 40 points per game in their three prior games. Senior running back Luke Roberts was leading all, putting up video game-like numbers with over 400 yards and a 6A-leading nine rushing touchdowns,

while junior quarterback Jakoby Moss had tossed seven touchdown passes in three games.

Yet, with just a tick over three minutes left in the game, the vaunted Cougar offense was stuck in neutral and had been kept off the scoreboard. Luckily for Mountain View, the Summit offense had a similar fate against the Cougar defense.

"It was frustrating not being able to move the ball and not score," said Moss. "Our defense kept us in there. Hats off to them, they played lights out."

But trailing with three minutes re-

maining, it was the offense's turn to pick up a defense that had given them one final drive. Moss knew it was go time.

"I'm just telling myself that this is what you have worked so hard for," Moss said. "All the grind, all the weekends doing 7-on-7 — this is what it is for."

Suddenly, the offense clicked. The offensive line gave Moss the time needed to hit his receivers who had broken open. With 30 seconds left in the game, Roberts plunged from a yard out to give the Cougars their only points of the game.

See **Football** / B3

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Sweet rematch

Oregon, USC eager to face off Sunday after Pac-12 championship



Oregon coach Dana Altman looks on during a second-round game against Iowa in the NCAA Tournament on Monday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

BY JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

INDIANAPOLIS —

It's the matchup both teams wanted, perhaps a round or two earlier than preferable, but Oregon and USC will face off for a trip to the Elite Eight.

The No. 7 seed Ducks won the regular season Pac-12 championship by virtue of win percentage after going 14-4 in conference play and guard Chris Duarte was named AP Pac-12 player of the year.

The No. 6 seed Trojans finished second in the conference at 15-5 despite

the head-to-win over UO on Feb. 22, after which they went 2-2 while Oregon went 5-0, and center Evan Mobley swept the Pac-12 player of the year, defensive player of the year and freshman of the year awards from the league's coaches.

Losing 72-58 at USC last month sparked Oregon's late-season run and Sunday's matchup in the Sweet 16 provides a chance at redemption as well as the right to advance.

"I'm very excited," Ducks forward Eugene Omoruyi said. "I wanted this game in the Pac-12 tournament; we couldn't get it there. I'm just happy to get it now. I'm a competitor and I'm ready to go, I'm ready to play them. We're just locked in as a unit to come out here and compete."

Oregon was nearly run out of the Galen Center by the Trojans, who opened on a 15-0 run and effectively ended the game before the Ducks even scored.

"When you're not successful you want another opportunity. ... I'd be really disappointed if the guys didn't feel that way because I know our coaching staff is looking forward to the opportunity."

— Oregon coach Dana Altman

Both those trends were uncharacteristic as USC is not a prolific three-point shooting team but Tahj Eaddy took and made season-highs by going 6 of 11 that night, and Oregon was flat on both ends for much of the first half before closing the gap to 10 and having a shot to get it down to seven but could never make it truly competitive.

See **Rematch** / B3

OREGON STATE 65
LOYOLA CHICAGO 58

Beavers
bound
for Elite
Eight

BY DAVE SKRETTA
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Ethan Thompson scored 20 points, including a pair of clinching foul shots with 35 seconds left, and No. 12 seed Oregon kept its dream March going with a 65-58 victory over eighth-seeded Loyola Chicago in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday.

Warith Alatishe added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Beavers (20-12), who were picked to finish last in the Pac-12 but ran roughshod through the conference tournament and have kept on winning on college basketball's biggest stage.

They're headed for their first Elite Eight since 1982 — one that was later vacated by the NCAA — and will play second-seeded Houston or No. 10 seed Syracuse on Monday night for a spot in the Beavers' first Final Four since 1963.

Not even the fervent prayers of Sister Jean could help Loyola (26-4) deal with the constantly changing defenses that Oregon State coach Wayne Tinkle rolled out. The Ramblers, who played with such poise and perfection in toppling top-seeded Illinois, wound up shooting 33% from the field and 5 of 23 from beyond the arc.

See **Elite** / B3

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Oregon finally found an identity; how far can the Ducks go?

BY JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

Oregon stumbled its way into the NCAA Tournament, losing five of six games, and lost its point guard to injury.

A season-long search for an identity seemed futile as the Ducks left the Pac-12 tournament after just one game.

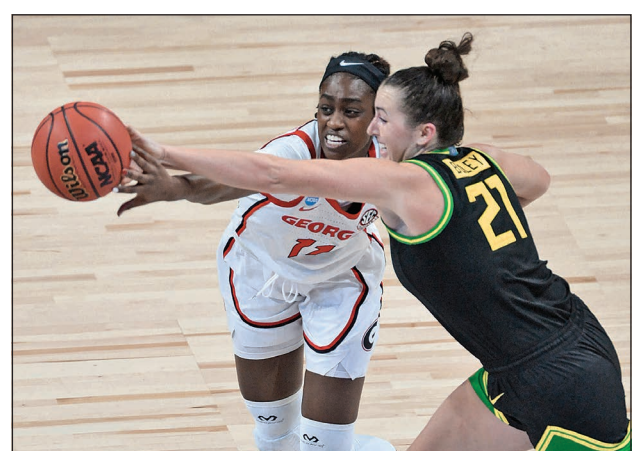
But in the two-plus weeks that elapsed between the second loss to Oregon State in as many games and the opening round NCAA Tournament matchup with South Dakota on Monday, Oregon (15-8) found what it has been searching for: A lineup that maximizes its talent.

The Ducks have used their size advan-

tage inside with Sedona Prince and Nyara Sabally, the perimeter shooting of Erin Boley and Taylor Mikesell and defense of freshman Maddie Scherr and it's led them past South Dakota and Georgia and back to the Sweet 16.

"We've changed the way we've attacked the game," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said. "About middle of the season, mid-Pac-12 we decided to go with a bigger lineup thinking if we want to be successful in the NCAA Tournament, we're going to need Sedona and Nyara to be big for us because they're going to be a load for team."

See **Identity** / B3



Oregon's Erin Boley (21) and Georgia's Maya Caldwell (11) chase a loose ball during the second round of the women's NCAA Tournament on Wednesday at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Mark Sobhani/
NCAA Photos