

EOU drops scrappy Lions

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Eastern Oregon Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh gave the Multnomah women's basketball team credit for hanging tough.

In the end, though, the Mountaineers' pace of play, three big runs and rebounding were the difference as No. 9 EOU pulled away from the Lions, 91-62, Tuesday night in the quarterfinals of the Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament in La Grande.

"They came ready to play," Weissenfluh said of the Lions. "They played strong, they played together. Sequoia (Wheeler) had a great game ... It wasn't necessarily what we were doing, it was a lot of what Multnomah was doing (that kept the game closer)."

Wheeler led all scorers with 25 points — 19 of which came in the first half — to help the Lions hang around much longer than they did in an 84-38 loss to EOU just two weeks ago. Multnomah was within 20-19 after one, and still close midway through the second, trailing just 34-29 after a Milan Woods jumper.

But Maya Ah You-Dias, who led EOU with 23 points and 14 rebounds, kicked off the first of two game-changing runs with back-to-back 3-pointers — one after grabbing an offensive rebound and the second in transition — to push the margin to 11. Maren Herrud hit a jumper to make it a 15-point margin and later canned a 3-pointer



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon's Julia Hanni, left, jumps to corral a pass during the Mountaineers' 91-62 win over Multnomah in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament.

before two Beverly Slater free throws capped the 17-2 spurt for a 20-point edge.

"We settled down (and) we kept putting the gas pedal on in transition," Weissenfluh said. "A lot of our points came out of transition, and we knew if we were going to separate ourselves we had to score in transition."

Two more runs — a 9-0 run late in the third and a 15-0 run in the fourth — put the

game well in hand for EOU. Ah You-Dias hit a layup to cap the first run, which sent Eastern into the fourth leading 70-46, and 3-pointers by Herrud, Jane Nelson and Whitney Meier gave Eastern an 88-52 lead, its largest of the night.

"We wanted to push the ball as fast as we could," Ah You-Dias said.

Ah You-Dias helped spark the key first half run, and had

17 points by the break, but by no means was alone in getting EOU's offense going. Herrud had 14 points, Emma Logan added 11 — all in the first half — and both Kylie Smith and Julia Hanni had nine.

Logan, who typically impacts the game on the defensive side, turned in her top scoring effort of the season.

"She does all the little

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S. John Collins/WesCom News Service

La Grande's Josie Reagan grabs a rebound during Tuesday's Greater Oregon League title game in Baker City.

Baker tops Tigers to win district title

Observer staff

It was closer than when the teams met 11 days ago, but the Baker Bulldogs girls basketball team pulled away in the second half to earn a 53-36 home win over the La Grande Tigers Tuesday night in the Greater Oregon League district title game.

La Grande was within five after one quarter, and trailed just 21-19 at halftime. But the Bulldogs doubled their point total in the third quarter to break the game open and take what proved to be an insurmountable 42-26 lead after three.

Ella Dunlap scored 12 points to lead the Tigers. Camryn Collman added seven points and Kenzie Williams had five.

The Tigers (13-8 overall) now wait until the state play-in games are complete on Saturday to see where they will play in the first round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Class 1A boys playoffs BADGERSTOP CRANE

Reece Dixon led a bal-

anced attack with 16 points as the Powder Valley Badgers boys basketball team opened the Class 1A state playoffs with a 58-47 road win over the Crane Mustangs Tuesday.

Omar Benites added 15 points and Roper Bingham scored 11 for the Badgers, who pulled away in the second half for the win.

Powder Valley used a 15-7 run in the third quarter to take a 41-34 lead, then finished off the game at the free-throw line in the final period. Eleven of the Badgers' 17 points in the fourth came from the free-throw line.

The win sends the Badgers (17-9 overall) to a second-round game at Days Creek Friday, with the winner advancing to the state quarterfinals next week in Baker City.

EAGLES FALL TO DUFUR

There won't be a return trip to Baker City for the Joseph Eagles boys basketball team.

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Eastern finishes 1-5 on opening road trip

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon women's softball team went 1-3 in the final two days of its season-opening roadtrip to Redding, California, falling to William Jessup, 9-6, and Simpson, 11-3, on Monday before splitting Simpson in a doubleheader Tuesday, winning 8-6 and losing 6-4.

Against William Jessup, Jordan Henley homered to trigger a three-run fourth inning for a 3-1 lead, and a bases-loaded walk and an RBI groundout by Sarah Bonner made it 5-4 in the fifth.

The game went to extra innings, and Haley Ebner hit an RBI single in the top of the eighth for a 6-5 lead, but WJ's Jena Owens hit a walk-off grand slam to give the Spartans the win.

Ebner finished with two hits for EOU, and Rayne Spencer drove in a pair of runs. Ashton Kazmierski gave up four runs on five hits in 4-2/3 innings to take the loss.

In Monday's second game against Simpson, the Moun-

taineers scored three first-inning runs on a Madison Barr RBI double and RBI singles by Shevan DeFreitas and Hannah Rothwell, but Simpson scored the next 11 runs, taking the lead for good with three runs in the second inning for a 6-3 lead.

Jessica Lambert allowed eight runs on seven hits in three-plus innings in the loss.

On Tuesday, the Mountaineers picked up their first win of 2019, pulling ahead for good in the fifth inning on the way to the 8-6 victory.

Spencer, DeFreitas and Ashley Kelly all homered in the win for EOU, with Kelly's two-run blast in the fifth putting Eastern ahead for good, 7-5. Spencer added her home run in the sixth for the final margin. Amanda Smith tossed a complete game for the win, allowing six runs on 10 hits and striking out five batters. Henley and Barr both had two hits.

In the finale the Mountaineers jumped ahead 3-0 in the third on a three-run home run by DeFreitas, but

couldn't hold the lead as the Red Hawks scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth to take the lead for good, with Gentry Hoffman's three-run home run the tiebreaking hit. Ebner added a sacrifice fly in the seventh for the final margin.

DeFreitas and Hannah Rothwell both had two hits. Kazmierski took the loss, allowing five runs on five hits in 4-1/3 innings.

EOU (1-5 overall) is back on the road Friday at the Cavalier Classic in Portland.

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