

Virginia tops Louisville 68-58 to claim ACC title

Oklahoma State beats West Virginia without Cunningham

MORGANTOWN, W.Va., March 7, (AP): Avery Anderson III scored a career-high 31 points and No. 17 Oklahoma State beat No. 6 West Virginia 85-80 in their Big 12 regular-season finale.

The Cowboys (18-7, 11-7 Big 12) made up for the loss of two starters by finding holes in the defense for easy layups and shooting 58% from the floor.

Oklahoma State was without star freshman Cade Cunningham, who injured his left ankle late in a loss to No. 3 Baylor on Thursday. Isaac Likekele also sat out for the sixth time in seven games with a hand injury.

BASKETBALL

Matthew-Alexander Moncrieffe added 18 points for Oklahoma State.

Taz Sherman led West Virginia (18-8, 11-6 Big 12) with 20 points.

Virginia 68, Louisville 58

In Louisville, Ky., Sam Houser scored 24 points, Trey Murphy III added 17 and Virginia won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship.

Assured of at least a No. 2 seed entering the regular-season finale, the Cavaliers (17-6, 13-4) received a huge opening for bigger times when first-place Florida State lost at Notre Dame.

Virginia then methodically took care of the Cardinals (13-6, 8-5) to leapfrog the Seminoles. David Johnson had 14 points for Louisville.

Notre Dame 83, Florida State 73

In South Bend, Ind., Prentiss Hubb scored 22 points and Dane Goodwin had 15 to help Notre Dame beat Florida State, costing the the Seminoles the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title.

The Fighting Irish (10-14, 7-11)



Oklahoma State forward Matthew-Alexander Moncrieffe (12) shoots while defended by West Virginia forward Gabe Osabuohien (3) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, on March 6, in Morgantown, West Virginia. (AP)

beat a ranked team for the first since since November 2017.

Scottie Barnes led Florida State (15-5, 11-4) with 17 points.

Illinois 73, Ohio State 68

In Columbus, Ohio, Ayo Dosunmu returned after missing three games

with a concussion and facial injuries to score 19 points, and Illinois rallied to beat Ohio State.

Andre Curbelo also had 19 points to help Illinois (20-6, 16-4 Big Ten) win for the 11th time in 12 games.

E.J. Liddell led Ohio State (18-8, 12-8 Big) with 19 points.

Alabama 89, Georgia 79

In Athens, Ga., Herbert Jones had two baskets in a 9-0 run to open the second half and Alabama beat Georgia for its school-record 17th Southeastern Conference victory.

Jahvon Quinerly added 18 points for Alabama (21-6, 16-2).

Sahvir Wheeler led Georgia (14-11, 7-11) with 18 points

Providence 54, Villanova 52

In Providence, R.I., David Duke made a tiebreaking tip-in with 2.8 seconds left to help Providence hold on after blowing a 20-point lead.

Jeremiah Robinson-Earl shot a 3-pointer after a long inbounds pass, but the shot hit the front of the rim and the buzzer sounded before Jermaine Samuels tipped it in.

Duke and Nate Watson scored 20 points apiece for Providence (13-12, 9-10 Big East).

Samuels had 21 points for Villanova (16-5, 11-4).

Arkansas 87, Texas A&M 80

In Fayetteville, Ark., Moses Moody scored 28 points, Jalen Tate added 22 and Arkansas beat Texas A&M to match the program's longest Southeastern Conference winning streak at 11 games.

The Razorbacks 21-5, 13-4) also won 11 straight SEC games in 1993-94 en route to a national championship.

Quenton Jackson and Emmanuel Miller each had 23 points for Texas A&M (8-9, 2-8).

Creighton 93, Butler 73

In Omaha, Neb., Marcus Zegarowski matched his career high with 32 points and Creighton closed a difficult week off the court with a victory over Butler.

The Bluejays (18-7, 14-6 Big East) won for the first time in three games, doing it without head coach Greg McDermott. He is suspended indefinitely for making racially insensitive remarks to his team following a Feb. 27 loss. Assistant coach Alan Huss served as interim head coach against the Bulldogs.

Chuck Harris had a career-high 29 points for Butler (9-14, 8-12).

Purdue 67, Indiana 58

In West Lafayette, Ind., Zach Edey scored 20 points, and Jaden Ivey added 17 and Purdue beat Indiana for the ninth straight game.

Purdue (18-8, 13-6 Big Ten) heads into next week's Big Ten Tournament with five consecutive wins. Edey also had nine rebounds.

Aljami Durham had 14 points for Indiana (12-14, 7-12).

PVAMU edges Texas Southern

No. 3 N. Iowa wins defensive slugfest against Illinois State

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa, March 7, (AP): Tyler Hoosman ran for 63 yards and his 13-yard touchdown run with 3:24 left helped seal No. 3-ranked Northern Iowa's 20-10 win over 15th-ranked Illinois State.

The Panthers' (2-1, 2-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference) four-play, 24-yard drive was set up when Jared Brinkman recovered a fumble forced by teammate Spencer Cuvellier on a sack of Illinois State quarterback Bryce Jefferson.

In what was a defensive struggle throughout, both defensive units tended to get the better of each other's offenses than the other way around.

Under pressure throughout, Jefferson finished 13-for-27 passing for 69 yards and ran for 60 yards on 14 carries. Northern Iowa quarterback Will McElvain was only slightly better off at 14 for 33 for 148 yards and running for score as well though he threw a pick-6.



Hoosman

McElvain's 11-yard TD run on the opening drive ended a brief 35-yard scoring drive set up by Quan Hampton's 65-yard return of the opening kickoff. Matthew Cook's 43-yard field goal made it 10-0 a little more than halfway through the first period.

Following Aidan Bresnahan's 49-yard field goal to put the Redbirds (0-2, 0-2) on the board, Kenton Wilhoit intercepted McElvain and returned it 29-yards for a touchdown to even the score.

Cook's 44-yard field goal to start the fourth quarter put Northern Iowa in the lead for the remainder.

PVAMU 20, Texas Southern 19

In Prairie View, Texas, Kristian Mosley scored on a 4-yard run with 1:40 to play and Prairie View beat Texas Southern.

Prairie View (1-0, 1-0 Southwestern Conference) has won six in a row against the Tigers (0-1, 0-1).

Freshman quarterback Trazon Connley, who replaced starter Tyreke Starks after halftime, hit Chris Johnson to convert a fourth-and-18 from the 22 and Mosley scored the winning touchdown on the next play.

Nicholls 31, Northwestern St 24

In Natchitoches, La., Lindsey Scott Jr. threw two of his three touchdown passes to Dai'Jean Dixon, Julien Gums had 36 carries for 156 yards and a score, and Nicholls beat Northwestern State.

Nicholls (3-0, 2-0 Southland Conference), ranked No. 7 in the STATS FCS poll, is off to its best start since the 1986 season.

Scott was 21-of-33 passing for 299 yards with an interception. Dixon finished with seven receptions for 115 yards.

S. Louisiana 25, McNeese St. 20

In Hammond La., Morgan Ellison ran for 127 yards and a touchdown to lead Southeastern Louisiana over McNeese State.

Ellison's 33-yard scoring run stretched the Lions' lead to 19-6 early in the third quarter. The Cowboys pulled to 22-20 with 14:10 remaining but then committed three of their four turnovers, the last a Cody Orgeron fumble at the Lions 4 that ended a 14-play, 71-yard drive that took nearly

seven minutes.

Jackson St 33, Grambling 28

In Grambling, La., Aubrey Miller Jr. forced a fumble at the 1 with 1:04 left in the game, and Keonte Hampton recovered it to secure Jackson State coach Deion Sanders' first Southwestern Athletic Conference win over Grambling State.

Miller had 17 tackles and Hampton had 15 for Jackson State (2-0, 1-0), which beat Grambling State (0-1, 0-1) for the first time since 2012 and ended Grambling's 16-game home winning streak that started in 2015.

Grambling State's late opportunity to go ahead was made possible when it forced Jackson State's Tyson Alexander to fumble into the end zone resulting in a touchback with 4:52 left.

FOOTBALL

That set up Grambling State's drive to the goal line only to be undone by the decisive fumble, its first turnover of the game.

Incarnate Word 42, Lamar 20

In Beaumont, Texas, Cameron Ward passed for 341 yards and four touchdowns and ran for 24 yards and a TD to help Incarnate Word beat Lamar.

Incarnate Word (2-0, 2-0 Southland Conference) took a 21-17 lead late in the first half on Ward's 4-yard TD pass to Darion Chafin and outscored Lamar 21-3 in the second half.

Kevin Brown ran 13 times for 196 yards and a touchdown and caught four passes for 38 yards and a TD for Incarnate Word. He ran 66 yards for a score in the first quarter.

Alabama A&M 31, S.C. State 7

In Orangeburg, S.C., Aqeel Glass threw for 272 yards and four touchdowns and Alabama A&M bounced South Carolina State in a non-conference FCS spring opener for both teams.

Glass threw a 16-yard scoring pass to Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim for the game's initial score with 9:08 left in the second quarter. Just before halftime he threw and 18-yard score to Odiue Hilaire to make it 14-0.

To start the third, Glass connected with Dami Adekunjo for 65-yard TD pass and then later to Brian Jenkins Jr. for a 20-yard scoring pass with 4:43 left in the third.

Ar-Pine Bluff 33, Southern 30

In Baton Rouge, La., Skyler Perry accounted for four touchdowns, and Arkansas-Pine Bluff held off Southern for victory.

Perry threw two touchdown passes and had TD runs of 31 and 2 yards as the Golden Lions built a 33-14 lead midway through the third quarter. He finished with 223 yards passing and 58 yards on the ground.

Southern got back in it when Rahme Shorter blocked a punt and Jamel Byrd returned the ball 17 yards into the end zone to pull the Jaguars to 33-26 with 14:09 left. John Lamplery's 9-yard TD pass to Jarod Simms capped the scoring with 7:12 remaining.

E. Washington 45, N. Arizona 13

In Cheney, Wash., Eric Barriere threw for 413 yards and three touchdowns, Tamarick Pierce ran for 105 yards and two touchdowns and Eastern Washington rolled to win over Northern Arizona.

Allmendinger wins Xfinity Series at Las Vegas for surging Kaulig Racing

Hemric finishes 2nd

LAS VEGAS, March 7, (AP): AJ Allmendinger raced to the first victory of his comeback season by passing Daniel Hemric on the final restart in the Xfinity Series race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Allmendinger this year agreed to his first fulltime season since 2018 in a deal with Kaulig Racing. He's friends with team owner Matt Kaulig and has slowly been lured back into NASCAR as a favor to the team.

He was Kaulig's "Trophy Hunter" last year in 11 races he was entered solely to win for the team. Kaulig then convinced Allmendinger to run for the Xfinity Series championship while also helping the organization move to Cup next season.

The victory was the sixth in the Xfinity Series for Allmendinger, who retired at the end of the 2018 season rather than drive for an uncompetitive team.

CAR RACING

Allmendinger was in tears when he climbed from his winning Chevrolet.

"It's emotional, hell, you don't know when you are going to do this again," Allmendinger said. "You never know if this is the last one. Matt Kaulig, I love you man."

Kaulig Racing has eight Xfinity Series victories since its 2016 formation. Four of the wins were by Allmendinger.

Allmendinger said he holds Kaulig in such high regard that he's often ill before races from the pressure to deliver for the team.

"I want to win so bad for Matt every week. It's hard to put into words what he means to me and truly how bad I want to win for him," Allmendinger said. "It's the same thing as wanting to win for Roger Penske."

It means that much to me that he believes in me. Thank you for this opportunity because I don't take it for granted."

Allmendinger led 44 laps, including the final 13 after passing Hemric on the restart.

Hemric finished second and led a race-high 74 laps in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing. Brandon Jones, his JGR teammate, was third.

Austin Cindric was fourth in a Ford for Team Penske and Noah Gragson, the Las Vegas native, was fifth in a Chevrolet for JR Motorsports.

Gragson was followed across the finish line by teammates Michael Annett and Josh Berry in three top-10s for JRM. Annett is mourning the unexpected death of his father earlier this week.

IndyCar driver Santino Ferrucci, in his second NASCAR race, finished 13th.

Ty Dillon has had a terrible run through three races with Joe Gibbs Racing. A broken radiator ended his race last week at Homestead and he crashed with 20 laps remaining Saturday when the battery in his spotter's radio died.



AJ Allmendinger celebrates after winning a NASCAR Xfinity Series auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, on March 6. (AP)

South Carolina women reach SEC final

UConn rolls past St. John's in Big East quarters

Louisville 72, Syracuse 59

In Greensboro, N.C., Dana Evans scored 13 points, Olivia Cochran added 10 points and 10 rebounds and Louisville beat Syracuse to advance to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament championship game.

Kianna Smith added 11 points for Louisville (23-2). Emily Engstler had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Syracuse (14-8).

Baylor 93, Kansas 67

In Lawrence, Kan., Nalyssa Smith had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Dijonai Carrington added 20 points and Baylor beat Kansas.

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longest streak in NCAA women's Division I history. Baylor has won 13 straight games, and 14 in a row against the Jayhawks, dating to 2014.

Holly Kersgieter scored 16 points for Kansas (7-17, 3-15). The Jayhawks have lost 12 of their last 13 games.

S. Carolina 67, Tennessee 52

In Greenville, S.C., Zia Cooke scored 17 points, Aliyah Boston had 15 points and 11 rebounds and South Carolina beat Tennessee to reach the Southeastern Conference Tournament title game for the sixth time in seven years.

The defending champion Gamecocks (21-4) will seek their sixth tournament crown since 2015 on Sunday against No. 16 Georgia.

Jordan Walker and Jordan Horston had 11 points each for Tennessee (16-7).

Maryland 88, Penn St 61

In College Park, Md., Chloe Bibby had 15 points and nine rebounds and Maryland beat Penn State to wrap up the Big Ten regular-season championship.

Diamond Miller had 14 points for the Terrapins (21-2, 17-1).

Niya Beverley scored 15 points for the Nittany Lions (9-14, 6-13).

Indiana 74, Purdue 59

In Bloomington, Ind., Mackenzie Jones scored 11 of her 26 points in the fourth quarter and Indiana beat Purdue for its school-record 18th Big Ten victory.

The Hoosiers (18-4, 16-2) set the previous mark of 15 in 1982-83.

Kayana Traylor scored 17 points for Purdue (7-15, 3-15).

Michigan 63, Northwestern 58

In Ann Arbor, Mich., Naz Hillmon had 19 points and 13 rebounds, Akieneh Johnson also scored 19 points and Michigan beat Northwestern.

Amy Dilk added 12 points for Michigan (14-4, 9-4 Big Ten).

BASKETBALL

Maya Caldwell added 17 points for the Bulldogs (20-5). Georgia will play No. 7 South Carolina in the title game.

N'dea Jones led the regular-season champion the Aggies (23-2) with 16 points.

N.C. State 66, Ga. Tech 61

In Greensboro, N.C., Elissa Cunane had 23 points and nine rebounds and North Carolina State overcome a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Georgia Tech in the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament semifinals.

Kayla Jones added 12 points and eight rebounds for the defending champion Wolfpack (19-2). They will face No. 5 Louisville on Sunday.

Lorela Cubaj and Lotta-Maj Lahtinen each had 17 points for Georgia Tech (15-8).



North Carolina State's Elissa Cunane pulls down a rebound against Georgia Tech during an NCAA college basketball game in the semifinals of Atlantic Coast Conference tournament in Greensboro, N.C., on March 6. (AP)