



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo
Taylor Boyer, who led Eastern Oregon with 13 goals in the regular season, was named Cascade Collegiate Conference offensive player of the year.

Boyer, Bassett earn CCC POY awards

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Taylor Boyer has had a major impact on the Eastern Oregon women's soccer team since joining the program as a transfer from Lane Community College to EOU.

The Cascade Collegiate Conference took notice, and named the senior the CCC offensive player of the year Tuesday night after a 2018 regular season that saw her score 13 goals and add five assists.

"She's definitely an engine for us," EOU Head Coach Jacob Plocher said. "She helped get us going, and was capable more than almost anybody in

the conference of being able to take over a game at any point in time."

Boyer said the 2017 season, which was a transition year for her to the new squad, was needed. She said she went into this season with a goal of winning the POY award, though it still surprised her.

"I was extremely excited to receive it," she said. "I honestly was shocked too, so it made it even more special. My team and coaches are what got me to that point, and I just feel so blessed."

She wasn't alone in the POY accolades, as junior Josee Bassett was selected as the defensive player of the year. The junior has been a mainstay

on defense for the Mountaineers, which steadily improved as the season wore on. Eastern allowed nine goals in its first six games, but gave up just three in its final 10 regular-season contests, including notching eight shutouts in that time.

"She's a great leader for us (and) has been a captain for my two years here," Plocher said. "She's incredibly consistent, calm and helps our back line."

Bassett, a three-year starter, was also a vital cog for the 2017 defense that allowed only eight goals all season.

"It meant the world to me that I could represent my team by being

See **POY** / Page 10A



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo
Eastern Oregon and Rocky Mountain, shown in their matchup earlier this season, met again Thursday night in the Cascade Collegiate Conference semifinals. The Mountaineers won, 1-0, to reach Saturday's CCC final.

EOU men just miss out on national berth

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The most successful season in Eastern Oregon men's soccer history — one that saw the team match a program record for wins, post its best record ever and earn its first Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament berth and win — came to an end one victory short of an automatic berth to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics playoffs.

Rocky Mountain's Marco Kummerle scored

a minute into the second half, and that was enough to give the Battlin' Bears a 1-0 victory over Eastern Oregon Thursday night in the semifinals of the CCC tournament in Springfield.

"We had some really good chances (but) we just couldn't find the back of the net," EOU Head Coach Zach Mills said. "They had one that went in. We just couldn't find that final touch. I thought we had better chances."

The Mountaineers

See **Eastern** / Page 10A

Back in the finals again

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's soccer team is returning to the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament championship game.

"We made that a team goal to get back to (the) championship game and win it, so obviously it feels amazing. It really shows our team

resilience," senior Taylor Boyer said.

Boyer put home the game's only goal late in the first half, and the defense did the rest in a 1-0 victory over Rocky Mountain Thursday night in Springfield — the 11th shutout for the team on the season.

"We knew Rocky was a hot team coming into the confer-

ence tournament," EOU Head Coach Jacob Plocher said. "We did a good job. We missed a couple opportunities but were able to get the result."

With the victory, Plocher also surpassed Colleen Fagan for the most wins by a coach in program history. Eastern notched the 28th victory under Plocher.

"I'm honored first of all, and all the credit goes to the team for buying in to what we as a staff have asked," the coach said.

Boyer netted the eventual game-winner on a penalty kick in the 37th minute. It was her 15th goal of the season, which moved her to second on the all-time

See **Finals** / Page 10A

Solorio leads five Mountaineers in CCC recognition

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon men's soccer team can officially say it had its best season in program history with its best record and first Cascade Collegiate

Conference tournament berth.

Having five players on the all-CCC squad helps prove that point.

"It's super cool that these players, because of their

See **Awards** / Page 10A



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo
Hailee Ackerman was one of three Mountaineers recognized by the Cascade Collegiate Conference.

Three earn all-CCC

Observer staff

Three members of Eastern Oregon's co-Cascade Collegiate Conference championship team were recognized by the CCC Thursday night with all-conference accolades.

Juniors Megan Bunn and Hailee Ackerman were named to the all-CCC team, while sophomore Kiley McMurtrey was selected as honorable mention and finished in a three-way tie for CCC libero of the year.

Bunn and Ackerman were the two main catalysts for the Eastern Oregon offense, leading the team with 340 kills and 325 kills, respectively. Ackerman also posted a

.278 kill percentage, highest on the team for any player with more than 10. Ackerman also had 27 aces and 38 blocks, while Bunn had 21 aces and 52 blocks.

Bunn was also key on the defense, as she was second on the team with 355 digs, and posted 18 double-doubles on the season.

McMurtrey led the Mountaineers' in digs for the second year in a row, racking up 432. She was among one of five Mounties with 20 or more aces, finishing with 26 in the regular season.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group as well as the

See **Volleyball** / Page 9A



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo
Carlos Solorio was a first-team all-Cascade Collegiate Conference award recipient for Eastern Oregon.

CHECK OUT THE

Local Sports Report...

THE OBSERVER

Tune into the Johnny Ballgame Show for the Local Sports Report with Observer Sports Editor Ronald Bond at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

@IgoBond

ON THE

Johnny Ballgame Show

THE Johnny Ballgame SHOW

Listen to the Johnny Ballgame Show from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday on SuperTalk 1450 AM.

KLBK 1450
KBKR 1490

@JBG_Show