

EOU gets out of pool play

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

For the third year in a row, and the fourth time in five years, the Eastern Oregon University volleyball team made it out of pool play at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national tournament.

The No. 11 Mountaineers qualified for bracket play with a four-set win over Oklahoma City Wednesday morning.

EOU, though, lost to sixth-ranked and defending champion Lindsey Wilson in straight sets Thursday, giving Eastern the second seed out of its pool with a 2-1 record. Lindsey Wilson went 3-0 in the pool to claim the top spot.

Eastern also reached the final 16 in 2014, 2016 and 2017, and in two of those years (2014, 2016) it reached the national quarterfinals.

On Wednesday the Mountaineers shook off a bad opening set that saw them commit 11 attack errors to ultimately defeat Oklahoma City in four sets, 19-25, 25-17, 25-21, 25-20.

"We played more consistently (than Tuesday) and made less errors overall, which helped," Eastern Head Coach Kaci McLean-Morehead said of the team's play against the Stars.

Megan Bunn and Hailee Ackerman led the offensive attack with 17 and 12 kills, respectively.

"Both Megan and Hailee played much better today," the coach said following Wednesday's match. "Our offense was in tempo a lot better, which made a huge difference for them."

Kaci Cox came off the bench to put down eight kills, and Cambree Scott and Allyson Crisp both had six



Lindsey Wilson College Athletics

Megan Bunn had 37 kills to help lead EOU through pool play.

kills. Cox, a freshman who had just one kill against Central Methodist Wednesday and has seen limited action the last two months, turned in her best individual performance since August.

"I needed someone to go in and put the ball in play effectively, and I knew Kaci would do that," McLean-Morehead said.

Crisp also had six block assists, and both Taylor Tibbetts and Bunn had four block assists. Kiley McMurtrey recorded 26 digs, Aspen Christiansen had 12 digs, and both Sarah Carpenter (28 assists, 11 digs) and Madison Pilon (18 assists, 13 digs) had double-doubles.

After the rough start, EOU pulled even by winning the second set, taking the lead in it for good with an

8-1 run to go up 11-6 on consecutive kills by Bunn. The second-set lead reached as much as nine at 23-14 on a kill by Cox.

The Mountaineers trailed much of the third set, including late at 19-16, before ending the set on a 9-2 run. A kill by Tibbetts and two OCU errors gave Eastern the lead. Bunn followed with three kills before another OCU error gave EOU the set.

The Stars briefly took a 12-11 lead in the fourth on a Lacy Beeler kill before EOU scored seven of the next nine points to go up 18-14 on another Bunn kill. Two straight kills by Ackerman kept the Stars at bay after they closed to within two points, and two errors by OCU gave the Mountaineers the match.

See Eastern / Page 8A

Reed leads way as POY

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The La Grande High School football team won the Greater Oregon League title and made a second-straight run to the Class 4A quarterfinals this fall.

The Tigers were also well represented in the all-GOL awards following the regular season, garnering 10 all-league selections on both offense and defense, highlighted by Nathan Reed earning both offensive and defensive player of the year.

"The other coaches as we sat down to vote were pretty adamant — they felt like Nathan deserved that award," LHS Head Coach Rich McIlmoil said. "A lot of things come down to a little bit of a battle, but that was pretty unanimous. He was hard to stop on offense, and defensively he was stopping everyone."

Reed was one of three players named to the GOL's first-team of offense. The junior running back led the Tigers in league play with 897 yards

rushing on 129 carries and seven rushing touchdowns. He added 100 yards receiving with a score.

Blaine Shaw was a first-team receiver after hauling in 14 passes for 259 yards and seven scores, and Grayson Livingston was a first-team offensive lineman.

The Tigers raked in a bounty of second-team players in quarterback Parker Robinson (40-for-76 passing, 522 yards, 13 touchdowns, two interceptions, 315 rushing yards, five rushing scores), wide receivers Zach Wiggins (seven catches, 67 yards, two touchdowns) and Isaac Zamora (6 catches, 76 yards, one touchdown), offensive linemen Spencer Gerst and Lincoln Clark, and center Wes Howard.

McIlmoil said he had hoped to land more players on the first team, including Robinson and several more of the offensive linemen, but added, "For the most, part I was pleased with where our team was."

See Tigers / Page 8A



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

La Grande running back and linebacker Nathan Reed, center, was selected as the GOL's offensive and defensive player of the year.



TREASURE VALLEY STEEL, INC.

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING

All Panels Manufactured In-House
Custom Cut Exact Lengths - 3 ft. to 45 ft.

- 1 ft. Standing Seam
- 3 ft. Pro Panel
- 2' 2 1/2" Corrugated
- 24 Colors
- 2 ft. Delta Rib
- 3 ft. Tuff Rib Panel
- 2 ft. Core-Ten
- Custom Trim
- 3 ft. PBR Panel
- 3 ft. Gulf Coast Panel
- 3 ft. APEX
- 28 Ga & 26 Ga



Quality Steel Roofing & Siding Products Since 1982



40 Year Paint Warranty • WeatherX Paint System



ONTARIO • (541) 889-4214
1460 N. Verde Dr.
Toll Free 1-866-887-8335
Fax (541) 889-3611

BOISE • (208) 336-7505
6619 S. Supply Way
Toll Free 1-888-717-8335
Fax (208) 336-7509



www.treasurevalleysteel.com

