

## MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 82, OREGON 68

## Oregon falls; USC ends long Elite Eight wait

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Isaiah White scored 22 points and Southern California shut down Oregon's potent offense to reach the Elite Eight for the first time in 20 years with an 82-68 win in the West Region semifinals Sunday night.

Pac-12 After Dark Indy-style turned into a lights-out performance by USC.

The Trojans (25-7) clipped the high-flying Ducks with their length on the perimeter and 7-footer Evan Mobley in the middle. Offensively, the region's No. 6 seed bobbed and weaved through the holes in Oregon's defense, shooting 57% and 10 of 17 from 3.

The all-around domination put three Pac-12 teams in the Elite Eight for the first time since 2001 and gives USC a shot at undefeated Gonzaga in the region finals Tuesday.

Oregon certainly had no answer for the long-armed Trojans.

The seventh-seed Ducks (21-7) floundered against USC's zone, unable

to find holes or get much of anything to drop over it until a late rally that came up short. The Pac-12's best 3-point shooting team (38%) went 5 of 21 from the arc.

Eugene Omoruyi had 28 points 10 rebounds, and Chris Duarte scored 21 for the Ducks.

See **Ducks** / A6

## MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT | ELITE EIGHT PREVIEW

DEFENSIVE FOCUS  
— FOR BOTH TEAMS

Oregon State, Houston meet Monday in the Midwest Region final

BY AARON BEARD  
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS —  
The formula has been simple all year for Houston under Kelvin Sampson: play with toughness, get after teams defensively and go to work on the glass.

It has carried the Cougars within a win of the Final Four — and it's working pretty well for Wayne Tinkle's Oregon State squad in its surprise NCAA Tournament run, too.

Decades have passed since the second-seeded Cougars or 12th-seeded Beavers last reached the national semifinals — or made it anywhere close, for that matter. But their meeting Monday night in the Midwest Region will send one team through to the tournament's final weekend, and both should rely on a similar defensive-minded approach considering how their tournament success has come so far.

"We know how good Oregon State is," Sampson said Sunday. "So we're going to have to play good. They're a lot more like us in that they get on the boards with athleticism and they play physical — should be a very good ballgame. We're looking forward to it."

It's no major surprise to see Houston (27-3) emerging from the bottom half of the Midwest bracket, securing the program's first trip to a regional final since 1984 amid the famed "Phi Slama Jama" era. The Cougars joined No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga and region top seed Illinois as the only teams in the top 10 of KenPom's adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency rankings entering Sunday.

Yet little else went to plan in the Midwest.

Loyola Chicago took down the Illini.  
Eleventh-seeded Syracuse beat



Oregon State forward Warith Alatishe (10) shoots over Loyola Chicago forward Aher Uguak (30) 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. Alatishe added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Beavers, who won 65-58 to get to their first Elite Eight in decades.

Jeff Roberson/AP



Oregon State head coach Wayne Tinkle during the first half of Saturday's game. "You look at the games we've won, we've answered some pretty good runs from the opponents and we're playing really good D," Tinkle said in an interview.

Jeff Roberson/AP

third-seeded West Virginia.

And most surprisingly, there are the Beavers (20-12), still alive with a chance to become the lowest-seeded team ever to reach a Fi-

nally Four.

The same team that was picked to finish last in the Pac-12, then lost at home to a Portland team that finished at No. 327 in the NET,

has won six straight games. That included a run through the league tournament to secure an NCAA bid unlikely to come otherwise. In the tournament for just the second time since 1990, Oregon State is now chasing its first trip to the national semifinals since 1963.

And much like with Houston, they've won three NCAA games primarily through defense and rebounding (plus-27 in the tournament).

"You look at the games we've won, we've answered some pretty good runs from the opponents and we're playing really good D," Tinkle said. "And at times, if we're a little insecure with the ball, we're not making shots, defense is what's been keeping us in it."

"When you mention that to the guys, to defend, to get stops, I think it kind of keeps them from getting too caught up in the moment. And they've done a good job of that."

See **Elite** / A6

## NBA

## Blazers beat Raptors 122-117

CJ McCollum scored seven of his 23 points in the final two minutes and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Toronto Raptors 122-117 on Sunday night. Damian Lillard had 22 points and 11 assists for the Blazers, who took command in the third quarter.

Pascal Siakam finished with 26 points and eight rebounds, and Fred VanVleet added 20 points and eight assists for Toronto, which lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

The game was played three days after the trade deadline move in which the Raptors sent Norman Powell to the Blazers for Gary Trent Jr., and Rodney Hood.

Lillard, who sat out Friday night's win at Orlando with a left knee contusion, joined Powell in Portland's three-guard starting lineup.

Derrick Jones Jr., bumped from the lineup, scored Portland's final seven points of the first half, but Hood's 3-pointer at the buzzer gave Toronto a 74-68 halftime edge.

The Blazers play next at Detroit on Wednesday night.

## SOCCER

## U.S. men miss 3rd straight Olympics

American players fell to the field at the final whistle. Another missed Olympics soccer tournament for the U.S. men.

Juan Carlos Obregón scored in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time, goalkeeper David Ochoa committed a blunder that gifted Luis Palma a goal two minutes into the second half and Honduras beat the United States 2-1 on Sunday in an Olympic qualification game at Guadalajara, Mexico.

U.S. captain Jackson Yueill pulled a goal back with a curling 23-yard shot in the 52nd minute, but the Americans missed on several good chances to equalize.

"Obviously, we're devastated, absolutely devastated," U.S. coach Jason Kreis said. "In our locker room, the guys are like it's a tragedy — a tragedy."

U.S. men had trouble creating chances in the first half, and the Americans missed their third straight Olympics.

"They were very well man-oriented to stop players, which didn't give us a lot of time to kind of break them down," Yueill said.

The American Olympic skid is part of a trend that includes the senior national team missing the 2018 World Cup.

"We lose an opportunity to play in an international tournament with more pressure, where these players have to be in these environments and continue to improve with that pressure," Kreis said.

Olympic men's soccer is limited to players both Jan. 1, 1997, and later, and clubs don't have to release players.

In contrast, the women's tournament is open to senior national teams. The U.S. has won three of the last four soccer gold medals and is favored to win again this summer.

Honduras advanced to its fourth straight Olympics this summer in Japan after finishing fourth in 2016. Mexico, the 2012 gold medal winner, earned the other berth.

— Bulletin wire reports

## WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT | LOUISVILLE 60, OREGON 42

## Oregon rallies — but No. 2 seed Louisville heads to Elite Eight

BY DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Dana Evans scored 29 points and No. 2 seed Louisville advanced to the Elite Eight of the women's NCAA Tournament with a 60-42 win over sixth-seeded Oregon on Sunday night.

The Cardinals will face top seed Stanford on Tuesday night in the Alamo Region final.

Louisville (26-3) continued its stellar

defensive play, holding Oregon (15-9) to 14 points in the first half, including six in the second quarter.

Evans provided the offense. After going scoreless in the first quarter, the All-America guard started to heat up. Oregon had freshman Maddie Scherr guarding her in the opening period before she hurt her ankle and had to come out of the game. Evans responded by scoring 13 points in the second and ended the period with a

nifty drive and dish right before the buzzer to give Louisville a 29-14 advantage at the break.

Oregon rallied in the second half, cutting its deficit to 10 after three quarters. The Ducks were down 41-33 with 50 seconds left in the third after two free throws by Nyara Sabally. But she went down with a left ankle injury 20 seconds later when she stepped on a teammate's foot. Sabally had to be helped off the court. She didn't return

and finished with 14 points.

The Ducks got within 43-37 early in the fourth quarter, but seven straight points by Evans — including two deep 3-pointers — started a 13-0 run that put the game away.

Evans capped her night with a fast-break layup off a spectacular behind-the-back pass from Mykasa Robinson, who stole the ball with a minute left.

See **Loss** / A6