

## Ducks roll over OSU in 122nd Civil War

By Anne M. Peterson  
The Associated Press

Oregon coach Mario Cristobal says redshirt freshman running back CJ Verdell is just "scratching the surface" for what he can become. Verdell ran for 187 yards

and four touchdowns, and also caught a scoring pass as Oregon defeated Oregon State 55-15 Friday in a Civil War victory that was marred by quarterback Justin Herbert's first-half injury. Herbert threw for 102

yards and a touchdown before he appeared to injure his shoulder or upper arm on a sack and left the field on a cart. The Ducks (8-4, 5-4 Pac-12) now await bowl selection having already been eliminated from contention

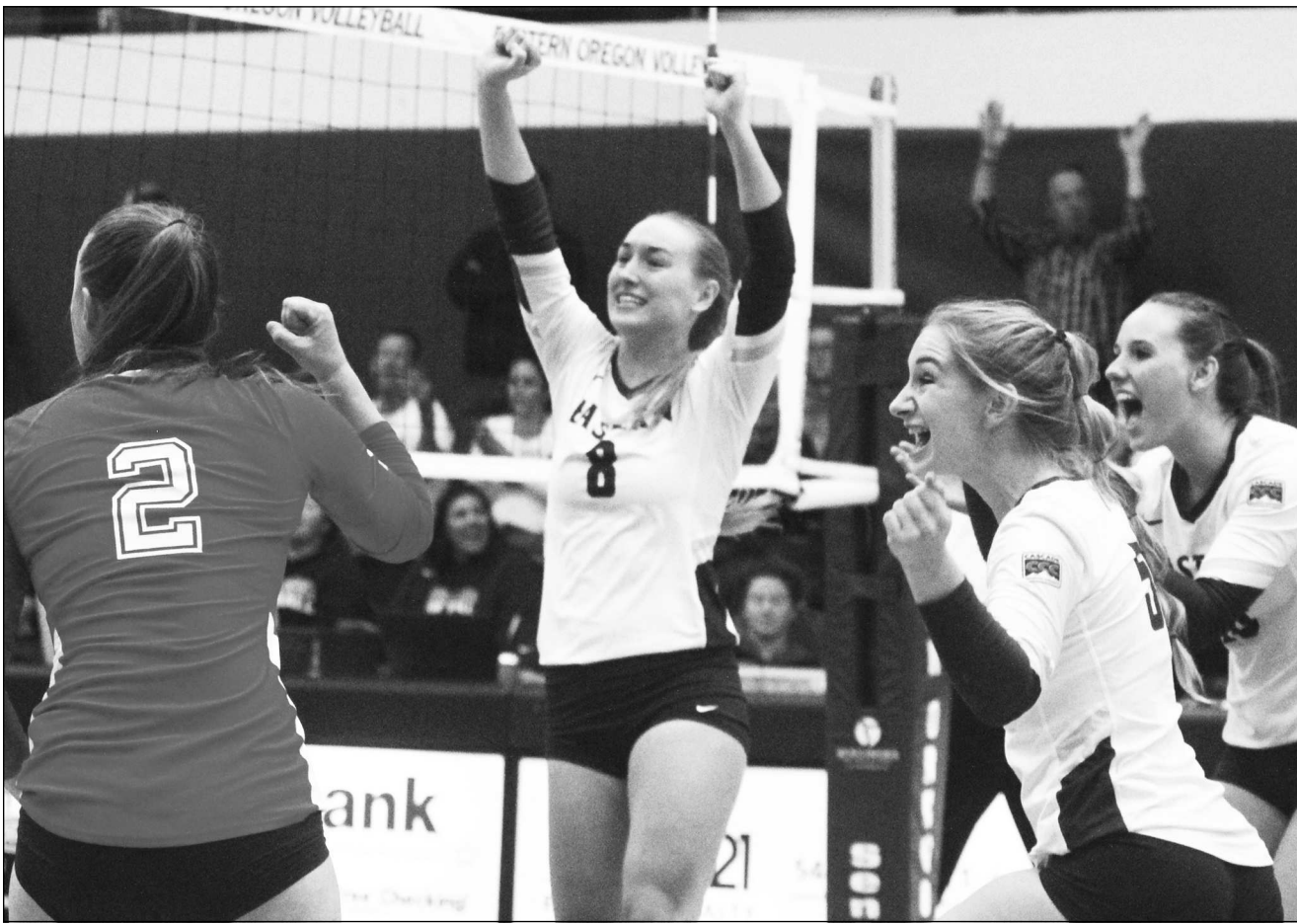
for a berth in the conference championship game. Verdell's five touchdowns were the most for a Duck since 2012. Travis Dye ran for 199 yards and two additional touchdowns for Oregon. See Ducks / Page 8A

## Mounties ready for 'business trip' to Alabama

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's soccer team is in uncharted waters. But Head Coach Jacob Plocher is conveying a familiar message as the No. 20 Mountaineers gear up for their first-ever contest at the final site of the NIAA national championships. "We're in Alabama, on the beach, but at the same time what we preach is it's another business trip," the second-year coach said. "We want to take it in, but we're here with the goal and intent of wanting to stay as long as we can." EOU will play its first round-of-16 contest Tuesday morning in Orange Beach, Alabama, when it squares off against No. 2 William Carey, out of Mississippi. The Crusaders, who enter with a record of 17-3 and opened the playoffs with a

6-2 win over Missouri Baptist, have one of the nation's most prolific offenses, averaging 4.26 goals per game. They have yet to be shut out this season, and they have four players who have scored at least 10 goals on the season, led by Ana Paula Santos who had netted 19 goals. "They are a very good and dangerous team," Plocher said. "They have a lot of international presence on the team. One of their girls up top and (one) in the midfield are dangerous players. But we believe we have one of the best back lines in the nation. We don't think they've gone up against players like our back line, and we think with our speed we should be able to get some opportunities." Eastern (16-2-2 overall) does enter with one of the top defenses in the nation, tallying 11 shutouts and surrendering just 15 goals on See Soccer / Page 8A



Members of the Eastern Oregon volleyball team celebrate after scoring a point in a match against College of Idaho earlier this month. The Mountaineers begin action at the NIAA national championships Tuesday.

Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

## EOU ready for challenge

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon volleyball team has advanced through pool play at the NIAA national championships three out of the last four years. Doing so for a fourth time will require the No. 11 Mountaineers to work their way through one of the tougher pools in the tournament, one that includes the defending national champion. "Like our conference schedule has shown, there is no easy game, and that's how it should be at nationals," EOU Head Coach Kaki McLean-Morehead said. The slate for EOU at nationals, which begins on Tuesday morning in Sioux City, Iowa, includes a pair of 31-win teams in the Central Methodist Eagles — from Fayette, Missouri

— and the Oklahoma City Stars. The Mountaineers wrap pool play against the Lindsey Wilson Blue Raiders, the defending national champions and the team that eliminated the Mountaineers in the round of 16 a year ago. "The teams in our pool are going to be tough," EOU sophomore setter Madison Pilon said. "We are at nationals, and nothing is going to be easy. We won't get another night off." EOU did take a set from the Blue Raiders in the 2017 tournament — one of only four teams all season to do so. McLean-Morehead said part of what makes Lindsey Wilson a tough challenge is the amount of international talent the program recruits. "I think they're a good team. I think we will match up a little better with them this year than in years past mainly because our defense is better,"

she said. The Blue Raiders, who are 29-3, graduated defending player of the year in setter Makenzie Montano, giving them a different look from a year ago. EOU, of course, has only a handful of players back from the team that went to nationals a year ago. Pilon, who is one of those returners for EOU, is looking forward to the prospect of facing LW again. "I'm excited to get another shot at Lindsey Wilson," she said. "We are both very different teams from last year." Before that contest, which will be Thursday, EOU needs to start the pool off on the right foot against Central Methodist. In regular season play, EOU won over Montana Tech, which defeated the Eagles — but McLean-Morehead See Volleyball / Page 8A



Sarah Mitchell and the Eastern Oregon women's soccer team faces William Carey Tuesday morning.

Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

## Eastern men, women win final tuneups before opening CCC

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon men's basketball team ended its six-game losing streak and built some momentum headed into Cascade Collegiate Conference play. The Mountaineers won both of their games at the Taco Bell Shootout in Caldwell, Idaho, over the weekend, edging Montana Western Friday, 71-67, and doubling up Northwest Indian Saturday, 122-61. **FRIDAY** Jordan May scored 25 points off the bench to lead the Mountaineers

as they won a back-and-forth affair over Montana Western that saw 13 ties and 15 lead changes. Jarek Schetzle added 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Joel Anderson scored 14 points and dished out four assists. Anderson hit two free throws to give EOU the lead for good, 60-59, with 4:07 to play, and May followed with a 3-pointer and a 3-point play to help push the lead to seven with just 2:20 left. UMW's Cedric Boone missed a layup with 15 seconds left that would have tied the score, and EOU finished the win at the free-throw line.

**SATURDAY** May scored 21 points, Peter Eke came off the bench to score 20 points, and all 14 players who saw the court scored in the Mountaineers' blowout win over Northwest Indian. EOU never trailed, building a 58-35 lead by halftime and then hanging up 64 points in the second half. Eastern shot 57 percent overall and was 17-for-31 from the 3-point line. The Mountaineers also had a sizeable 56-23 rebounding advantage. Linton McAllister and Schetzle both reached double figures with 13

and 11 points, respectively. Anderson added 10 assists. Eastern (4-6 overall) opens CCC play at home Friday against Southern Oregon. **Women** The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team finished its Texas road trip undefeated, topping Paul Quinn College on both Friday and Saturday in Dallas, 78-66 and 57-55. The wins send EOU into Cascade Collegiate Conference play on a four-game winning streak. **FRIDAY** Madison Crews led four players

in double figures with 23 points, and the Mountaineers used a high-scoring third quarter to give themselves an edge as they ultimately pulled away for the win. Andi Warn and Julia Hanni both added 11 points, and Khadija Neumeyer had 10 points and a game-high eight rebounds. EOU held a slim 32-31 lead at halftime, but netted 26 points in the third quarter to push the advantage to 58-51 after three. The Mountaineers limited Paul Quinn to just 1-for-9 from 3-point range See Hoops / Page 8A

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