



Caleb McMillan, who won \$2,382 as the all-around cowboy, is shown steer wrestling during Saturday's performance.

Katy Nesbitt/For The Observer

## Records fall at CJD

By Katy Nesbitt  
For The Observer

JOSEPH — Crowds at this weekend's Chief Joseph Days rodeo performances got their money's worth with two new records set during the event's 73rd running.

Friday night, Clay Biglow, of Clements, California, blew the doors off the bareback competition posting an 88-point ride on "Scarlet Lady," becoming the Harley Tucker Arena's new record holder for the event and taking home \$2,098. The 22-year-old is ranked sixth in the world and is on a hot streak, winning the RAM California Circuit Finals as well as rodeos in Central Point, in Sheridan, Wyoming, and in Livermore, Woodlake, Glennville and Riverdale, California, this year.

Wyatt Denny, of Minden, Nevada, was second in bareback with an 82.5-point ride. Kevin Lusk, of Orting, Washington, was third with 78.5 points. Austin Williams, of Marsing, Idaho, and Cauy Pool, of Long Creek, tied for fourth with 77 points each. Klancy Krenka, of MacKay, Idaho, was sixth with 76.5 points.

After a big night in bull riding Wednesday, ending in a tie between Shane Proctor, of Grand Coulee, Washington, and Canby's Chase Dougherty with matching 84.5-point rides, the riding was blown up Saturday with Colby Demo, of Red Bluff, California, earning 90.5 points on "Smokin Hummer" and winning \$2,453. Demo, who recently graduating with a degree in agriculture business, is brand-new to pro rodeo. He won the California High School Rodeo bull riding title in 2014 as a senior and rode collegiately for Colorado Northwestern Community College and Feather River College, qualifying for the College National Finals Rodeo in 2015 while at Colorado Northwestern.

Demo pushed Proctor and Dougherty back to second place. Jordan Spears, of Grass Valley, California, and Kyle Eaton, of Chico, California, tied for fourth with 83.5-point rides. Stetson Wright, of Mitford, Utah, had a 78.5-point ride earning him a sixth place finish.

One of his brothers, Alex Wright, also of Mitford, held on to his lead in saddle

bronc with his Wednesday night score of 84 points on "Pick Up Sticks" to earn \$2,369. Second was Chase Brooks, of Deer Lodge, Montana, with 83.5 points. Another Wright brother, Jake, of Mitford, placed third with 81 points. Fourth was Sage Newman, of Melstone, Montana, with 80 points. Fifth was Proctor with 77 points, and sixth was Joey Sonnier, of New Iberia, Louisiana, with 76.5 points.

Thursday night's crowd saw the fastest of the barrel racers when Jordan Minor and Jade Crossley, both of Hermiston, and Lexie Goss, of Redmond, posted three of the top times. Minor came in first in 17.47 seconds to win \$2,327, with Crossley on her heels finishing second with a time of 17.49. Teri Bangart, of Olympia, Washington, and Megan McLeod-Sprague, of Marsing, Idaho, tied for third with 17.54 seconds, and Goss was fifth at 17.64 seconds.

Levi Rudd, of Chelsea, Oklahoma, held on to his lead in steer wrestling with a combined time average of 10.1 seconds, earning \$1,589. Mike McGinn, of

Haines, was close behind with 10.4 seconds. Third was Trevor Knowles, of Mount Vernon, in 10.9 seconds. Riley Jones, of Walla Walla, Washington, finished fourth, with 11.2 seconds. Ryan Bothum, of Hermiston, was fifth with 12.2, and sixth-place finisher Greg Schaffeld, of Joseph, finished in 12.6.

Team roping was tight with only a tenth of a second between first and second. Winners Erich Rogers and Clint Summers, a team from Round Rock, Arizona, had a combined time of 12.2

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## Junior All-Stars fall in regional opener to Arizona

■ La Grande plays elimination game today

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

If the La Grande Junior All-Stars are going to make a deep run at the West Regional Tournament in San Jose, California, they'll have to rekindle the magic last year's All-Stars found at the 2017 state tournament.

Nogales, Arizona, broke a tie with three runs in the fifth inning, then added on in the seventh and — despite recording just four hits — topped La Grande, 7-1, in the first round of the West Regional Sunday morning.

"It was a tough game, a tough loss," Head Coach Doug Schow said. "The score doesn't show how well the boys played."

La Grande out-hit Arizona, 7-4, and neither team committed an error. The difference in the game, though, was La Grande issuing nine walks, including seven in the final three innings. Five Nogales batters who were walked in the late stages of the game came around to score. Nogales, by contrast, didn't walk any batters.

"That was pretty much the deciding factor," Schow said. "Defensively, we outplayed them."

Nogales scored an early run for a 1-0 first-inning lead, but La Grande tied the score in the home half of the frame

on a Cole Jorgensen RBI single.

That was the only inning in which La Grande posed a serious threat. Only two other times did La Grande get a runner in scoring position.

Pitcher Sam Tsiatsos was dealt the loss despite allowing just one hit in his 4-1/3 innings. He gave up three runs, walked four batters and struck out three.

Of the four La Grande pitchers, only Jace Schow didn't surrender a walk.

The loss dropped La Grande into an elimination game, where it faced Pearl City, Hawaii, at 11:30 a.m. today. A win there would move La Grande into a 9 a.m. elimination game Tuesday morning.

After Sunday's loss, La Grande needs five straight wins in order to get to the tournament championship, and seven wins to claim the title.

It's a spot several of the players on this team were in a year ago in the Oregon Little League state tournament, when the team won six straight elimination games to win the title.

Now they have to do it again.

"We're not out of this," Schow said. "We just have to keep after it, keep our heads and don't lose focus on what we're doing. One game at a time. We have to keep winning."

## EOU men's XC, hoops add on

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon men's cross country team has added five athletes to the roster ahead of the 2018 season, the school announced Friday.

"Much like the women's incoming class, there is a good deal of untapped potential in this group of guys," EOU head coach Ben Welch said in a press release. "We look forward to seeing how they develop and help us reach some of our program goals."

The five athletes join a team that took seventh at nationals last November.

Highlighting the group is Division II transfer Hunter Kratz, who Welch said EOU went after a season ago before he decided to attend Chadron State in Nebraska.

"Kratz was one of our top couple of recruits for last year's class," Welch told The Observer. "He should have an impact. He spent a year at a pretty high mileage Division II program."

Welch also added a pair of Hood River Valley High School athletes in Travis Running and Braxton Wilson. Welch said although both athletes had abbreviated high school running careers, they have potential at the collegiate level.

"There's a lot of room to grow there," he said. "They were very well coached in high school, just haven't run much."

The other two signees are West Salem's Brennen Lebel and Robie Swanson from Boise, Idaho's Timberline High School.

"Robie is a guy who comes out of a pretty good high school program. The coach trains them well, but is cautious (with) them," Welch said.

Lebel, a solid 800-meter runner in high school, brings a good level of speed development, according to Welch.

### Labarda adds two more players

The Eastern Oregon men's basketball team has added two more transfers to its roster, the school announced.

The Mountaineers signed transfer Landon Jones from Treasure Valley Community College and Joel Anderson from Los Angeles Harbor College. The additions bring the total number of players to join this recruiting class to four, three of whom are transfers.

Jones, a native of Twin Falls, Idaho, brings some needed size to the Mountaineers at 6-foot-5. The forward averaged 9.3 points and 3.7 rebounds per game for the Chukars during his sophomore campaign.

"Landon will be a much needed help for our front court," EOU head coach Carlito Labarda Jr. said in a press release. "He gives us size and length, which we were lacking. He's deceptively athletic and can shoot the trifecta."

Anderson, a 6-foot-4 guard, was a high-end scorer at Harbor College. As a sophomore, he averaged 20.7 points, 6.3 rebounds and 5.3 assists. The year prior, he doled out 9.9 assists per contest.

"He's a great basketball player and very strong in the classroom, which is the type of student-athletes we want here at EOU," Labarda said. "Joel is capable of getting a triple-double on any given night."

The pair join an EOU squad that went 21-8 a year ago, Labarda's first at the helm.

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