



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

La Grande's Alaina Carson was selected as the Greater Oregon League player of the year for the second time.

## La Grande lands seven on all-GOL

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Another year of dominating the Greater Oregon League led to another year of dominating the postseason awards for the La Grande girls soccer team.

Led by league player of the year Alaina Carson, the Tigers landed six players on the all-GOL first team, had seven players recognized in total and capped the awards with Head Coach Kristen Rice earning league coach of the year for the third season in a row. The awards were selected at the end of the regular season.

"Every one of the girls on our team deserved first team," Carson said. "We definitely deserved a lot of the girls getting all-league achievements. I think they're amazing."

It's the second time Carson has been selected as the GOL's top player after also garnering the distinction in 2016. In league play, the senior put in eight goals — second on the team in GOL action — and assisted on two more.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to play soccer with my team, thankful for being voted in from the coaches," Carson said. "It's really nice of them to think of me (and) notice me when I'm playing."

She was joined on the first team by five senior teammates — Kara Gooderham, Katie Perry, Lexee Gomes, Caiya Chandler and goalkeeper Faith Akers. Gooderham (three goals, four assists), Perry (three goals, three assists) and Gomes (two goals, four assists) all had big roles on offense. Chandler, a defender,

helped lock down the defense in front of Akers, who recorded 36 saves. La Grande outscored its league opponents 29-1 and had five shutouts.

Junior Lara Insko was named honorable mention as an additional key on the defense.

"It was great to have so many get first team this year," Rice said. "That group really worked hard to earn these honors. Even honorable mention for Lara was a good honor for her work."

The group played a crucial role in helping La Grande to a second straight undefeated season in GOL action and as part of one of the deepest playoff runs in program history. La Grande finished 14-1, reaching the state semifinals for the first time since 2013.

## Powder Valley leads all-OOL

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The Powder Valley Badgers volleyball team put together one of its best seasons ever by going 33-1 and reaching the Class 1A state championship match.

That season also included a perfect run through the Old Oregon League followed by five Badgers earning all-league honors, including senior Megan Bingham as the OOL player of the year.

"I was really honored to receive the award, but I also felt like I couldn't have done anything without the team," Bingham said. "The only way I was able to stand out was because the rest of my team helped."

Bingham was joined on the first team by sophomore Brooke Allen, while sophomore Bailey Cole was a second-team all-league selection. Sophomore Belle Blair and junior Josi Kreiger rounded out the awards for the Badgers as honorable mention.

"All 12 (of our players) are all-stars in our minds," said Head Coach Marji Lind, who was also named coach of the year. "Those who were recognized are very deserving of the awards. They are exemplary young women on and off the court. They represent our program, their school and their community well."

Bingham called Lind an "amazing coach."

"She is super intense and really detail-oriented. She brought a lot of tendencies to our team and got along with the girls well," Bingham said.

The Joseph Eagles, which posted a 24-10 overall record and made a return trip to the state tournament, was also well represented with four players garnering all-league honors.

Senior Emma Hite and sophomore Sabrina Albee were selected to the OOL first team. Junior Camille Crenshaw was selected to the second team, and Madelyn Nelson, another junior, was honorable mention.

The Wallowa Cougars, which went 13-14 overall and made the state playoffs for the first time in five years, also saw four players named all league. Sophomore Shanna Rae Tillery was a second-team selection, and three players — seniors Riley Goller and Riley Ferré and junior Ashlyn Young — were honorable mention.

The Imbler Panthers, which just missed out on a state berth



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Powder Valley's Megan Bingham, right, was named OOL player of the year.



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Imbler's Caysie McGinness was a first-team all-Old Oregon League selection.

after falling to Wallowa at the OOL tournament, saw three players recognized, including two on the first team. Seniors Caysie McGinness and Karrington Troyer were both first-team selections, and senior Gracey Smith was named honorable mention. Imbler finished at 12-12 overall.

"All three played critical roles on our team this season and have been a huge part of our program's success over the past four years," Imbler Head Coach Jennifer Teeter said. "They also added invaluable leadership and were outstanding teammates."

Cove Leopards senior Allie Best and sophomore Raegan Doby were both second-team

selections for the 10-13 Leopards, and sophomore Kaelin Evans of the Elgin Huskies, which went 6-14, was honorable mention to round out the local honorees.

### BMC AWARDS

Three members of the Union volleyball team garnered all-league recognition after helping the young Bobcats — who did not have any seniors on their team — to a fourth-place finish in the rugged Blue Mountain Conference and a state playoff berth.

Setter Callie Glenn and outside hitter Kaylin Nowak — both freshmen — were selected to the BMC's second team, and junior outside hitter Autumn Daggett was named

honorable mention. Union went 13-11 on the season, which ended with a first-round loss to Central Linn.

"Union had an exceptional 2018 volleyball season considering we incurred several potential barriers this season, including (having) an only-10-member combined Varsity and JV team. Having no senior athletes (caused a) lack of experience and leadership, and (there were) a few injuries sprinkled along the route," Bobcats' Head Coach Lasa Baxter said.

The Enterprise Outlaws had one player gain recognition, with Shelby Moncrief earning honorable mention. The Outlaws finished 6-15 on the season.

### LOCAL SCHEDULE

#### Friday WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Eastern Oregon at Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas, 3:30 p.m.

#### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Eastern Oregon vs. Montana Western, Caldwell, Idaho, 4 p.m.

#### Saturday WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Eastern Oregon at Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas, noon

#### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

• Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Indian College, Caldwell, Idaho, 4 p.m.

— Subject to change

## Five Mounties make first-team



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Eastern kicker Nathan Harden was among five EOU players named first-team all-Frontier Conference.

Observer staff

Ten members of the Eastern Oregon football team — five on the first team and five on the second team — received all-Frontier Conference recognition, which was announced Wednesday.

Two members of the Mountaineers offense were first-team selections: wide receiver Brenden Kelly, who had 1,219 yards on 53 catches and hauled in seven touchdowns; and offensive lineman Mick Wilson, a mainstay who helped pave the way for the offense to accumulate 430 yards per game.

Two players on the EOU defense were also first-team selections: defensive back Justin Hughes, who led the team with 84 tackles and was second with four interceptions; and defensive lineman Sage Delong, who was fourth on the Mountaineers with 57 tackles and led the squad with 13 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks.

Kicker Nathan Harden was also a first-team selection on special teams. The senior connected on 15-of-22 field goals with a long of 49 yards. He also booted 63 punts at an average of 40.3 yards per kick, and had eight that sailed at least 50 yards, including one launched 79 yards.

Joining the group on the second team were two offensive players: running back Victor Dias, who totaled 688 yards rushing and nine touchdowns, and center Colten Aleferas.

Three defensive players — including two former La Grande Tigers — made the second team defense. Chase Van Wyck recorded 49 tackles, including 10 for loss, and had 7.5 sacks on the defensive line. Linebacker Isaiah Cranford tallied 75 tackles, 11 for loss, and eight sacks, and Zack Jacobs led the team with seven interceptions, and added 53 tackles.

EOU finished in a four-way tie for second place in the Frontier at 6-4.

## EOU gets win No. 2

Observer staff

Maren Herrud scored 18 points to lead 10 players in scoring as the Eastern Oregon women's basketball team picked up its second win of the season, 82-62, over Wiley College Wednesday in Marshall, Texas.

Julia Hanni added 14 points and Jane Nelson scored 10 for the Mountain-

eers, who had their highest scoring game of the season. EOU hit seven 3-pointers, outrebounded Wiley 54-31 and had assists on 26 of 35 made field goals. Beverly Slater had 12 rebounds, and Madison Crews added five assists. The Mountaineers (2-2 overall) face Paul Quinn College Friday and Saturday in Dallas.



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