

## MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Thompson won't return to Beavs

Ethan Thompson said in an interview in early March that this past season was "probably" his last one in an Oregon State men's basketball uniform.

Thompson made it official Tuesday night that his college athletic career was over with a social media post while thanking all those who had helped him along the way.

The senior guard went out on a high note, helping the Beavers win three straight Pac-12 tournament games to claim the tournament title and the conference's automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. OSU then won three NCAA tournament games to reach the Elite Eight for the first time since 1982.

He averaged 15.7 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.9 assists as a senior and was named to the all-conference team.

Thompson and all NCAA Division I seniors had the option to return after athletes were granted an additional year of eligibility due to the pandemic.

Fellow senior guard Zach Reichle has not yet announced his plans for the coming year. He was celebrated along with Thompson in senior night ceremonies. Senior center Roman Silva, not recognized during those ceremonies, is expected to return.

Both Thompson and Reichle achieved their bachelor's degrees and are working toward a master's. Thompson said he wants to get into sports broadcasting, which is the focus of his master's in interdisciplinary studies.

Thompson finishes his time with the Beavers seventh on Oregon State's career scoring list with 1,716 points, third in assists (499), third in minutes (4,301), first in starts (127), fifth in free throws made (444) and eighth in 3-pointers (168).

— Albany Democrat-Herald

## NFL

## Trevor Lawrence signs with Adidas

The projected No. 1 overall pick in Thursday's NFL draft has found a sponsorship home.

Former Clemson star QB Trevor Lawrence has signed a multiyear partnership deal with Adidas, the two announced Wednesday morning.

"I've always been a fan of Adidas and I'm excited to join the team as I take the next step in my career," Lawrence said in a press release. "Adidas' brand attitude of 'Impossible Is Nothing' is a message that really resonates with me both on and off the field. We are building for the future and I can't wait to see what lies ahead with this partnership."

At Clemson, Lawrence recorded a 34-2 record as a starter for the program and led them to the College Football Playoff in each of his three seasons. Clemson reached the title game two of those three years, winning once in 2018.

By signing with the Portland-based giant, Lawrence joins a well-established group of quarterback stars for the brand alongside Patrick Mahomes, Dak Prescott and Aaron Rodgers.

— The Oregonian

## PREP TENNIS

## Chemistry on and off the court



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Bend's Alex Johnston, left, and Marin Montagne compete during a match against Mountain View on Tuesday night at Bend High.

## Bend High girls doubles team of Alex Johnston and Marin Montagne returns to winning ways

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

Two springs ago when filling out the lineup for the district tournament, Bend High girls tennis coach Kevin Collier decided to roll the dice and throw a couple of freshmen into the doubles bracket, "just to see what would happen."

*"I think we have played pretty well. It would be disappointing if we lost to the people we have already beat. I hope we keep winning."*

— Marin Montagne, after winning her doubles match with Alex Johnston 6-3, 6-2, on Tuesday

The experiment paid off. Alex Johnston and Marin Montagne got on a roll and rode it all the way to the second round of the 2019 Class 6A doubles state championships. They were one of two all-freshman pairs in the field.

"We took a gamble," Collier said. "They just got hot and made it all the way to state. It was a pretty exciting experience for them. Unfortunately they

didn't get to go last year or this year, but hopefully this will give them some experience for next year."

Now juniors, the pair has picked up right where they left off way back when they were first-year high school students in 2019.

Tuesday evening Johnston and Montagne picked up their second doubles wins in as many matches against Mountain View's Lilianna Overcash and Kailei Oulette, a week after being the only Lava Bear pair to win a match against Summit.

In a shortened six-week, six-match season, the only teams on Bend's schedule are Mountain View and Summit.

See Tennis / A6

## NFL DRAFT

## Ducks' Sewell could be foundational pillar for the team that drafts him

BY JAMES CREPEA  
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Penei Sewell's life is about to change dramatically as he gets drafted into the NFL.

The former Oregon left tackle, 2019 Outland Trophy winner and unanimous All-American is widely projected to be the first offensive lineman selected in this year's draft, which begins Thursday night, marking the annual passage of over 250 young men embarking on their professional careers.

At just 20 years old Sewell is one of the youngest players in this year's draft and also among the least experienced, with only

21 career college games due to a high ankle sprain he suffered midway through his freshman season in 2018 and opting out of the 2020 season.

Yet he's also one with among the greatest upsides and potential, drawing comparisons to All-Pros and even Hall of Famers.

Sewell felt his performance at Oregon's pro day earlier this month solidified his spot as the top offensive tackle in this year's draft. He's spent the better part of six months training at Proactive Sports Performance to further refine and enhance his skills to be prepared to take the field for his future pro team.

The player that Mario Cristobal recruited and was convinced was going to be a program-changer proved to be.

Sewell led the Ducks with 58 knockdowns in 2019 and led the nation with a run-blocking grade of 95.3 from Pro Football Focus and was third with a pass-blocking grade of 91.1. His career run-blocking grade of 94.8 from PFF is highest in this year's draft class.

Part of the pre-draft process involves pundits, analysts and prognosticators assessing and weighing in on players who they overwhelmingly have never met, never talked to and rarely watch at length on tape.

See Sewell / A7



John Bazemore/AP file

Oregon's Penei Sewell poses with the Outland Trophy for being the nation's best interior lineman, in Atlanta in 2019. Sewell could be a foundational piece for whichever team drafts him, and the tackle is likely to be drafted high in the first round on Thursday night.

## COLLEGE SPORTS | COMMENTARY

## Have Pac-12 presidents not learned from the Larry Scott debacle?

BY JOHN CANZANO  
The Oregonian

I took a phone call recently from a concerned party who is worried that the Pac-12 Conference presidents and chancellors may not have learned from the Larry Scott debacle.

I mean, come on? Is it possible that a line of educators and campus leaders weren't paying attention in class?

Said the longtime Power Five administrator: "The presidents look like they don't know what they're doing. Have they not learned from the last 10-plus years?"

That's become the question to ask as the Pac-12 moves toward replacing Scott, who spent lavishly himself while he guided the conference into football obscurity. The Har-

*The (Pac-12) presidents are apparently focused on an unprecedented move — splintering the commissioner role into two parts. One of them a (former Pac-12 commissioner Larry) Scott-like suit in charge of business operations and the other a campus liaison focused on gluing the athletic departments to the conference.*

vard-educated tennis player didn't understand the sport. He didn't grasp what it took to be successful and so it seems the correction here would be to make a football-first substance hire who would forge deep connections with the 12 conference campuses.

Except, that's not at all what is apparently happening.

San Jose Mercury News watchdog Jon Wilner reported the troubling details. The presidents are apparently focused on an unprecedented move — splintering the commissioner role into two parts. One of

them a Scott-like suit in charge of business operations and the other a campus liaison focused on gluing the athletic departments to the conference.

As ideas go, it's a bust. On one hand, the Pac-12 CEO Group seems to understand there are multiple facets to the job. But on the other, they appear to miss that other major conferences have already addressed this by outsourcing key business negotiations to specialized agencies. I understand the Pac-12 likes the idea of a two-headed regime, but in this, they're attempting to

repair a model that is already working effectively in other conferences.

The SEC, for example, doesn't have Greg Sankey out front negotiating its television rights himself. It contracted with Evolution Media and Creative Artists Agency as "exclusive media advisors" for that purpose. That allowed Sankey to continue to act as a galvanizing leader focused on putting the needs of the conference campuses first. Also, the SEC isn't paying two executives with two complete compensation packages.

The Pac-12 desperately wants to position itself as different than the other major college conferences. It values the Olympic sports more than others. It wants to be viewed as progressive, I get it. Truth is, outside of Stanford (and maybe UCLA and Cal in some cases), almost any athlete that can get in academically to an SEC, Big Ten or ACC school can get into the nine other Pac-12 universities.

It's not that different really. I'm left wondering if the presidents and chancellors fail to understand the challenging shape they're in right now. They tried a decade ago to pretend they were different by hiring a stuffy sports executive who didn't understand a lick about football.

See Pac-12 / A6