

EOU men drop two on Arizona trip

Observer staff

Another rough weekend has the Eastern Oregon men's basketball team on a six-game losing streak headed into its final non-conference games before Cascade Collegiate Conference play starts.

Friday, the Mountaineers fell to Benedictine Mesa in Mesa, Arizona, 92-79, and Saturday EOU lost to Arizona Christian, 106-92, in Phoenix.

Eastern found itself in a 18-point hole at halftime against Benedictine Mesa and was unable to dig its way out. Jordan May hit a jumper to cut the 52-34 halftime margin to 59-49 early in the second half, but the gap swelled back to as much as 21 down the stretch.

May led EOU with 33 points on 11-for-25 shooting and hit five 3-pointers. Peter Hamilton and Jarek Schetzle both added 12 points. Eastern, though, was outrebounded 46-24 in the contest, and Benedictine Mesa shot 23

more free throws than EOU, making 34-of-39 to Eastern's 12-of-16.

Saturday, the Mountaineers went into the half with the lead but were unable to keep the Firestorm at bay as Arizona Christian scored 61 points in the second half.

Eastern was up 48-45 at the half, and the teams were tied at 70-70 with just over 10 minutes to play before hot-shooting ACU pulled ahead for good.

May again led EOU, this time with 26 points. Landon Jones had 16 points and eight rebounds, and both Kobi Gardea and Joel Anderson reached double figures with 15 and 13 points, respectively. Anderson added six assists. EOU again, though, was hurt on the glass and at the line, getting outrebounded 49-34 while ACU also shot 51 free throws, making 38 of them. EOU was 12-for-16 at the stripe.

Eastern (2-6 overall) faces Montana Western Friday in Caldwell, Idaho.

EOU

Continued from Page 7A major decision over Clackamas' Israel Casarez.

Blake McNall (133) took third place at his weight class for the Mountaineers. He went 4-1, losing only to Clackamas' Jason Shaner by 4-2 decision in the semifinals. He took third by rule over Warner Pacific's Lucas Higginbotham due to an earlier 11-8 decision over the Knights' wrestler.

Mulhill also placed for Eastern, taking fifth at 157. Mulhill went 4-2, reaching the consolation semifinals and taking the fifth-place match by forfeit over North Idaho's Cooper McCullough.

Also posting winning records for Eastern were Caballa (4-2 at 125), Jared Brant (4-2 at 149), Retano (4-2 at 184), Jacob Dupuis (3-2 at 165) and Justin Wilson (3-2 at 285).

WOMEN

The Eastern Oregon women's wrestling team had a tough go Friday night at Quinn Coliseum, falling to Umpqua Community College, 33-16, and later to Southern Oregon, 42-0.

Only four matches were contested against UCC, with EOU's lone win coming from Madisen Bozovich, who

secured a win by fall over Sienna Lejeune in just 41 seconds at 191 pounds. EOU also had two wins by forfeit.

Eastern went 0-6 on the mat against Southern, with three of the losses coming by pin and three coming by technical fall.

EOU's fortunes were much better Sunday, though, as the Mountaineers placed fifth at the Spokane Open.

Alexis Cavero led the way for Eastern, taking third at 170 pounds. Cavero shook off an early loss to win her final five matches, including a 10-0 technical fall over Pacific Lutheran's Kathleen Flanagan in the consolation semifinals, and a win by fall over Simon Fraser's Augustina Ijoma in the third-place match.

Dempsie Talkington went 2-2 to take fourth place at 143, earning a win by fall over Southwest Oregon Community College's Alyna Swilley and a 10-2 decision over unattached wrestler Melissa Jacobs in the consolation semifinals.

Cassidy Freeman took sixth at 116, including a win over Providence's Angelica Sletten by decision, 12-4.

Both EOU wrestling teams are off until Nov. 30 when they travel to Great Falls, Montana, for the Providence Duals.



Josh Neuhart/Grace College

EOU's Taylor Boyer, left, scored the game's first goal in the fourth minute to set the tone early in Saturday's win.

NATIONALS

Continued from Page 7A offense, netting their two goals despite getting just seven shots. Grace, meanwhile, put 21 shots up and 10 on goal. Eastern Oregon keeper Cydni Cottrell recorded nine saves.

The win moves EOU (16-2-

2 overall) within one victory of its single-season record of 17 wins.

The Mountaineers next face No. 2 William Carey, Mississippi, on Nov. 27 in a round-of-16 contest. The Crusaders opened the playoffs with a 6-2 home win over Missouri Baptist.



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