

Elite

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All-America forward Cameron Krutwig led Loyola with 14 points. Lucas Williamson and Braden Norris added 10 apiece, though both of them missed 3-pointers in the closing minutes as Loyola tried to mount a comeback.

It was the first meeting between the teams since Dec. 31, 1927, when Loyola won 31-19 in Chicago — and Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the Ramblers' beloved 101-year-old chaplain, was still a schoolgirl.

For most of Saturday, it looked as if 31 points would be plenty.

Oregon State turned it over twice before getting off a shot, went nearly 6½ minutes before making its first field goal and at one point was 1 of 8 with four turnovers. Then the Ramblers, who failed to take advantage of their defense, proceeded to miss 11 consecu-

tive shots as Oregon State flip-flopped between man-to-man and zone defenses.

The Beavers wound up shutting out Loyola the last 5:48 to take a 24-16 halftime lead, the lowest-scoring first half of the entire tournament. Krutwig was 3 of 5 from the field; the rest of the Ramblers were 1 of 18.

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You'd have sworn the Beavers sported the nation's No. 1 scoring defense, not the other way around.

Oregon State built on Warith Alatishe's buzzer-beating bucket to end the first half by finally getting some shots to go in the second. Thompson did most of the damage, hitting an early jumper, beating the

shot clock with another fadeaway jumper, then catching a Hail Mary heave to beat a full-court press and give the Beavers a 37-24 lead with 12 minutes to go.

Meanwhile, the Ramblers were hitting everything but the bottom of the bucket.



Jeff Roberson/AP

Oregon State guard Ethan Thompson (5) drives to the basket ahead of Loyola Chicago guard Marquise Kennedy (12) during the second half of a Sweet 16 game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Williamson rimmed out 3-pointers on back-to-back trips down the floor. Tate Hall clanked a couple of free throws when that's about the only place they were scoring. Krutwig even had a baby hook go halfway down and right back out.

Even when the shots wouldn't fall, Loyola continued to play defense, and that kept the game close. And when Braden Norris knocked down a 3 and Aher Uguak tipped in an ally-ooop with 2:43 to go, the Ramblers had trimmed their

deficit to 49-44 and had the partisan crowd sitting mostly in the rafters of Bankers Life Fieldhouse cheering.

Kennedy hit a 3-pointer to get the Ramblers within 51-47, then another shot to get within 53-49, but the Beavers

kept finding answers. Lucas provided one with a 3, Alatishe provided another from the foul line, and that was enough to keep the Pac-12's dream tournament going into the Elite Eight.

Big picture

Oregon State is making the most of its second NCAA Tournament appearance since 1990. The Beavers had beaten higher-seeded teams in Tennessee and Oklahoma State to reach the second weekend, then ramped up the defense against one of the nation's best on that end of the court to keep their run going.

Loyola Chicago was trying to become the first No. 8 seed since Kentucky in 2014 to reach the Elite Eight. But its slow start from the field proved to be too much to overcome. The Ramblers' last lead came with about six minutes left in the first half.

Up next

The Beavers play the Cougars or the Orange for a spot in the Final Four. Oregon State has never played Syracuse, but it beat Houston in the 1966 West Region semifinal and again in the 2009 CBI Tournament.

Football

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Despite the lead, the game still came down to the final play. Summit marched down the field and got in the red zone with less than 10 second on the clock. But senior defensive back Jake Hatch picked off sophomore quarterback Hogan Charmichael in the end zone to seal the victory for the Cougars.

"What I love about this group is they believe," said Crum. "They trust in the coaches and trust in their teammates. When we needed to make a play, they were able to make plays."

While one side of Bend celebrated a come-from-behind victory, the other side walked off letting the school's first win over Mountain View since 2016 slip through its fingers.

The Storm went into the second matchup confident, knowing that the first meeting was

not indicative of the 33-3 final score. They also thought that after holding Beaverton to 23 yards on 23 carriers in last week's win, they were prepared to slow down the Cougars' rushing attack.

"We realized after the first game that we could play with them," said Summit coach Corben Hyatt. "We shot ourselves in the foot with mental mistakes in the first game, we knew our defense would come out and respond."

But the Storm offense was never able to threaten with a touchdown. Before the game's final drive, the offense never reached the red zone. Instead, the offense was only able to get a 40-yard field in the third quarter from junior kicker Soren McKee. He would get another try, also from 40-yards, in the fourth quarter, missing.

"I told our guys after the game there was nothing to hang your head about," said Hyatt.

"They came out and played a great game. Mountain View is a good opponent, I'm pleased with how the guys fought and competed."

Summit plays its second round against Bend High next Friday, while Mountain View travels to face Ridgeview.

But after a brawl between two of Bend's high schools, they might need some time to recover.

"Our kids were physically and emotionally spent after this one," said Crum. "And I know (Summit's) were too."

Additional Central Oregon games

Redmond 28, Pendleton 0 — For the third time this season, the Redmond defense held the opposing offense off the scoreboard with 28-0 shutout of Pendleton. Junior quarterback Hayden Parrish tossed pair of touchdowns to sophomore wide out Nathan Wachs and a third to senior Kole Davis. Senior Austin Carter ran for a touch-

down and picked off two passes on defense.

Ridgeview 46, Hood River Valley 26 — Senior running back Josh Bieber ran for 209 yards and scored two touchdowns while sophomore quarterback Aidan Brenneman tossed four touchdown passes to help the Ravens back into the win column on the road against Hood River Valley.

Siuslaw 36, Sisters 19 — On the coast, the Outlaws got touchdowns from Hayden Sharp, Wyatt Maffey but it was not enough to take down the Vikings.

Crook County 28, Madras 6 — The Cowboys scored 28 unanswered points to beat the White Buffalos Friday night in Prineville. Senior quarterback Hogan Smith ran for a pair of touchdowns for the Cowboys. While senior running back Trevyn Smith had a touchdown catch and an interception on defense.

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Identity

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Graves continued: "We tried that and quite frankly our offense sputtered, we were more efficient with a smaller 4 spreading people out. We finished that way but the last couple of weeks we've been without a ton of guards and by necessity we want back to the bigs. We made a concerted effort in that two-week period to hammer home getting the basketball inside and how to play with these two together and it's showing up well right now."

To Graves' point, it wasn't as though Oregon didn't attempt a version of this earlier in the season, it just didn't work as well at the time. Also, Prince was limited due to an ankle injury, then Taylor Chavez was in and out of the lineup, as was Scherr. Jaz Shelley has been missing in the NCAA Tournament and Te-Hina Paopao is out indefinitely.

Even when most of those players were available and Oregon played Prince, Sabally and Angela Dugalic together in spurts, there were mixed results.

Yet it's a simple approach, and favorable draw, that's led the Ducks back to this point. Playing to the strengths of the posts and letting Boley, an elite shooter, get back to playing on the outside has proven more effective.

"It's like my golf game, as soon as you think you've figured it out you're



Mark Sobhani/NCAA Photos

Oregon's Sedona Prince (32) celebrates with her teammates after the Ducks defeated Georgia in the second round of the women's NCAA Tournament on Wednesday at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

in the woods for the rest of the day," Graves said. "I like what we've got going on right now. We've been able to utilize Erin in that 3 spot and get her some looks, which is great. Then

most important we're playing through those two bigs so we're playing inside-out and it has reaped some rewards for us."

A matchup with No. 2 seed Louis-

ville in the Sweet 16 on Sunday is another big test and yet another undersized opponent. All-American point guard Dana Evans will be a challenge to contain but the Cardinals don't

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— Sedona Prince, Oregon forward

have an obvious way to counter Oregon's bigs, though UL does defend the three well.

"The thing we always talk about is we have so many strengths, whether it's inside with me, Nyara and Lydia (Giomi) or outside with T-Mike, Erin, Sydney (Parrish), all these amazing shooters we have around us," Prince said. "If we break teams down, we usually like to go inside first, but if our shots are being knocked down, take them. That's how selfless our team is, it's that every single night a different player might have an amazing night. We lift each other up and we love each other."

"We try to focus on, if we have an advantage inside, then we're going to take advantage of it. If we're shooting really well, then we're going to do that. We have a lot of weapons and we're going to continue to use them."

Rematch

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"They kicked us," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "We got off to a terrible start and they hit a bunch of threes and we got down took some quick, bad shots. Rallied a little bit in the second half and got it down to a manageable number but weren't able to make the plays necessary to get back in the game. ...

"I think anybody as a competitor when you're not successful you want another opportunity. So yeah, we didn't play well, we got beat and if you're a competitor you want an opportunity to come back and show what you're capable of doing. 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."

USC's Isaiah Mobley, who didn't play against UO last

month, said Oregon "stole" the Pac-12 championship from the Trojans and Andy Enfield repeatedly raised his displeasure with the Ducks not having to play at UCLA as originally scheduled.

Much as he's looking forward to another meeting with USC, Omoruyi didn't want to address the remarks from Isaiah Mobley.

"We're not going to get into the back and forth talking with them," Omoruyi said. "We know we got to go out there and compete and come out with the victory."

Enfield was more complementary of Oregon on Thursday and isn't expecting much of the first meeting to apply to Sunday.

"Even though they didn't play their full schedule, they had a great season," USC's coach said. "We have a lot of respect for Oregon; they're a terrific basket-



Joe Robbins/NCAA Photos via Getty Images

Iowa's Kris Murray (20) defends Oregon's Eugene Omoruyi (2) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Monday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

ball team and they are as good as — to us, they're a top 10 team in the country. I don't think this game has any more significance because of the Pac-12 schedule. We think this is a terrific team we're playing and we have to

play our best to have a chance to win.

"This will be a completely different game. It's on a much bigger stage and I think both teams are playing good basketball right now. I said before it's

a little unfortunate that we play a league opponent, it happens to be Oregon."

Both teams are playing significantly better and differently than a month ago.

Will Richardson has returned to form in March both as Oregon's facilitator at point guard and as an offensive threat, shooting 61.5% from three the last six games. Omoruyi, LJ Figueroa and Chris Duarte all have been on a tear the last four weeks as well.

Isaiah Mobley returned for USC and has played well and Evan Mobley has increased his production to 18.4 points, 10.6 rebounds and 3.8 blocks per game over the last five games.

"I feel like we can definitely play a great game against them because we already played them before," Evan Mobley said. "That's the great thing about playing them in March Madness, they're in our con-

ference so we know a lot about them compared to other teams we don't necessarily know too much about, which is different. It's good that we get to play them and compete and hopefully get the win."

Altman always harps on defense and rebounding and USC's size puts Oregon at a disadvantage.

The Ducks know they can't get down early to the Trojans again.

"We know we got to start the game off right, start the game off at our pace and come out there and compete," Omoruyi said. "We can't let them get going early and take over the game like they did last time. We know we have to lock in more and we have to come out there and be focused on the court, especially on the big stage like this with a game that means so much, that really decides our season."