

Eastern picked sixth

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon football team finished the 2017 season as part of a three-way tie for sixth place in the Frontier Conference.

Eastern was projected by the conference's coaches to finish near that spot this season.

The Mountaineers were picked sixth by the Frontier's coaches in the rankings which were released in conjunction with the conference's media day Tuesday.

Defending conference champion Southern Oregon was named the preseason conference champion with 48 points in the poll and six first-place votes. The Raiders went a perfect 10-0 in Frontier play last season and advanced to the semifinals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs.

Rocky Mountain, which a year ago was part of a three-way tie for second at 6-4 in the conference, was slated to finish second with 39 points. The Battlin' Bears also picked up a first-place vote.

College of Idaho and Montana Tech, part of that same tie for second, both received 30 points to tie for third in the coaches poll.

Carroll College, which received the last first-place vote, was picked fifth with 28 points. The Fighting Saints were one point ahead of EOU, which earned 27 points for sixth.

Montana Western (15 points) and MSU-Northern (seven points) rounded out the placing.

EOU, Carroll and UMW each went 4-6 as part of that tie for fifth a year ago.

If SOU did repeat, it would continue a theme at the top of the conference. The previous teams to win the Frontier all repeated: Carroll won it in both 2013 and 2014, and Montana Tech took the crown in 2015 and 2016.



Steve Lynch, left, one of the coaches at the Portland Timbers and Thorns Youth Camp that came to La Grande last week, gives direction to players during a drill.

Ronald Bond/The Observer

Timbers in La Grande

By Ronald Bond
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It isn't often a group affiliated with a professional sports team comes to La Grande, unless it is passing through onto a larger city.

But last week, the youth soccer camps affiliated with Major League Soccer's Portland Timbers and the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League not only drove through town, but stopped in La Grande for a week-long camp.

It was the first time the Timbers and Thorns Youth Camps had come this far east from Portland.

Ethan Weinman, a youth department intern who served as camp director for the four-day camp at Eastern Oregon University, said it was a positive experience.

In fact, it surpassed what he expected. The first-time camp, for boys and girls age 5-18, drew roughly 40 participants.

"To be honest, the numbers here totally exceeded my expectations. I have



Roughly 40 youth between the ages of 5 and 18 took part in the camp.

Ronald Bond/The Observer

had less kids at camps in Portland," Weinman said. "I (recently) finished (an established Portland) camp that had 35 kids, so when I showed up here and saw 40 kids I was amazed. It's our first camp."

The reach to the east is part of an expansion by the Timbers outside of the Port-

land-metro area for their camps. The farthest east the Timbers previously held camps was in Hood River. This summer, the franchise has, or will have, camps as far south as Grants Pass and Medford, and in Hood River, Bend and La Grande to the east.

"We're trying to expand

our reach," Weinman said. "I think this is a good opportunity."

Having a Timbers camp in La Grande has been in the works for a couple of years. It started with Stan Rodrigues, a former EOU head men's soccer coach, and Jessy Watson, the

See Camp / Page 7A

Juniors title hopes dashed

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

There won't be a run to the World Series this year for La Grande.

The Junior All-Stars were eliminated from contention for the West Regional title Monday afternoon in San Jose, California, following an 8-0 loss to Pearl City, Hawaii.

La Grande spotted Pearl City two first-inning runs and was never able to catch up. Hawaii pushed its lead to 3-0 in the fourth inning, then piled on five runs in the final two innings to keep its title hopes alive.

Meanwhile, the La Grande offense struggled for the second day in a row. The team managed just five singles, three of which came in the final inning during a last-ditch effort. Noah McIlmoil and Derek Begin both singled to start the frame, but a double play dealt a blow to the La Grande rally. Jace Schow singled to keep the slim hopes alive, but La Grande couldn't cash in.

Schow, Begin, McIlmoil, Logan Williams and Devin Bell all had hits for La Grande.

Schow pitched 4-1/3 innings in the loss, allowing three runs on six hits with three walks and four strikeouts.

La Grande struggled with its control on the mound for the second day in a row, walking nine batters to match the amount of free passes it handed out in its opener against Nogales, Arizona.

While the loss eliminates La Grande from contending for a spot in the Junior World Series, it doesn't end the team's play in San Jose. La Grande will have an opportunity to end the trip on a high note when it faces West Valley, from Yakima, Washington, in a consolation game at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

Maverick Junior Rodeo hits La Grande

Observer staff

The Maverick Junior Rodeo took place at Maverick Arena in La Grande Saturday and Sunday. Here are the winners in each event and the all-around winners.

Boys all-around winner: Hanley Miller, Enterprise, 108 points

Boys reserve all-around: Hadley Miller, Enterprise, 73 points

Girls all-round winner: Michelle Williams, North Powder; and Chloe May, Scio, 78 points

Girls reserve all-around: Jacie Shaffer, Summerville, and Georgia Lieuallen, Pendleton, 76 points

Junior boys calf tying: Zack Morrison, Baker City

Senior girls pole bending: Maggie Mackenzie, Baker City

Junior girls pole bending: Alyson Terry, Pendleton

Pee wee girls pole bending: Georgia Lieuallen, Pendleton

Pee wee boys pole bending: Brock Morgan

Cow kids stake race: Kinley Williamson, Elgin

Senior girls barrel racing: Michelle Williams, North Powder

Junior girls barrel racing: Lauryn Riney, Washington

Pee wee girls barrel racing: Lieuallen

Pee wee boys barrel racing:

Hanley Miller, Enterprise

Cowkids barrel racing: Williamson

Senior girls goat tying: Williams

Pee wee boys goat tying: Caleb Glenn, Hermiston

Junior girls goat tying: Mackenzie Penninger, Hermiston

Pee wee girls goat tying: Jayden Bertsch, Walla Walla

Cow kids goat tail untying: Cooper Moyer, Pasco

Senior boys chute dogging: Hadley Miller, Enterprise

Junior boys chute dogging: Riggin Nedrow, North Powder

Cow kids calf riding: Carter Barron, Washington

Pee wee girls steer riding: Karlie Fischer, Hermiston

Pee wee boys steer riding: Masyn Lindsey, Milton-Freewater

Junior boys breakaway: Morrison

Senior girls breakaway: Chloe May, Scio

Junior girls breakaway: Sidney Estes, Hermiston

Pee wee boys breakaway: Hanley Miller

Pee wee girls breakaway: Lieuallen

Senior boys tie down roping: Hadley Miller

Senior girls ribbon roping: Jacie Shaffer, Summerville

Junior boys ribbon roping:



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Blake Betz takes part in chute dogging Sunday.

Hanley Miller

Senior boys ribbon roping: Hadley Miller

Junior team roping: Hanley Miller, top header and heeler

Senior team roping: Crae Campbell, Pendleton, top header; Degan Patton, Pendleton, heeler

Junior team roping: Hanley Miller, top header and heeler

Dummy roping: Moyer.



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