

NFL

Sewell-Herbert reunion possible

Penel Sewell is expected to be the first offensive lineman selected in the upcoming 2021 NFL draft. The question is which team will select the former Oregon Ducks' star in the draft, which begins April 29.

According to one mock draft, the Los Angeles Chargers are projected to select Sewell with the No. 13 pick in the draft. In that scenario, Sewell would reunite with Chargers' quarterback Justin Herbert. The two played together for two seasons on the Ducks.

Sewell said he would be thrilled to join Herbert in Southern California.

"To block for Herb again, man," Sewell told reporters. "... to have that chance again to share the same field as him would be a dream come true."

The Chargers need a left tackle and it's conceivable they would select Sewell if he is still on the board when they are on the clock. Some draft evaluators don't think Sewell will be available when the Chargers have to make a selection, with many draft experts predicting the Cincinnati Bengals will select Sewell with the No. 5 pick.

The Chargers are doing their homework on Sewell, because they've committed to improving their offensive line to better protect Herbert in 2021.

— The Oregonian

WINTER OLYMPICS

U.S. weighs boycott of Beijing Games

WASHINGTON — The State Department said Tuesday the Biden administration is considering a possible boycott of the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics to protest China's human rights record. Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. is consulting with like-minded countries around the world to determine how to proceed. Price says the administration is discussing China strategy, including participation in the Olympics, with a number of partners and allies in order to present a united front.

"Part of our review of those Olympics and our thinking will involve close consultations with partners and allies around the world," he told reporters. "We have consistently said when it comes to our concerns with the government in Beijing, including Beijing's egregious human rights violations, its conduct of genocide in the case of Xinjiang, that what the United States does is meaningful, what the United States does will have impact, but everything we do that brings along our allies and partners will have all the more influence with Beijing."

Human rights groups are protesting China's hosting of the Games, which are set to start in February 2022. They have urged a diplomatic or straight-up boycott of the event to call attention to alleged Chinese abuses against Uyghurs, Tibetans, and residents of Hong Kong.

Price declined to say when a decision might be made, but noted there is still almost a year until the Games are set to begin. China has denied all charges of human rights abuses. It says "political motives" underlie the boycott effort.

— Associated Press

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

New territory for Panthers

Redmond holds top seed in the IMC tournament

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

REDMOND —

When Ridgeview and Redmond square off

on the soccer field for the third time in less than a month on Wednesday night, the matchup will feature unfamiliar roles and a heightened importance.

In years past Ridgeview has been the favorite over its crosstown rival in girls soccer.

This year the Ravens are playing the role of the underdogs, taking on a Redmond team enjoying its best season in years as both teams put their seasons on the line.

"We knew that we were going to be successful," said Redmond coach Martha Segura. "We had goals set and this was our hope, and it is very exciting to be standing here right now knowing that we have accomplished all the goals that we have set thus far."

The Class 5A Intermountain Conference is using the culminating week to host a conference tournament in lieu of a traditional statewide tournament, which was canceled this spring due to COVID-19. Redmond holds the IMC's top seed — certainly an unfamiliar spot for the Panthers. The Redmond-Ridgeview winner plays



Submitted photo

The Redmond High School girls soccer team celebrates after winning the Intermountain Conference regular season after its win over Crook County last Thursday.

"We knew that we were going to be successful. We had goals set and this was our hope, and it is very exciting to be standing here right now knowing that we have accomplished all the goals that we have set thus far."

— Martha Segura, Redmond girls soccer coach

the winner of Hood River Valley and The Dalles in the IMC championship match on Friday.

For years, Redmond resided in the basement of the IMC standings. From 2013 through 2017, Redmond did not win a conference match, losing 39 of the team's 40 IMC games and 55 of the total 68 matches.

"Starting as a freshman, we were playing with the Bend schools and it was pretty defeating trying to play those huge schools with our low numbers," said senior defender Rory

Eldridge. "I think each year we progressed in some way, making some minor accomplishments to get to where we are now."

After the 2017 season, the Oregon School Activities Association reclassified schools, causing a drastic shift to the IMC. Bend High, Mountain View and Summit moved up from Class 5A to 6A, leaving the conference.

Crook County, Pendleton, The Dalles and Hood River Valley joined Redmond and Ridgeview in the new-look IMC.

The Panthers took steps early on, even if they were small at the beginning. The team won its first league game in 2018 and recorded three draws. In 2019 Redmond was a win away from finishing with a .500 overall and conference record.

Now the Panthers (3-0-2 IMC, 6-1-2 overall) are standing atop the IMC standings, having not lost a match since their opener against Bend High. They also broke a nine-year losing streak to rival Ridgeview (2-1-2, 3-5-2) — a team Redmond had not beaten since Ridgeview opened in 2012 and was outscored 16-0 by in two games a year ago.

The Panthers defeated the Ravens 2-1 on March 16 and the teams tied 1-1 on March 23.

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Michael Conroy/AP

Gonzaga's Jalen Suggs (1) gets a hug from teammate Corey Kispert, left, after the Bulldogs fell to Baylor in the NCAA Tournament championship game on Monday night at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

No regrets from Gonzaga after big loss to Baylor

BY MATT CALKINS

The Seattle Times

In the end, it might be better this way.

There will be no Zags living in incessant regret. There will be no nightmares about the dumb foul, silly turnover or shot that rattled out.

This wasn't an opportunity that slipped through their fingers. This was more like five fingers that slapped them across the face.

Baylor pummeled Gonzaga 86-70 in Monday's NCAA

tournament men's basketball championship game, preventing the Bulldogs from completing an undefeated season. The Bears scored the first nine points of the game, 29 of the first 39, and outclassed the Zags (31-1) in just about every category.

All Gonzaga runs were quickly extinguished by a Baylor squad that looked like it was playing on fast-forward while its opponent was on slo-mo. Zags coach Mark Few was hoping to raise arms in victory when the final buzzer sounded. Instead, all he could do was shrug.

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GOLF

Spieth finally a winner again heading to Augusta National

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jordan Spieth was a 20-year-old with a 30-year-old head on his shoulders when he first played the Masters and nearly won until Bubba Watson rallied over the last 11 holes to beat him.

Now he's a 27-year-old who has reason to feel much younger.

It's amazing what winning can do in golf, and the timing was never better for Spieth. He had gone 82 starts dating to the summer of 2017 since his last victory at the British Open, a slump so severe that even Spieth began to question if he would get back.

He answered that at the Texas Open with a two-shot victory that sent him to Augusta National with belief he's headed down the right road and the hardware to prove it.

"It's actually been a lot easier for me over the last 12 hours to just look forward versus looking back, I guess. That's exciting," he said.

Spieth arrived at midday as the first full day of practice was in full swing on an Augusta National course that was far different from when the world's best players were there five months ago for the pandemic-postponed Masters in November.



David J. Phillip/AP

Jordan Spieth and Scottie Scheffler meet at the range during a practice day for the Masters on Monday in Augusta, Georgia.

The azaleas were blazing. The greens already had that shine on them from an abundance of warm sunshine. The course is firm.

Billy Horschel realized that on the 15th hole when his second attempt to reach the green cleared the water and landed safely on the front portion of the green. Or so he thought. After he took 15 steps, the ball had trickled to the front. And a few seconds later, it had rolled all the way back into the water.

Dustin Johnson won in November at a record 20-under par, a record that Patrick Cantlay believes will be "pretty safe for many years to

come." "This week, I expect it to get really firm and fast, and I think that's when this golf course shines," Cantlay said.

Spieth seems to play it well in any condition. A year after he was runner-up in his 2014 debut, he went wire-to-wire to win by four. He was runner-up the following year — the infamous meltdown on the back nine when he lost a five-shot lead — and finished third in 2018.

And now he is moving closer, though still not there, to the player who reached had three legs of the career Grand Slam before he turned 24.

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