

LOCAL GOLF

Bend golfer wins PPGA tournament

Walla Walla, WASH. — Bend's Rosie Cook won the 34th Pacific Northwest Golf Association Senior Women's Amateur, held Tuesday through Thursday at Wine Valley Golf Club.

The tournament was a 54-hole stroke-play competition.

In very windy conditions, Cook shot a 2-over-par 74 in Thursday's final round, which included shooting 2-under-par on the back nine. She cruised to a fairly easy win, with second-place finisher Lisa Smego, of Oro Valley, Arizona, coming in at nine shots back.

Cook is a mainstay in OGA championships, and has been selected several times to represent Oregon in the PPGA Lamey Cup and the former USGA Women's State Team event. This is her first PPGA title.

"My first thought is to play my own game," Cook said after her round. "I don't think about winning. I try to think about enjoying the day, and enjoying the round. I did struggle on the front nine, so I just tried to focus on my putting, which is a stronger part of my game. So, I just tried to hit greens, make it close, and go from there. I was a little nervous, so it was great to get out there and meet other players; it's good to know them, and learn from them."

Redmond's Michael Jackson finished tied for second in the 56th PPGA Senior Men's Amateur, also a three-day, 54-hole stroke-play competition at Wine Valley. PPGA Hall of Famer Tom Brandes, of Bellevue, Wash., won the tournament, shooting all three rounds under par (71-69-70), the only player in the field to do so. He finished six shots clear of second-place Jackson and Erik Hanson, of Kirkland, Wash.

— Bulletin staff report

NBA

'Melo a finalist for social justice award

Portland Trail Blazers star Carmelo Anthony is among the five finalists for the inaugural Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion award, the NBA announced Friday.

The award, named after NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, is given to the player who best embodies his message of civil rights, Black empowerment and racial equality.

Anthony is nominated for the award alongside Sacramento Kings' Harrison Barnes, Milwaukee Bucks' Jrue Holiday, Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris and Golden State Warriors' Juan Toscano-Anderson.

The five finalists were cut down from an original list of 30 nominees — one from each NBA team. They're in consideration for a \$100,000 award that the league will donate to a social-justice-focused organization of the winner's choosing. The four remaining finalists will each receive \$25,000 donations.

Anthony's efforts contributing to social justice are through the Social Change Fund he and Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul and former NBA Dwyane Wade created in July 2020.

The winner of the award will be announced before Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals on TNT.

— The Oregonian

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Putting the Cowboys on the map

Kevin Sanchez, senior class enjoying historic 2-year run for Crook County

BY BRIAN RATHBONE • The Bulletin

REDMOND — Kevin Sanchez recalls telling his older brother two years ago that by his junior year, Crook County would be playing in the Class 5A state basketball tournament.

The elder Sanchez brother certainly had his doubts. Crook County was known for wrestling, not basketball.

"He said we were going to finish fourth or fifth place in the conference," Sanchez recalled.

But the Cowboys made the leap from a middling Class 5A team in the 2018-19 season into one of the classification's top squads in one year.

Crook County won the Intermountain Conference and reached its first ever state tournament, and Sanchez was named the Most Valuable Player of the IMC. The team advanced to the state fourth-place game in March 2020 before the remainder of the tournament was canceled due to COVID-19.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Crook County's Kevin Sanchez (23) drives past Redmond's Skyler Jones (4) to score Thursday night in Redmond.

"We knew that if we kept working and kept getting better then something good would happen. And it's happened. I've always known deep down that we were going to do something special."

— Cayden Lowenbach, Crook County senior boys basketball player

Now a senior, Sanchez and the Cowboys are looking toward a possible undefeated regular season heading into the final week.

"This is all crazy," Sanchez said. The two-year run the Cowboys are on has not come as a surprise to those within the program.

"I knew what I was stepping into last year and how good we could be," said second-year Crook County coach Jason Mumm. "And I knew we would be just as good if not better this year."

Even coming off a 1-7 IMC campaign in 2018-19, there was a belief that the program could dramatically improve.

"We knew that if we kept working and kept getting better then something good would happen," said senior double-double machine Cayden Lowenbach. "And it's happened. I've always known deep down that we were going to do something special."

Whether from unwavering confidence or teenage naivety, or perhaps a combination of both, the seed that Crook County could become a great team on the hardwood was planted before this year's senior class even stepped foot in the hallways of Crook County High.

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TENNIS | FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic hands Nadal 3rd loss in 108 matches at clay-court major; will face Tsitsipas in final

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

PARIS — Sprinting, sliding and stretching, anticipating each other's moves for four sets and more than four hours, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal produced a masterpiece in the French Open semifinals.

Djokovic, as it happens, is one of only two men in tennis history who knows what it takes to beat Nadal at Roland Garros. And now Djokovic has done it twice — this time ending Nadal's bid for a 14th championship there and record-breaking 21st Grand Slam title overall by coming back to win their 58th career matchup 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Friday night.

"Just one of these nights and matches that you will remember forever," said the top-seeded Djokovic, who trailed 2-0 in the closing set before getting in a big-time groove and reeling off the last half-dozen games to reach his sixth final at the clay-court major tournament.

See **French Open** / B2



Christophe Ena/AP

Novak Djokovic stretches to return the ball to Rafael Nadal during their semifinal match of the French Open on Friday in Paris.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Adesanya puts UFC belt on the line in rematch with Vettori

BY JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Marvin Vettori walked to the center of the octagon expecting to have his arm raised. It wasn't.

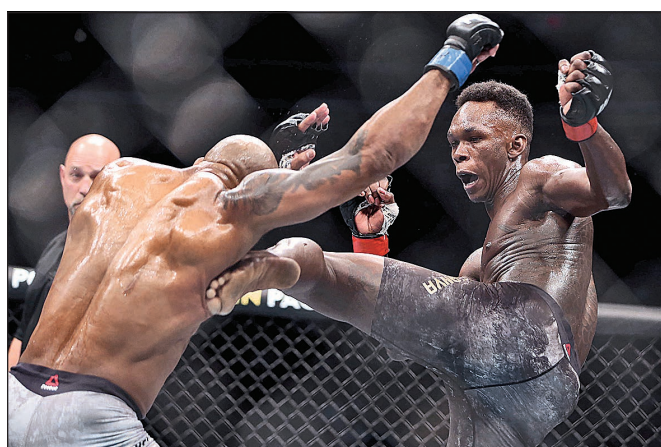
Israel Adesanya won the fight in a split decision, yet wasn't satisfied. The fight was far closer than he expected.

The two middleweights had since been hoping for a rematch and will get it Saturday night at UFC 263, back in the desert three years later.

This time, Adesanya's championship belt will be on the line. "I'm here to get revenge from that first fight, whatever it was, and become the first Italian UFC champion," Vettori said during a heated news conference this week.

Adesanya (20-1) and Vettori (17-4-1) won't be the only rematch with a title on the line at Gila River Arena.

Flyweight champion Deiveson Figueiredo will put



L.E. Baskow/Las Vegas Review-Journal via AP, file

UFC middleweight champion Israel Adesanya of Nigeria, kicks challenger Yoel Romero of Cuba during UFC 248 in Las Vegas in 2020.

his belt on the line against No. 1 contender Brandon Moreno in a rematch of a draw at UFC 256 in December. The main card also will include No. 3 welterweight Leon Edwards against fan favorite Nate Diaz, welterweights Demian Maia against Belal Muhammad, and

light heavyweights Paul Craig and Jamahal Hill.

Adesanya and Vettori last fought in 2018 in a non-title fight in Glendale. Adesanya was considered an up-and-comer in the division but had his hands full with the heavy-handed Vettori.

Known as a puncher, Vettori surprised Adesanya with his wrestling adeptness, muscling him around the mat when he took the Nigerian freestyle fighter down.

Adesanya did most of his work, as he usually does, with agility, kicks and strikes to win the split decision.

Adesanya won the interim middleweight title with a unanimous decision over Kelvin Gastelum and took the title unification bout with a second-round knockout of Robert Whittaker in late 2019.

Now Adesanya gets another shot at Vettori.

"This time we won't need the judges," Adesanya said in front of a rowdy crowd at Thursday's news conference.

The second title fight figures to be just as testy.

Figueiredo (20-1-1) and Moreno (18-5-2) have plenty of animosity between them, exacerbated by a draw at UFC 256

in Las Vegas that left neither fighter feeling satisfied.

The two flyweights have traded barbs leading into Saturday's co-main event.

"I'm going to shut him up by knocking him out in the first round," Figueiredo said.

Diaz (21-12) had plenty of support, particularly from Mexican-American fans, at the news conference, but Edwards is the favorite among oddsmakers.

Edwards (18-3-0) has won eight straight matches since losing by decision to current champion Kamaru Usman and is looking to build his resume against Diaz to hopefully earn a shot at the title.

"Nate Diaz has this reputation and all of the hype and that's actually good for me," he said. "Everybody will be watching and when I do what I do, people are going to want me to be the one (to get a title shot)."