

KIM

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down a really good first run, but I was also like, 'I can do better than that. I can one up myself,' Kim said.

She's the only one. Liu Jiayu took silver with an 89.75 to become the first Chinese snowboarder to medal at the Olympics. Gold, who pondered retirement last summer, overcame a dislocated shoulder suffered during training to edge teammate and three-time Olympic medalist Kelly Clark for third.

Kim's parents were born in South Korea and moved to the United States, putting their daughter in an interesting position heading into her first Olympics.

While she understands the urge to build a narrative around her that turns her into a connective tissue of sorts between the host country and the one she calls home, it's one she has politely sidestepped. She views herself as just a kid from Torrance, California, who likes music, the mall, ice cream and, oh, by the way, putting down the kind of gravity-escaping, physics challenging runs that have made her a dominant force in her sport.

Kim would have made the Olympic team with ease four years ago, only to have the calendar get in the way. She was 13 at the time, too young to make the trip to Russia. She entered the quadrennium between the games with the kind of expectations reserved for the Shaun Whites of the snowboarding world. She has exceeded every one.

Standing atop the hill at calm and brilliant Phoenix Snow Park — a stark contrast to the windy mess that turned the women's slopestyle final into an ugly, borderline unsafe and crash-filled mess 24 hours earlier — Kim looked down at the crowd that included her parents, three sisters, three aunts, two cousins and her grandmother Moon Jung ae and proceeded to waste little time while turning the final into a global coming-out party.

She drilled her opening set, throwing in a 1080 — basically, three twists high above the pipe — before following it with a pair of flips (or "corks"). Kim celebrated at the end, pumping her fists as "USA! USA!" chants rained down. When her score flashed, she clasped her hands atop her head and drank in the moment.

Kim's teammates made serious bids to give the Americans only their fourth-ever Olympic podium sweep.

Gold, who dislocated her right shoulder during training for the Sochi Olympics and didn't compete then barely made the 12-woman final, brushed off a fall during her first run and stomped an 85.75 on her third run. Clark, the 2002 Olympic champion still going strong at age 34, couldn't quite catch Gold with an 83.50.

Liu came the closest to providing Kim with a serious threat. She threw down a 89.75 during her first set to take the lead, only to watch Kim top it during her first run moments later.

Liu then washed out on her last trip down the longest Olympic halfpipe since the sport made its debut in 1998, turning Kim's last run into a victory lap. Rather than playing it safe, she went for it.

Her No. 1 bib soaring into the South Korean sky, she put on a display that left the rest of the field and the thousands packed near the finish roaring their approval and vaulting her to a level of stardom she's not quite sure she's prepared for. Kim is well aware she'll become a role model for other Korean American kids whether she wants the role or not.

She'll figure it out as she goes.

"The one thing I learned was just give everything a shot," she said. "You don't want to live in regret. I feel like no regrets is the best way to go."



SUN PHOTO BY TATE RUSSELL

North Greene's Jacinth Crawford (15) puts up a shot on Monday while Alyssa Bean (14) of Sullivan North tries to defend.

NORTH GREENE

FROM PAGE 1B

District 1-A standings. Both went 8-2 in league play and split their head-to-head matchups.

The Bulldogs won the tiebreaker and will be the top seed in the district tournament that starts Friday at Daniel Boone. North Greene will be the two seed in the tournament and will play on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. against the winner of Univeristy High and Unaka.

North Greene has now won eight straight games and 11 of 14 since the calendar turned to 2018.

"This team has taken some steps over the last two or three weeks and has really gotten better," Tarlton said. "As we get into the postseason we have to keep doing all of those little things right. We have to rebound and play defense. We're on a good roll and we just have to keep it rolling."

North Greene went into halftime on Monday trailing the Golden Raiders 27-25, but once the second half started they made sure that deficit did not last long.

Just 14 seconds into the third quarter Evan Pierce hit from deep to put North Greene on top. The Huskies stayed in front the rest of the night. With 7:16 still left in the third, Zane Potter came down the court and ripped a transition trey through the net that made the score 31-27 and forced Sullivan North to call a timeout.

The Huskies did almost all of their damage in the third quarter from behind the arc, hitting from deep five times as their lead reached 44-37 heading to the final frame.

"That was big for us. We had several different guys step up and knock down threes," Tarlton said. "We do have a tendency to fall in love with that three-pointer when they are playing a zone, but luckily tonight the shots were going in."

Sullivan North would not go away quietly, and when Thomas Brown hit a straight-away three-pointer with 5:54 left, the Raiders narrowed the gap to 45-42.

Andy Stevens stepped up for the Huskies and demanded the ball in the closing stretch. The senior scored 11 straight points for North Greene with eight coming at the charity stripe.

"Andy was big in the fourth quarter. He's our best player and I told him that he has to be that down the stretch," Tarlton said. "We need him to pass the ball and play defense as well, but tonight he made some big shots, and we are going to continue to need him to

do that."

Sullivan North's Matt Burk did his best to keep the Raiders alive and scored 12 points in the fourth quarter. He hit a runner from the left side of the lane to get Sullivan North within two points at 58-56 with 58 seconds left.

The Huskies came up empty on their next possession, but then Potter stole the ball in the lane in front of the Raiders' rim and pushed it to Turner Bailey, who was fouled. Bailey stretched the Huskies' lead to four points at the foul line.

Stevens led North Greene on Monday with 25 points, Potter added 12 and Bailey scored 11.

Bailey hit two more free throws with 14 seconds left to put North Greene on top 62-56.

The game started with the two squads trading buckets throughout the first quarter. North Greene held the biggest lead at 8-4 when Elijah Smith made good on an old-fashioned-three-point play.

Sullivan North came back and took the lead at 12-11 with 2:58 left in the quarter when Jake Spradlin hit a layup through contact.

Over the remainder of the first quarter the lead changed five times and North Greene closed the period leading 18-17.

Most of the second quarter was an offensive struggle and through the first 5:25 the teams combined to score three points.

The quarter closed at a faster pace, and when Peyton Robinson hit a floater with 12 seconds left, the Raiders took a 27-25 lead.

NORTH GREENE 18 7 19 16 62

SULLIVAN NORTH 17 10 10 21 58

North Greene: Stevens 25, Potter 12, Bailey 11, Pierce 7, Smith 5, Loftis 2

Sullivan North: Burk 21, Spradlin 13, Brown 9, Cross 8, Robinson 7

North Greene Girls 60, Sullivan North 35

The North Greene girls went into last year's District 1-A Tournament as the fifth of six seeds.

One year later, after a 60-35 win over Sullivan North on Monday, the Lady Huskies have earned the top seed in the district going into the postseason.

"That was a good way to close the season," North Greene coach James Buchanan said. "That win clinched the number-one seed in the district tournament, and we are excited about that. I would really like to commend these kids for a tremendous regular season. Just a year ago we were the five seed and it was an uphill battle. A lot has changed in a

year in terms of adding some kids and some kids getting healthy. One thing that hasn't changed is that locker room. This is a great group of kids, and they have been special to work with."

North Greene (20-10, 8-2) has earned a bye in the first round of the district tournament that starts Friday at Daniel Boone. The Lady Huskies will play their first game on Saturday at 4 p.m. against the winner of Cloudland and Sullivan North.

"If we are going to win games in the postseason it will start with defense," Buchanan said. "We are going to have to be focused and disciplined on defense. We are also going to have to knock shots down. At times we have struggled with that, but in the tournament you have to be able to do that."

Monday's game could not have gotten off to a better start for the Lady Huskies, as Jacinth Crawford won the tip and got the ball to Katlynn Franklin. Franklin quickly moved the ball to Katie Bolton who was under the basket unguarded, and Bolton found the bottom of the net just five seconds into the contest.

That led to an immediate Sullivan North timeout. North Greene's pressure defense made ball movement difficult early on, and Lady Raiders' coach Chris Salley was forced to call his second timeout before two minutes had run off the clock.

North Greene jumped on top 13-2 when Bolton hit a triple from the right wing and the Lady Huskies finished the first quarter on top 18-8.

In the second quarter North Greene's defensive pressure continued, and it only allowed four points in the period.

On the offensive end, Calista Hensley and Katie Bolton both hit from behind the arc while Kirsten Hensley scored five points.

North Greene went to halftime leading 35-12. Bolton led North Greene with 14 points on Monday while Franklin put in 12. In total, 12 different Lady Huskies scored in the win.

In the third quarter, eight different players scored for North Greene as the lead stretched to 50-24.

Maddie Winters was about the only thing working for the Lady Raiders' offense on Monday as she slashed her way to 21 of Sullivan North's 35 points.

NORTH GREENE 18 17 15 10 60

SULLIVAN NORTH 8 4 12 11 35

North Greene: Bolton 14, Franklin 12, K. Hensley 7, Crawford 6, C. Hensley 5, Bernard 4, Whaley 3, Savage 3, Ab. Reed 2, Smolich 2, An. Reed 1, Weems 1

Sullivan North: Winters 21, Vaughn 7, Mullins 3, Bean 2, Rutherford 2

BARNES

FROM PAGE 1B

Tennessee to drop three spots in The AP Top 25.

Picked to finish 13th out of 14 teams in the Southeastern Conference at the start of the season, Tennessee instead is tied for second place. The Vols have done that without having a single player who was rated as a top-125 prospect, according to a composite ranking of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports.

Tennessee remains in good position.

On Sunday, the NCAA Division I Basketball Committee issued preliminary NCAA Tournament rankings, which indicated Tennessee would have earned a No. 4 seed if the tournament selections had been made that day. Tennes-

see hasn't been seeded that high in an actual NCAA Tournament since getting a No. 2 seed in 2008 and hasn't earned an NCAA bid at all since 2014.

Tennessee's six remaining regular-season games don't include any opponents currently in the Top 25, giving the Vols an opportunity for a fast finish. But they're capable of losing any of those games if they play as poorly as they did against Alabama.

The Vols have outperformed preseason expectations by outworking and out hustling opponents. That didn't happen Saturday.

Tennessee shot a season-low 28 percent from the floor, posted its lowest point total of the year and made just one basket in the last 10 minutes. A Tennessee defense that had held eight straight opponents below 64 points allowed Alabama to exceed that mark with

over 10 minutes left in the game. "From the beginning of the game, you could tell that some guys weren't in it," sophomore forward Grant Williams said after the game. "Minds weren't locked in, and we weren't being tough."

Tennessee never led all night and was outscored 50-18 in the paint. Before Saturday, the Vols hadn't lost a game by more than 10 points all season. The troubles continued even after the game, as poor weather forced Tennessee to take a bus rather than flying back to campus.

Barnes was unsparing in his criticism.

He said junior forward Kyle Alexander "played probably as poor a game (since) he's been here going back to his freshman year, and we know he had some tough ones then." He noted that Tennessee's guard play "was maybe as poor as it's been all year."

Tennessee's struggles against Alabama were surprising because the team entered the game on such a roll. The Vols had capped a six-game winning streak by beating Kentucky on the road 61-59 to complete their first regular-season sweep of the Wildcats since 1998-99.

Barnes believes his players may have gotten caught up in all the positive publicity that had surrounded the program. He noted the best teams don't allow that to happen.

"Everybody wants to know why I don't compliment players," Barnes said. "It's for a reason. They want to be complimented. That's why they search out and look at papers when they play well. We've got a team of guys that I can tell you, when they have big games, it's almost a pattern they come back and don't play well."