

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

OSU's Tinkle gives up big bonuses

Oregon State coaches gave up their contractual bonuses this year as part of the cutbacks within athletics in order to offset pandemic budgetary losses.

For most, the financial loss was minimal. Most are tied to extraordinary postseason performance and season awards.

For men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle, it stings a little.

One of the largest incentives in his contract are NCAA Tournament appearances and success within the tournament.

In the end, Tinkle gave up \$450,000 in bonuses.

Tinkle's deal calls for a \$150,000 bonus if the Beavers participate in the NCAA Tournament. In addition, each win is worth \$100,000.

Oregon State won three games and advanced to the Elite Eight, losing to Houston 67-61 in Monday's Midwest Regional final.

There is no bonus in Tinkle's contract for winning the Pac-12 tournament championship. Winning the conference's regular season title triggers a bonus of \$100,000.

Tinkle, who earned \$2.2 million this season, didn't go empty-handed in the bonus department, however.

Because the Beavers earned an NCAA Tournament berth, Tinkle automatically has a year added to his contract. With the additional year, Tinkle now has three years remaining on his current deal.

— *The Oregonian*

NFL

League increases season to 17 games

The NFL is increasing the regular season to 17 games and reducing the preseason to three games to generate additional revenue for America's most popular sport.

Team owners on Tuesday approved the 17th game as expected, marking the first time in 43 years the regular season has been increased. It went from 14 to 16 games in 1978.

The Super Bowl now will move back a week to Feb. 13, which places it directly in the middle of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. Coincidentally, NBC has the broadcast rights to both.

Each extra NFL game will be an interconference matchup based on where teams finished in the previous season. AFC teams will be hosting the 17th game in 2021. Beyond next season, the league plans for some of the extra games to be at international sites.

"This is a monumental moment in NFL history," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "The CBA with the players and the recently completed media agreements provide the foundation for us to enhance the quality of the NFL experience for our fans. And one of the benefits of each team playing 17 regular-season games is the ability for us to continue to grow our game around the world."

This year, the AFC East will host the NFC East in Week 17. The NFC West teams will visit AFC North clubs. NFC South members go to the AFC South. And finally NFC North clubs take on the AFC West. The full schedule will be released in May.

— *Associated Press*

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Elite 8 loss doesn't end the Beavers' joy and pride

BY NICK DASCHEL
The Oregonian

INDIANAPOLIS — At some point, it had to end.

Oregon State had hopes momentum from an unfathomable postseason would finish with a net-cutting ceremony.

But only one school in the 68-team NCAA Tournament gets to do that.

Oregon State didn't willingly

let go. A winner of six consecutive season-ending elimination games — three in the Pac-12 tournament, three at the NCAAs — the Beavers nearly had a comeback for the ages Monday night.

OSU wiped out a 17-point halftime deficit to Houston and had the Cougars reeling with four minutes left. But the Midwest Regional title went to

Houston, as the Beavers left the court with a 67-61 loss.

The reaction from Wayne Tinkle was as you'd expect from the seventh-year Oregon State coach. Steaming because the Beavers didn't finish the job, but over the moon with the fight Monday night, and the way it unfolded during the season's final month.

See *Beavers* / A7



Michael Conroy/AP

Oregon State's Ethan Thompson (5) and Maurice Calloo (1) react to a play against Houston during an Elite 8 game in the NCAA Tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium on Monday in Indianapolis.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Back to the field

Megan Rapinoe returns to the NWSL after a busy year fighting for equal pay and more

BY JAYDA EVANS

The Seattle Times

Megan Rapinoe touched down at Sea-Tac Airport late last Wednesday night with a coveted trinket. The pen President Joe Biden used hours earlier to sign a proclamation of it being "National Equal Pay Day 2021" was stuffed in her travel backpack.

"The pens always seem important," said Rapinoe, an OL Reign winger and captain of the U.S. women's national team.

She was joined by U.S. teammate and NWSL rival Margaret "Midge" Purce at the ceremony as Rapinoe also testified before Congress about gender discrimination.

The national women's team filed a gender-discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) in March 2019, seeking pay equity with the men's national team. The women — a total of 50 dating to 2015 — are seeking more than \$66 million in damages. A federal judge threw out

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— **Megan Rapinoe, OL Reign forward and captain of U.S. women's national team**

the equal-pay claim but the players are appealing.

"We hear about equal pay or we hear about homophobia, misogyny, transphobia and all these things. But that's someone," Rapinoe said. "That's a human being on the other end of that. For us (Rapinoe and Purce) to be

able to go and participate and put our face to it and our words to it and our experience to it was incredible. (The pen is) a little memento, other than the pictures and everything we have, for me to kind of keep and hold dear."

Thursday, Rapinoe drove from her Queen Anne home to Cheney Sta-

dium in Tacoma to do a job that pays her and her teammates less than their male counterparts, including the Sounders.

Rapinoe returns to the Reign following a 16-month absence after opting out of the NWSL season last year. And while the pen she received will join a figurative trophy case that includes two FIFA World Cup titles, an Olympic gold medal, Golden Boot, and NCAA championship, she has yet to win an NWSL championship.

The 2019 FIFA women's player of the year has her eyes set on changing that this season.

See *Rapinoe* / A6



Phelan M. Ebenhack/AP

United States' Megan Rapinoe (15) and Argentina's Marina Delgado (4) compete for a ball during a SheBelieves Cup match last month in Orlando, Florida.

NCAA

Supreme Court case could change the nature of college sports

BY JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Supreme Court case being argued this week amid March Madness could erode the difference between elite college athletes and professional sports stars.

If the former college athletes who brought the case win, colleges could end up competing for talented student athletes by offering over-the-top education benefits worth tens of thousands of dollars. And that could change the nature of college sports.

At least that's the fear of the NCAA. But the former athletes who sued say most college athletes will never play professional sports and that the NCAA's rules capping education benefits deprive them of the ability to be rewarded for their athletic talents and hard

work. They say the NCAA's rules are not just unfair but illegal, and they want schools to be able to offer any education benefits they see fit.

"This is letting the schools provide encouragement to be better students and better educated ... in return for what amounts to full-time jobs for the school. What could possibly be wrong with that?" said lawyer Jeffrey L. Kessler in an interview ahead of arguments in the case, which are scheduled for Wednesday.

The former players have so far won every round of the case. Lower courts agreed that NCAA rules capping the education-related benefits schools can offer Division I men's and women's basketball players and football players violate a federal antitrust law. The narrow ruling still keeps schools from

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— **Jeffrey L. Kessler, lawyer representing former college athletes in a lawsuit against the NCAA**

directly paying athletes, but the NCAA says it is a step in that direction.

In an interview, the NCAA's chief legal officer Donald Remy defended the Supreme Court's rules. He said the association has previously found preserving

the amateur nature of college sports to be an "appropriate, pro-competitive justification for the restrictions that exist in the system of college athletics."

The NCAA wasn't happy with the outcome the last time its rules were before the Supreme Court. In 1984, the high court rejected NCAA rules restricting the broadcast of college football. The justices' ruling transformed college sports, helping it become the multi-billion dollar business it is today.

This time, the justices will hear arguments by phone as they have been doing for almost a year because of the coronavirus pandemic. And the public can listen live. The justices will almost certainly issue a decision in the case before they leave for their summer break at the end of June.

A ruling for the former players doesn't necessarily mean an immediate infusion of cash to current college athletes. Currently, athletic scholarships can cover the cost of college athletes' attendance at college. That includes tuition, housing and books, plus a stipend determined by each school meant to cover things like travel expenses and other incidentals. What a ruling for the students means is that the NCAA can't bar schools from sweetening their offers to Division I basketball and football athletes with additional education-related benefits.

Individual athletic conferences could still set limits. But Kessler said he believes that if his clients win, "very many schools" will ultimately offer additional benefits.

See *NCAA* / A7