

Kelly, Wilson named all-Americans

Observer staff

Two members of the Eastern Oregon football team added one more feather in the cap for their collegiate careers.

Senior wide receiver Brenden Kelly and senior offensive lineman Mick Wilson were both named National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics all-Americans Tuesday — Kelly a first-team all-American, and Wilson a second-team.

“(I’m) very proud of these two young men,” Eastern Oregon Head Coach Tim Camp said. “(They’ve been a) huge part on and off the field as to why we have had success here at Eastern. (It’s) going to be hard to replace these two young men.”

Kelly concluded his career with arguably the best season ever by a wide receiver at EOU. Kelly finished with a program record 1,219 yards on the season, and had the top two single-game marks in the program with games of 281 and 265 yards on the season. It finished a career where he claimed the program record in yards, posting a total of 3,046 yards.

Kelly said reaching the marks were goals he had in mind entering the season, but also said he played with a team-first mentality.

“I set personal goals for myself for the season and each game, but at the same time I’m a team player, so the team goals (like winning games and reaching the playoffs) come before mine. If I have to do something else that would harm my stats that would help the team, I’m willing to do that. I knew

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Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Eastern Oregon wide receiver Brenden Kelly, shown making a catch earlier this season against Southern Oregon, was an NAIA first-team all-American.



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Eastern Oregon offensive lineman Mick Wilson, left, shown earlier this season against Montana Western, was an NAIA second-team all-American.

Big fourth lifts Rockets to key win over Blazers

The Associated Press

The Houston Rockets’ bench came to the rescue twice Tuesday night, and the second time made the difference.

James Harden had 29 points and seven Rockets scored in double-figures as Houston used a big second-half run and snapped a three-game losing streak with a 111-104 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Chris Paul added a triple-double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Clint Capela had 13 points and seven rebounds before fouling out with five minutes left, and Eric Gordon, who started in place of James Ennis, had 14 points for the Rockets, who shot 49 percent from the field.

“We did a good job of just competing, playing harder,” Harden said. “That was really it - playing harder and got into them. We were a little more aggressive. Good things seem to happen when you play harder.”

Houston’s bench played a key role in a 24-6 first-half run that erased a 15-point deficit, and then led a charge in the second half. Gerald Green had 13 points, and Danuel House had 12 off the bench.

“They won the game for us,” Houston coach Mike D’Antoni said of the bench. “They turned it around when we were down 15,

and they came in, and Nene, Danuel House and Gerald put a lot of energy.”

Damian Lillard had 34 points, C.J. McCollum scored 22 points and Jusuf Nurkic added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Portland, which shot 44 percent after starting the game by making seven of its first nine shots.

“I thought Houston played pretty aggressive defense on us,” Portland coach Terry Stotts said. “We took some possessions for granted and some turnovers led to their transition. Obviously, their bench came in and had an impact on the game. They just outplayed us in the second half”

Houston used a 25-5 run to end the third and start the fourth quarters, and opened a 100-83 lead on 3-pointer by Harden with 6:48 left. House and Green each had five points in the run.

“I think you could really tell the difference (in) the second half,” Green said. “I thought that we didn’t give up a lot of offensive rebounds that was really killing us in the first half. Our pace was really good tonight. I feel like we were playing faster. We were getting out in transition a lot more than we did in the last few games. I think it was something we can

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La Grande girls see rally in home opener fall just short

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers girls basketball team nearly recovered from a scoreless first quarter to steal a win from the Nyssa Bulldogs, but the rally came up just short in a 42-41 home loss Tuesday.

La Grande trailed 15-0 after one quarter, but rebounded to score 19 in the second and close the gap to 24-19 by halftime. The Tigers inched to within 35-31 after three quarters, but the Bulldogs held on.

Camryn Collman and Kenzie Williams both scored eight points to lead a balanced offense for the Tigers. Jacie Howton added seven points and Alexyss Chamberlain scored six.

Alexia Arredondo scored 17 points to lead Nyssa.

La Grande (0-2 overall) travels to the Nampa, Idaho, Tournament Thursday.

LHS BOYS WIN IN NYSSA

Nick Tsiatsos scored a team-high 11 points, leading the La Grande Tigers boys basketball team to its second win of the season, 59-50, over the Nyssa Bulldogs on the road Tuesday.

Braden Bell added 10 points and Kaleb Myer chipped in with nine



Suzie Collman photo

La Grande’s Camryn Collman drives for a layup Tuesday against Nyssa. The Tigers fell short of their first win in a 42-41 loss.

for La Grande, while Justin Jenner and Cristian Mendoza both had eight points. The Tigers outscored Nyssa in each of the first three

quarters to build a double-digit lead, 47-35.

Omar Jaquez led Nyssa with 16 points.

La Grande (2-2 overall) travels to Nampa, Idaho, for the Nampa Tournament beginning Thursday.

BOBCAT BOYS WIN IN OT

The Union Bobcats boys basketball team opened Blue Mountain Conference play by winning a thriller.

Keegan Glenn and Cole McLean both scored 16 points, leading Union to a hard-fought 57-54 overtime win over the Enterprise Outlaws Tuesday in Union.

Union held a scant 25-24 lead at halftime, and the teams were tied after the third quarter, 36-36, and even at 48-48 after the fourth. The Bobcats scored all of their points in the extra period from the free-throw line, going 9-for-11.

Glenn had eight of his 16 points in the fourth and overtime, while McLean had seven points in the crucial span. Tate Lantis added 14 points in the win.

Riley Masters scored a game-high 19 points — 10 in the fourth quarter and overtime — to lead the Outlaws. Dylan Marr added 14 points and Coy Aschenbrenner had 13 points.

Union (4-0 overall, 1-0 BMC) faces Powder Valley Friday in La

Grande, while Enterprise (3-3, 0-1) travels to the Rocket Invite Friday in Pilot Rock.

ENTERPRISE GIRLS GRAB BMC WIN

The Enterprise Outlaws girls basketball team opened Blue Mountain Conference play with a victory, fending off the Union Bobcats, 46-41, Tuesday in Union.

Shelby Moncrief led seven Enterprise players in scoring with 14 points. Lexie Gassett joined her in double figures, adding 10 points.

The Outlaws built an early double-digit lead, going up 17-7 after one quarter. Union closed the gap throughout the contest, and pulled within 34-29 after three quarters, but saw the rally fall short.

Kaylin Novak led the Bobcats, who suffered their first loss of the season, with 11 points. Taylar Daggett added eight points.

Both teams had an off night from the free-throw line, as well. Enterprise shot 10-for-22 from the stripe, while Union was just 12-for-31.

Enterprise (5-1 overall, 1-0 BMC) travels to the Rocket Invite Friday in Pilot Rock, while Union (3-1, 0-1) faces Powder Valley Friday in La Grande.

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