



Josh Neuhart/Grace College

Eastern Oregon's Yahaira Chavarria-Mondragon (8) and Grace College's Jenni Phillips (2) both try to make a play on the ball Saturday in their first-round game in Winona Lake, Indiana. EOU won the contest, 2-1.

## Eastern places 19th at nationals

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon men's cross country team finished in 19th place at the NAIA national championships Friday morning in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Lane Inwards notched a 44th-place finish to pace EOU in a time of 25:23.

"Lane had an outstanding performance to end his college cross country career," Head Coach Ben Welch said in an EOU press release.

Inwards was one of two Mountaineers to finish inside the top 100. Dustin Zimmerly was the other, coming in 99th in a time of 25:44.

Hunter Kratz finished a second behind Zimmerly in 25:45 to take 102nd. Thomas Morrell III placed 176th in a time of 26:16, and Hunter Schiess was 263rd in a time of 26:58 to round out the top five.

The Mountaineers, as a team, scored 522 points and placed third among Cascade Collegiate Conference teams. Southern Oregon was fourth overall, while College of Idaho was seventh.

Oklahoma City won the national title, scoring 116 points. Indiana Wesleyan was second with 143.

For the women, freshman Michelle Herbes, the lone runner for Eastern, placed 165th, completing the 5K course in a time of 19:13.

"The experience has left her determined to be at next year's national meet, ready to finish higher and with her teammates," Welch said in the release.

The CCC had two women's teams in the top four, including national champion Oregon Tech and fourth-place finisher Southern Oregon.

## Bound for 'Bama

■ EOU earns first playoff victory in soccer with 2-1 win at Grace College Saturday

Observer staff

The magic continues for the Eastern Oregon women's soccer team.

This time, it's taking the program where it's never gone before.

Taylor Boyer and Kaitlyn McLeod both scored in the first half, and the Mountaineers held off a late charge to earn the first NAIA playoff victory in program history

with a 2-1 win over Grace College Saturday in the first round in Winona Lake, Indiana, to advance to the final site in Orange Beach, Alabama.

"I am so incredibly proud of how the ladies played today," Head Coach Jacob Plocher said in an EOU press release. "We are looking forward to getting to Alabama."

Boyer wasted little time giving the visiting team the early edge, scoring in the fourth minute for a quick 1-0 lead. It was the first goal ever scored by the Mountaineers in the NAIA playoffs after the team was shutout 1-0 in both previous appearances in 2015 and 2017.

The margin held until McLeod gave the Mountain-

teers a 2-0 lead at the half by putting in a shot from the right side off an Alexandria Cuaresma pass in the 38th minute.

The Lancers got on the board with eight minutes to play on a Shelby Fort penalty kick but were unable to get the equalizer.

The Mountaineers were much more efficient on

See **Nationals** / Page 8A



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Lane Inwards finished 44th individually to lead the Eastern Oregon men's cross country team to a 19th place finish at nationals Friday.

## Buckaroos down Wallowa again

Observer staff

Wallowa hung closer to St. Paul than any team had this season.

That wasn't enough to get the Cougars into the state championship game.

Buckaroos' quarterback T.J. Crawford threw for 242 yards and five touchdowns, and St. Paul used a 38-0 run to pull away for a 46-16 win over Wallowa Saturday in Hermiston to reach next Saturday's Class 1A state final against Dufur.

Wallowa quarterback Gus Ramsden threw a five-yard touchdown pass to Wyatt Prince early in the second quarter to tie the score at 8-8 before St. Paul began to take control.

A 12-yard TD run by Justin Herberger — who rushed 218 yards — and a 55-yard scoring pass from Crawford to Jaidyn Jackson made it 24-8 at halftime.

Crawford followed with three more TD passes in the second half — including two to Jackson — to make



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Zeb Ramsden, right, and the Wallowa Cougars saw their season end with a loss to St. Paul Saturday. Ramsden is shown in a Nov. 10 game against Lowell.

it 46-8 midway through the fourth quarter.

Ramsden and Prince connected on a seven-yard touchdown pass with 3:32 to play for the final margin.

Crawford was 12-for-15 passing and added 93 yards

rushing for St. Paul, which totaled 559 yards of offense.

Ramsden was 5-for-11 passing for 41 yards with the two TD passes to Prince and added 82 yards rushing on 12 carries. Austin Brockamp led the Cougars, who

had 272 total yards, with 95 yards on the ground.

The loss brings Wallowa's season to an end at 9-3, with all three setbacks coming to the teams — Dufur and St. Paul — that are meeting in the championship game.

## EOU has ups and downs on the mat

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon men's wrestling team split a pair of duals Friday night at Quinn Coliseum, topping Umpqua Community College, 38-18, before later dropping its contest against Southern Oregon, 25-17.

The Mountaineers dropped just two contested matches in cruising to the victory over UCC. First-round wins by fall by Mhar Caballa (125 pounds) and Tyler Miller (141), and a 21-6 technical fall by Ryan Ninman (133) over Nathan Kiddoo helped EOU open with a 17-0 lead. Eastern later added four wins in a row — three by fall — to build an insurmountable lead. Keegan Mulhill (157), John Leal (165) and Drake Randall (174) all earned pins, and Marco Retano (184) scored a 3-1 sudden victory over Josh Hammers.

EOU earned four victories against the Raiders in Friday night's finale, but it wasn't

enough to secure a dual win.

Caballa gained an early win by fall at 125, and Miller eked out a 7-6 decision over Justin Acuff at 141 for a 9-3 lead. After two SOU wins, Leal notched an 8-5 decision over Micah Arakawa at 165, and Drake Randall pinned Elijah Epling at 174 for an 18-12 lead. But the Raiders won the final three matches. The scores brought the totals to 28-18, but four unsportsmanlike conduct calls — including three on SOU — deducted points to reach the final margin.

Sunday, Randall went 5-0 at 165 to win his weight class as the Mountaineers earned a sixth-place finish as a team at the Spokane Open.

Randall won two matches by fall, then in the quarterfinals defeated MSU-Northern's Andrew Bartel — the nation's top-ranked NAIA wrestler at the weight class — by 3-1 sudden victory. He coasted to the title, finishing with a 12-2

See **EOU** / Page 8A

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