

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ducks rescheduling top opponents

EUGENE — At one point or another Oregon was scheduled to potentially play three of the four No. 1 seeds in this year's NCAA Tournament, including national champion Baylor, and two of those teams still owe the Ducks games at Matthew Knight Arena.

Michigan and Houston were scheduled to play at Oregon this season, Baylor was going to be a neutral site game at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas and Illinois was also in the four-team field at the Emerald Coast Classic. All of those games were scrapped due to the pandemic, but Michigan, Houston and Baylor are all still supposed to play at UO at some point, possibly in 2021-22.

"We're talking with people trying to get schedules to match up," Oregon coach Dana Altman. "Everybody looks at home and road in a particular year, they want to get X number of home games, X number of road games and we're the same. We're going to play those people sometime — they owe us a game, we're not going to let them off the hook — I just don't know when. But we are in discussions trying to get everything going."

For now, the Ducks have at least three games scheduled as part of the Maui Invitational from Nov. 22-24 in Hawaii. The eight-team field also includes Wisconsin, Texas A&M, Butler, Notre Dame, Houston, Saint Mary's and Chaminade.

"Hopefully they won't send us to North Carolina to play that; we'll go to Maui," Altman said, referring to the site of this year's Maui Invitational, which was relocated due to the pandemic.

— The Oregonian

MLB

Dodgers receive World Series rings

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Dodgers received their World Series rings Friday in front of the loyal hometown fans who didn't get to witness their 2020 championship run in person.

Clayton Kershaw, Mookie Betts and the Dodgers collected their jewelry before Los Angeles' home opener. The team also raised a championship banner behind center field to the roars of a Chavez Ravine crowd that made up for its pandemic-limited numbers with joyous noise.

Those fans never got into Dodger Stadium to witness their team's run to its first championship in 32 years.

"We've had a year that we could have never imagined," said Dodgers owner Mark Walter.

The Dodgers introduced each player with a congratulatory video from one of his baseball heroes.

Pitcher David Price got a World Series ring despite opting out of his first season with Los Angeles due to the pandemic, but he announced he is auctioning the ring to benefit The Players Alliance and its social justice causes.

The Dodgers also took a moment to honor Tommy Lasorda, the beloved former manager who died in January, just over two months after he witnessed Los Angeles' championship-clinching victory in Texas.

— Associated Press

PREP SPORTS

Sisters returns to 4A state volleyball match

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

For months, the Sisters volleyball program was unsure whether it would have a chance to compete for a state championship. Now, it has the opportunity to capture the program's seventh state title since 1996.

Saturday at 4 p.m. at Pleasant Hill High School, the Outlaws will take on Sweet Home High for the third time this season — this time with the Class 4A state championship on the line.

"This is something that we have been looking forward to," said Sisters coach Rory Rush, whose program last won a state

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— Rory Rush, Sisters volleyball coach

championship when this year's senior class were freshmen in 2017. "To go back for the championship game is super exciting."

The Outlaws had to take the long road to reach the state title game. Because they shared the Oregon West Conference title with Sweet Home, the Huskies

got the higher seed due to a set tiebreaker — meaning sixth-seeded Sisters had to travel for each of its playoff matches.

With victories over Corbett (28-26, 25-14, 25-20) and Junction City (25-15, 25-16, 25-20) in the 4A Showcase — the classification's postseason alternative because there is no

Oregon School Activities Association-sanctioned postseason due to COVID-19 — the Outlaws are starting to peak at the right time.

"We played loose, we played confident, we served well, we kept them out of their system," said Rush about Thursday's semifinal win over Corbett. "We just looked really good."

To win a title, the Outlaws will have to beat the only 4A team that has defeated them this season, 3-0 in the final regular season game. Sisters and Sweet Home split the series, with each team winning on its home court.

"The biggest thing for us is not getting caught up in the excitement of the game," said Rush on the keys to winning the match. "Knowing it is a big game, but not letting that get to us. We have to limit unforced errors."

"We know that we can compete with them; beating them at our place we know we can go toe-to-toe with them hitting and serving," added Rush. "The biggest thing is playing with mental toughness when you are playing a league opponent and rival."

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WORLD CUP SKIING

THE RIGHT TIME

Bend's Laurene Ross announces retirement from World Cup alpine ski racing

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

For Bend's Laurene Ross, it was simply the right time.

After a gritty career defined by injuries and dramatic comebacks, Ross announced her retirement from World Cup alpine skiing Thursday through her social media.

"From the community to the thrills, the injuries and pain, the sights, the flow, the love and the growth, I'm so grateful for every single part of my adventure through ski racing," Ross posted on Instagram and Facebook. "It feels like I'm about to lose an enormous part of myself, but I am comforted by the gut feeling that 'it's time.'"

Ross, 32, overcame several major



Alessandro Trovati/AP file

Bend's Laurene Ross competes in downhill training at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Jeongseon, South Korea, in February 2018.

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— Laurene Ross, in social media posts

knee injuries throughout her career, as well as a shattered pelvis, shoulder dislocations, a hip tear, bulging discs and severe ankle sprains.

She said her final race will be at the U.S. Championships that conclude

next week in Aspen, Colorado.

Ross is a two-time Olympian who raced the downhill at both the 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympics, her top finish 11th at the Sochi Games. She also made two World Cup podiums

and was fifth in the downhill at the World Championships in 2017.

In 2016, Ross finished eighth in the World Cup standings in super-G and 10th in downhill.

In 2017, she finished ninth in downhill in the standings.

Ross, who mainly competed in the speed events, made a grueling comeback from a devastating right knee injury in March 2017 to qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, where she finished 15th in both the downhill and super-G.

See Ross / B2

GOLF | THE MASTERS

Rose clings to lead as Spieth, Thomas lurk

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Justin Rose was happy enough to still have the lead Friday at the Masters, even if only by a fraction on a day when Augusta National was more forgiving and he had to rally just to shoot par.

The two players right behind had reason to be thrilled just to

be at the Masters.

One of them was Brian Harman, barely inside the top 100 in the world a month ago until two good weeks changed his fortunes. The other was 24-year-old Will Zalatoris, who just over a year ago was toiling in the minor leagues and still doesn't have a full PGA Tour card.

"I wanted to be here my entire life," Zalatoris said after birdies on his last three holes for a 4-under 68. "Some people shy away from that, but I'm excited to be here. There's no reason to feel intimidated now. I made it to here. And obviously, the job is not done by any means."

The job is over for defending champion Dustin Johnson, who bogeyed three of his last four holes for a 75 to miss the cut by two shots.

For everyone else, it's just getting started.

Ten players were within three shots of Rose, who had a 72 and was at 7-under 137. That group included former Masters champion Jordan Spieth, who is coming off a victory last week in the Texas Open and is starting to look like the Spieth of old, even at age 27.

"Having made a triple and five over-par holes through two rounds, I feel pretty good about being at 5 under," Spieth said after a 68.

The group three shots be-



Gregory Bull/AP

Justin Rose hits out of a bunker on the seventh hole during Friday's second round of the Masters in Augusta, Georgia.

hind included Si Woo Kim, who played the final four holes without a putter that he broke out of frustration. After a three-putt bogey on the 14th and a chip that nearly ran off the green at the 15th, he jammed the head of the club into the turf and damaged it.

Kim used a fairway metal to close with four pars and a 69. Asked if he had a backup putter, Kim replied, "No. I don't want to answer anymore. Sorry."

Rose was staked to a four-shot lead at the start of a warm,

overcast day and it was gone after seven holes. He didn't drop a shot the rest of the way, picked up three birdies on the back nine and salvaged the day.

"Just a classic day at Augusta National when you're slightly off," Rose said. "I kind of told myself going up the eighth hole, 'You're leading the Masters. Your frame of reference is a little bit different to yesterday. Four ahead is something, but you're still leading. So just enjoy it and keep it going.'"

See Masters / B2



Gregory Bull/AP

Dustin Johnson looks down after putting on the 18th hole during Friday's second round of the Masters in Augusta, Georgia. The reigning Masters champion closed bogey-bogey to miss the cut by two strokes.