

Rocky wrecks Eastern senior day, playoff hopes

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Rocky Mountain likely secured itself a playoff berth Saturday, spoiling senior day for 14 Eastern Oregon football players in the process.

And the Battlin' Bears did so in dominant fashion.

Quarterback Jacob Bakken threw for 423 yards and five touchdowns, and the No. 12 Bears scored the game's first 41 points on their way to a 48-10 win over No. 24 EOU at Community Stadium in the Mountaineers' home finale.

"They executed," EOU Head Coach Tim Camp said. "That was the one thing looking back on it. They executed (and) we didn't."

Defensively, EOU held its own much of the first half until a flurry late in the second quarter ballooned the lead. Offensively, Eastern struggled against the Bears' defense, which leads the Frontier Conference.

"We weren't efficient enough on offense today to keep the chains moving," Camp said. "We took some



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Eastern Oregon's Brenden Kelly, right, missed on this attempt in the end zone, but did have four catches for 83 yards to eclipse 3,000 yards receiving in his career. He's the first Mountaineer to reach the mark.

shots at them, we opened it up the right way, but at the same time we

struggled up front. They brought pressure (and) we didn't handle

that the best." Eastern had its second-lowest of

fensive output with just 338 yards. Quincy Backes led the rushing game with 78 yards, and Kai Quinn had 174 yards through the air, but was just 13-for-30 passing.

Rocky marched downfield and scored on a one-yard Mason Melby touchdown run on its first drive, but then was stymied on several possessions. EOU picked up what felt like a momentum-swinging play when Eric Prom collected an interception one play after a Rocky touchdown was called back.

But the Bears asserted themselves in the closing minutes of the half. Max Gray caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Bakken — one of three on the day — for a 13-0 lead. Darneal Jenkins followed with two touchdown receptions — including a one-handed catch — in less than three minutes to send the Bears into the break up 27-0.

Gray followed with two more TD receptions to make it 41-0 with 5:51 in the third quarter. Bakken finished 29-for-35 passing as RMC rolled up 540 total yards and

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Coyotes spoils Mounties' shot at outright championship

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The Eastern Oregon volleyball team had received the help it needed in the form of a loss by Southern Oregon and was up two sets on College of Idaho. Win one more set, and EOU would claim the Cascade Collegiate Conference title outright.

Instead, the Coyotes mounted a fierce rally to ruin the Mountaineers' senior night and deny EOU the conference's top spot.

Ashley Pagan had 28 kills and 24 digs, leading the No. 16 Yotes to a wild five-set win over the No. 12 Mountaineers, 16-25, 20-25, 25-22, 25-22, 16-14, Friday night at Quinn Coliseum.

"In the first couple of games we played great," EOU Head Coach Kaki McLean-Morehead said. "In the last three College of

Idaho did a better job of siding out. They did a better job of being more efficient and being clutch in those pressure situations. We didn't."

The Yotes rallied from down 7-1 in the third set to get a win and get back in the match, then won the last four points, including winning the set on a Taylor Alexander ace, to go the distance.

The fifth set itself was an instant classic. The rivals traded kills at nearly a point-for-point clip. Eastern took its first lead of the final set, 7-6, on consecutive kills by Hailee Ackerman and Cambree Scott. Two Alexander kills put C of I back up 10-9, but a kill by Madison Pilon and a block from Allyson Crisp and Megan Bunn gave EOU the edge back, 12-11. Bunn had a kill two points later for a 13-12 edge, putting Eastern just



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon's Megan Bunn had 15 kills and 22 digs during the Mountaineers' home match against College of Idaho Friday night.

two points from the title. But C of I retook the lead, and

after the teams reached a tie at 14-14, kills by Pagan and

Alexander gave the match to the Yotes.

McLean-Morehead said EOU's youth in handling tight situations was exposed down the stretch.

"We are still young. We still have those instances and those times where we haven't been in those circumstances the last four years," she said. "Handling pressure is) one thing they still have to figure that out. They have to figure out that they can do it."

Eastern used a 12-2 run to distance itself and take control of the first set. Taylor Tibbetts had four kills during the run, which ended with EOU in command, 22-13.

A 7-2 run to open the second set gave the Mountaineers the early lead — one they didn't relinquish. The Yotes did pull within two twice, but a kill by Bunn, who led EOU with 15 kills and 22

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EOU roundup: Cross county places third, sixth in CCC

Observer staff

Dustin Zimmerly and Lane Inwards both finished in the top 10, leading the No. 14 Eastern Oregon men's cross country team to a third-place finish at the Cascade Collegiate Conference championships Saturday in Issaquah, Washington.

Zimmerly placed sixth, completing the 8K course in a time of 25:24.80, and Inwards followed in eighth at 25:26.

"Dustin Zimmerly just ran lights out," Head Coach Ben Welch said. "That was by far the most superb race he has run."

No other Mountaineers, however, cracked the top 20. Hunter Kratz finished 22nd in a time of 25:52. Thomas Morrell III took 26th in 26:11.60, and Robie Swanson was 27th in 26:17.10.

Welch, though, said a lot of that was due to some insanity on the course. Inwards crashed with about a mile to go and still recovered for eighth, Kratz fell four times due to crashes in front of him, and Morrell stepped in a hole and turned an ankle, according to Welch.

"We had a pretty good meet, a little better than it looks on paper, because we had some minor disas-

ters, too," Welch said.

As a team, Eastern finished well off the pace of College of Idaho, which put five runners in the top 10 and won with 26 points. Southern Oregon followed with 46 points, and The Mountaineers scored 85 for their third-place finish. College of Idaho's Marcos Cervantes won with a time of 24:59.90.

The EOU women also finished well off the pace, taking sixth overall with 143 points. Oregon Tech was the team champion with 29 points with SOU in second at 54 points.

Individually, Michelle Herbes led the way in the 5K race for Eastern with a 15th-place finish in a time of 18:29.80.

"She's been fighting a hip issue, but she raced really quite well," Welch said of Herbes. "She hung on to stay in the top 15."

The rest of the Mountaineers finished close together. Katie Jo Gebhardt was second for Eastern in 33rd with a time of 19:20.30. Faith Homer placed 36th in 19:28.50, Amanda Welch was 38th in 19:40.10 and Megan Boals was 39th in 19:46.10.

"We ran well. It just doesn't

necessarily look like it (on paper)," Welch said.

The teams now await the official announcement for bids to nationals, which takes place Nov. 16 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The announcement will come out later this week.

Women's hoops drop two

The No. 7 Eastern Oregon women's basketball team struggled to get its offense going in the first two games of the season at the Simpson Classic, falling to Cal Maritime Friday, 55-49, and to Simpson Saturday, 51-46. Both games were played in Redding, California.

FRIDAY KEELHAULERS PULL AHEAD IN SECOND HALF

The Mountaineers started strong, and darted out to a 35-27 halftime lead, but scored just 14 points in the second half, and six in the fourth quarter, to fall in their opener.

The teams went into the fourth quarter tied at 43-43, but Tal Webb hit two key 3-pointers that put Cal Maritime ahead for good.

Eastern was just 6-for-22 shooting in the second half, after going 15-for-26 in the first half. EOU also hurt itself with 27 turnovers.

Madison Crews led the Moun-

tainers off the bench with 10 points and five assists. Whitney Meier had nine points and Maren Herrud scored seven points.

SATURDAY RED HAWKS DO JUST ENOUGH FOR WIN

Simpson took the lead for good in the second quarter, then held on in the second half to defeat the Mountaineers.

Eastern was down just 28-25 at the break, but could never pull ahead in the second half.

EOU improved in the turnover department with 17, but only shot 20-for-62 from the floor. Crews again led the Mountaineers with 11 points. Julia Hanni added eight points and a team-best seven rebounds, and Herrud also scored eight points.

EOU (0-2 overall) hosts Whitman Saturday in its home opener.

Grapplers handle BBCC

The Eastern Oregon men's wrestling team won all five contested matches in a 48-6 dual victory over Big Bend Community College Saturday night at Quinn Coliseum.

The Mountaineers picked up two wins by fall, with Mhar Caballa

pinning Cameron Thompson at 3:49 in the 125-pound match. Tyler Miller (149) followed with a pin of Colby Wammack, needing just 2:40 for the fall.

Drake Randall (174) notched a 15-0 technical fall over Roman Porter, and Marco Retano followed with a 13-3 major decision over Andrew Showman at 184. Justin Wilson finished the action with a 3-1 decision over Martin Dominguez Barrera at 285.

EOU also won four matches by forfeit, while BBCC took one forfeited match.

The Eastern women competed in five exhibition matches Saturday, earning two victories.

Krystal Fabricante quickly dispatched of Alexis Delahanty by a first-round technical fall, 10-0. Renay Monohan followed with a technical fall of her own, topping Samantha Schoapman, 14-4.

Team scores were not kept for the exhibition.

The EOU men next travel to Oregon City to face Clackamas Community College Saturday before heading the Mike Clock Tournament Sunday, while the women compete at the Mike Clock Tournament Saturday.

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