

EOU shines at Coach Mike Tournament

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team did what one would expect in a tournament honoring its late assistant coach.

Jane Nelson scored 17 points to lead three players in double figures, and the No. 17 Mountaineers led wire-to-wire for an 84-57 win over Lewis and Clark College Sunday in the first Coach Mike Memorial Tournament.

"It was a great weekend," Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh said of the tournament commemorating her father and longtime assistant coach, who died in 2016. "It was incredible to see the alums come back and be a part of it. It was fitting. It was nice to see them and share this moment with them."

EOU had little issue against the Pioneers. The Mountaineers built a 10-point lead midway

through the first quarter, extended it to 42-28 by halftime and led by 20 points or more most of the second half.

"We played a very team-oriented ball game tonight," said Andi Warn, one of only four players on the current roster who knew Mike Weissenfluh. "We came out with a lot more intensity, a lot more energy, and we limited our turnovers a lot more. It was a fun night."

Warn called getting to play

in the tournament "really awesome," adding, "I was only with Coach Mike about a year, but I feel like we had a special connection," due to both her and Weissenfluh being from small towns — she from Jordan Valley and the coach from North Lake.

Nelson, a junior college transfer who didn't get to meet Coach Mike, said in the short time she has been in the program she has learned

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Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon's Jane Nelson scored 17 points to lead the Mountaineers to an 84-57 win Sunday.

Bobcats win Lions tourney

Observer staff

The Union Bobcats girls basketball team moved to 3-0 on the season by winning the annual Union Lions Tournament over the weekend, topping the La Grande JV Friday, 41-34, and defeating Cove on Saturday, 47-34.

Callie Glenn scored 12 points — including 10 in the first half — of the Bobcats' win in their opener Friday against the Tigers. Brianna Kohr added six points for Union, which built as much as a 17-point lead in the first half. The La Grande JV closed to within five points late, but Union held on.

On Saturday, Union took control of the game with a 15-2 second quarter to take a 22-13 halftime lead on its way to a third straight win to start the season.

Abriel O'Reilly had nine points to lead a balanced attack for the Bobcats, and Glenn scored eight points. Autumn Daggett added seven, and seven players scored at least five points.

Cove, which lost for the first time this season, was led by eight points from Ella Hines-Dunlap. Kierra Moore added seven points, and both Sophie Pettit and Rebekah Farrell had six.

Cove moved into the tournament title game by winning a close contest against the Baker JV Friday, 48-41.

The teams were tied at 35-35 in the fourth before Pettit, who had seven points, converted a 3-point play to start a run and help Cove retake the lead for good. She scored seven of her eight points in the fourth quarter. Austin Kendall led Cove with 13 points.

Union (3-0 overall) hosts Enterprise Tuesday, while Cove (3-1) hosts Wallowa Thursday.

ENTERPRISE GOES 2-0, ELGIN 0-2 AT WINTER CLASSIC

The Enterprise Outlaws
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Tigers roll in Muilenburg

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

A year ago, the La Grande Tigers were sweating entering the finals of the Muilenburg Invitational, part of a close race for the team title.

No worries this year.

Boosted by four champions, two runner-ups and a slew of placers, the Tigers cruised to the team title in their home tournament Friday and Saturday at La Grande High School.

"We did great," Nathan Reed, one of the Tigers' champions, said. "We were able to win it as a team again, and I'm super excited."

La Grande scored 376.5 points, well ahead of runner-up Weiser, Idaho, which had 242, while Pendleton, which took third, scored 224.

Reed capped off the dominant run for La Grande with the Tigers' third-straight win — and fourth of the finals — a close 5-2 decision over Hon Rushton of Baker at 182 pounds. Reed had a 3-0 lead entering the final round before he gave up a two-point reversal, but he was able to hold off an arm bar for much of the round before a late reversal secured the win.

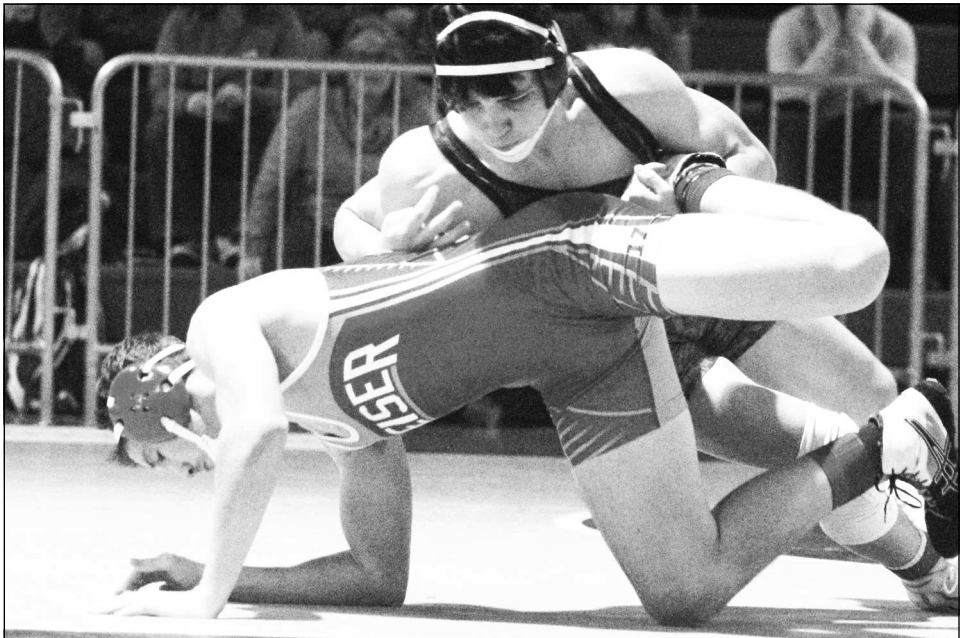
"I've been wanting to win (the tournament) since I was a little kid," said Reed, who reached the finals a year ago.

His win followed back-to-back first-round pins by Parker Robinson (160 pounds) and Grayson Livingston (170).

For Robinson, it was a second consecutive championship at the Muilenburg, but one that came a lot easier than in 2017 when he needed a late takedown for the decision. This year, it took him just 1:51 to pin Trae Gluch of Weiser.

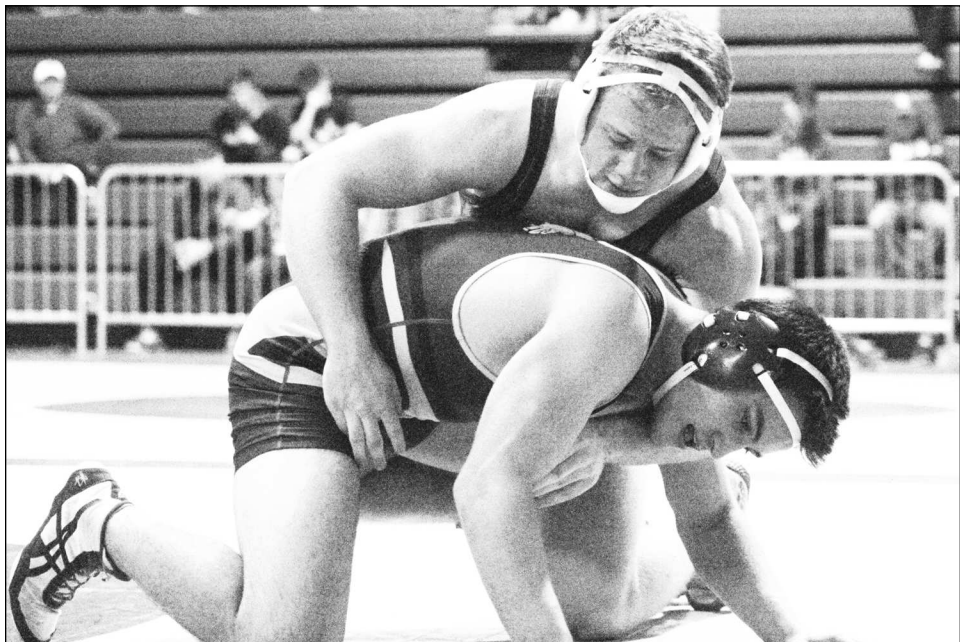
Robinson credited his coaches for helping him elevate his performance on the mat.

"They were able to get me to that next level and not wrestle down to the wire," said Robinson, who had



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Parker Robinson, top, defeated Weiser's Trae Gluch by a first-round pin at 160 pounds to win a second consecutive Muilenburg title.



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Nathan Reed, top, outlasted Baker's Hon Rushton in a 5-2 decision to win the tournament championship at 182 pounds.

four pins and a technical fall on his way to the top.

Livingston followed Robinson's win with a 97-second pin over Pendleton's Ian Bannister in the shortest match of the finals. It was the first title for the senior, who said knee injuries had prevented him from competing in the tournament in previous years.

"In past years, (watching) kids in the finals who I had wrestled before and maybe beaten (while) sitting on the sides really lit a fire in me," Livingston said, adding that he promised himself he'd do his best when he got the chance to wrestle in the Muilenburg tournament.

Ezra McIntosh (120) had earlier claimed the Tigers' first championship in the finals, coming away with a 15-7 major decision over Burns' Kevin Peasley. McIntosh actually trailed 6-5 after the first round, but he scored a second-round reversal for two points and the lead, then dominated in the third.

"Being here at home, it's awesome. You have the crowd," he said. "Even with the scrambles I was in, I felt comfortable, and I liked it. It just gets the crowd really amped up. That's the best part about being at home."

La Grande had two run-

ners-up in addition to the four champions. The most thrilling match of the finals came at 126 pounds between Braden Carson and Weiser's Kooper vonBrethorst. Carson led 3-1 entering the third round before vonBrethorst tied the score with a two-point reversal. Carson took the lead with a one-point escape, but the Weiser wrestler regained the lead and seemed set for the win with a two-point takedown with just 10 seconds left. A stalling call on vonBrethorst gave Carson a point to send the match to overtime, where vonBrethorst scored a takedown for

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LHS gets first victory of season

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers boys basketball team earned its first victory of the season Saturday, as Braden Bell scored a game-high 18 points to lead the Tigers to a 60-45 win over The Dalles in their final game at the White Buffalo Classic in Madras.

Hunter Youngblood added 13 points and Nick Tsiatsos scored 11 for La Grande, which poured in 37 points in the first half to take a double-digit lead, 37-23. The Tigers never relinquished the advantage.

Friday, the Tigers were hurt by a big third quarter by Hood River Valley in a 61-56 loss to the Eagles in Madras.

HRV got hot in the third, turning a 34-28 deficit into a 48-44 lead as it held on for the win.

Kaden Chandler led three La Grande players in double figures with 20 points. Tsiatsos added 13 points, and Justin Jenner put in 10 points.

The Tigers (1-2 overall) travel to Nyssa Tuesday.

HUSKIES IMPROVE TO 4-0

The Elgin Huskies boys basketball team improved to 4-0 as it won both its games at the Enterprise Winter Classic, defeating the Pilot Rock Rockets Friday, 67-56, and the host Outlaws Saturday, 60-50.

In Friday's game, Kaden McClure scored 19 points to lead the Huskies. Cody Harvey added 17 points, and Gage McKay had nine. Elgin went into the fourth holding a slim 43-41 lead, but had 24 points in the finals period to pull away for the win.

Saturday, Jordan Palmer led the way for the Huskies with 14 points as they secured a victory over the Outlaws.

Elgin trailed 31-28 at the half, but pulled ahead with a 13-5 run in the third quarter, then scored 19 points in the fourth to hold on for the win.

Ian Adams added 11 points, while Ian Smith scored nine. Devin Greer scored 23

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