



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Wallowa's Wyatt Prince wraps up Lowell quarterback Symon Thurman during Saturday's playoff game.

Cougars bury Devils

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Wallowa senior Joe Robb was a bit surprised to learn it had been 13 years since the Cougars reached the state semifinals.

"That's impressive," the nose tackle said. "If it takes 13 years to finally break a curse, then that's what it takes."

Whether it was a curse, a monkey on their backs or just a decade of misfortune in the quarterfinals, the Cougars ended the drought with a resounding 62-14 home win over the Lowell Devils Saturday behind a 535-yard performance from their rushing attack.

"The kids played ultra-physical today and did a good job up front," Cougars Head Coach Matt Brockamp said. "They fired off the ball. (Lowell) had all eight guys within a yard and a half of the line of scrimmage and we still pounded them. We ran the football well today, and it was fun to watch."

It was the Cougars' first win in the quarterfinal round since a 50-6 win over Perrydale in 2005. Wallowa had been dealt a loss in the round five times since, including three of the previous four years.

"I feel that it's a pretty big thing for us," Robb said of ending the long run.

The three-headed trio of Austin Brockamp, Gus Ramsden and Zeb Ramsden did the majority of the work on the ground, most of it in the first half. Brockamp, who finished with 153 yards, scored on runs of 26, one and 56 yards in the first quarter. Gus Ramsden, who went for 200 yards, added a 65-yard touchdown run one play after snagging an interception to give Wallowa a 32-0 lead after one.

"We've got a good football team, and we have some kids that have flat-out speed," Matt Brockamp said. "We were able to run away from them and match that physicality up front as well."



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Austin Brockamp rushed for 153 yards and three touchdowns in the Cougars' blowout win over the Devils.

Both Ramsden brothers scored in the second quarter — Zeb from 51 yards and Gus from 46 — to help lift the Cougars to a 46-14 lead at the half and offset a pair of Lowell scores. The Devils, who were limited to 286 total

yards, managed two scoring drives — one that ended in a six-yard TD reception by Brian Lemon and the other a four-yard scoring catch by Justin Corp.

"They've got a ton of
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Third time not the charm for Eastern

Observer staff

No. 10 Southern Oregon got the best of No. 12 Eastern Oregon again.

Taylor Ristvedt had 16 kills — including seven in the fourth and final set — to lead the Raiders volleyball team to their third win over EOU this season, 25-23, 21-25, 25-22, 25-20, in the championship match of the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament Saturday night in Ashland.

"It was a great match (Saturday)," EOU Head Coach Kaki McLean-Morehead said. "SOU is a great team with lots of weapons. We knew going into the game

we would have to play our best and shut down a few key players for them. We played great defensively, just unfortunately came out on the other side."

It was the first tournament title for the Raiders since 2011, and denied the Mountaineers a shot at their first title since 2016.

The final set of the back-and-forth affair swung in SOU's favor with a 7-1 run midway through the set for a 19-14 lead. Ristvedt had kills on four of the points.

EOU closed the gap to 20-18, but drew no closer.

Megan Bunn led the
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Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Madison Pilon and the Mountaineers fell in the CCC finals, but will play in the NAIA national tournament.

EOU denied CCC tourney repeat

Observer staff

Eastern Oregon's seven-game winning streak — and its bid for a second straight Cascade Collegiate Conference women's soccer tournament title — ended Saturday afternoon in Springfield.

Northwest's Sharaya Roberts scored the game's only goal in the 61st minute, and the Eagles upset the No. 20 Mountaineers, 1-0, in the CCC championship match.

"(We) battled hard (and) had a few great chances," EOU Head Coach Jacob Plocher said. "We just weren't able to convert, and Northwest got an opportunity and capitalized on it. It was a hard-fought game between two really good teams."

Eastern and Northwest played to a 1-1 tie earlier in the season, and the teams again met in a tight battle.

The matchup was as

even in the stats as on the scoreboard. Eastern took 11 shots to Northwest's 10 — both registering nine in the first half.

The Eagles' only shot of the second half came off a corner kick by Jadlyn Metz that Roberts headed home. Northwest's defense then managed to keep EOU off the scoreboard — the first time Eastern has been shut out this season. EOU did not register a shot on goal in the second half.

"They definitely went more defensive, and we just didn't pull the trigger enough," Plocher said of the second half.

Kat Sanchez had four saves for the Eagles. Cydni Cottrell had two for EOU.

The Mountaineers (15-2-2 overall) will travel to face Grace, Indiana, for the first round of the NAIA playoffs Saturday.

Mounties hold on to win home opener



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern's Madison Crews gets on the floor to save the ball to teammate Emma Logan Saturday night.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Eastern Oregon has a young and largely new group of players on its women's basketball team who are still adjusting to one another and figuring out how to play together.

Saturday, though, was a step in the right direction.

"We're finally starting to come together and realize each person's talent and strength," senior Khadija Neumeyer said.

Two newcomers — Beverly Slater and Madison Crews — scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, and the No. 7 Mountaineers earned their first win of the season, 52-49, over Whitman College in

their home opener at Quinn Coliseum.

"Whitman is a great team — great program," EOU Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh said. "They just took Central Washington (which is) Division II into overtime, and obviously we had been struggling. This is a big-time win for this young team."

The team on the court Saturday didn't include a regular starter from a year ago. Of the 15 players on the roster, nine are new to the program, and only two of the five returners who were in action Saturday saw ample playing time a year ago.

The team struggled to put away two games in California

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