



Alex Navarro photo

Paige Dodd competes in the women's heptathlon for EOU on Thursday.

EASTERN

Continued from Page 6A

Lane, Michelle Herbes and Elizabeth Herbes will run for the EOU women, and enter with the No. 2 time in the nation at 3:56.78. The men's team of Connor Young, Cooper Shaw, Derian Handfield and Devin Lewis-Allen will run 30 minutes later, though they're currently on the outside looking in to reach the finals, as the team is seeded 19th with a time of 3:23.18.

Friday will be a light day for the Mountaineers. Alex Navarro, ranked 13th in the men's 1,000 in 2:32.22, runs in the preliminary race Friday. Dodd competes in the prelims of the women's 60 hurdles Friday as the 31st-ranked runner in 9.18 seconds. Ebony Wilson, who has the 16th-best mark in the long jump at 18-feet-5-3/4, will also compete Friday.

Saturday, the event the EOU men have the best chance to make noise in, kicks off with Corey Sledge, Justin Gould and Darrin Walker all competing in the men's pole vault. Gould and Sledge enter ranked third and fourth in the nation, with Gould posting a mark of 16-feet-2-3/4, and Sledge reaching a height of 16-feet-2-1/2. Walker, who is 22nd, has a height of 15-feet-2-3/4.

Dodd and Kalulusno Ngaida both compete in the women's high jump, seeded sixth and 20th, respectively. Dodd has a mark this season of 5-feet-7, 1/4 inch off the program record, while Ngaida has cleared 5-feet-3-3/4.

Ngaida will also compete in the women's triple jump, where she is ranked eighth at 38-feet-3-1/4.

The finals for the 4-by-400 relays and for Dodd in the 60 hurdles and Navarro in the 1,000, if they qualify, will also be Saturday. ■

CHAMPS

Continued from Page 6A

tough defense," Ah You-Dias said. "They were intense. They adjusted to the calls that were being made. They adjusted to how players were playing. We played the scouting report really well and went in and executed the game plan the coach had. I couldn't have asked for anything better."

Woodvine, who entered averaging 18.7 points per game, was held to seven points. Eastern also rotated on its help defense into the right position on numerous occasions, resulting in the team forcing seven offensive fouls on Corban.

"We just stayed focused so we were all locked in," said Julia Hanni, who took three charges on defense. "We knew as soon as (Woodvine) got the ball we were right there and ready to take the charge."

It was a stark contrast to the semifinal game against College of Idaho, when the Mountaineers never held a lead larger than seven points until the final minute. Monday, the team was ready from the start.

Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh said her squad's nothing-to-lose attitude was the difference.

"Tonight they relaxed," she said. "I think they were prepared. They took a deep

breath, and I think they enjoyed where they were at, what they got to play in front of (with the vibrant crowd) and they seized the moment."

Corban did close the gap to 13 by halftime, then got as close at 42-33 on a Jordan Rasberry 3-pointer early in the third before Eastern finally put the game out of reach, primarily by crashing the offensive boards. Rebound putbacks by Jane Nelson, Ah You-Dias and Beverly Slater put Eastern up 51-38, then nine points from Herrud — including a 3-pointer just before the third-quarter buzzer — and a trey from Logan gave EOU what proved to be an insurmountable lead, 63-44, after three. The Warriors got no closer than 15 points in the fourth.

Nelson added eight points, Slater had seven points and eight rebounds and Madison Crews dished out 10 assists and grabbed four steals.

"This feeling is indescribable," Crews said. "I've had the luxury of playing at a really good junior college and then just blessed to be here with such a great coach (and) great program. I literally feel nothing but happy right now, and proud to be on this team."

It was a moment, though, that was new for Hanni.

"I come from a losing program (and) it wasn't much that we were losing, but it's the team spirit (at EOU) and how everyone treats each other and how we are as teammates," Hanni said.

The largest crowd of the season also had an impact on the game, which didn't go unnoticed.

"(I) loved every minute of it, not only as a coach, but as an athletic director," Weissenfluh said. "To see that environment here at Eastern, I was pretty proud."

The crowd treated Ah You-Dias, who played her final game at Quinn in her sixth year in the program, to a special moment, serenading her with "MVP" chants when she came out with 1:11 to play.

"I got teary eyed on the bench there," she said of when she came out for the final time. "I was pretty emotional."

Emily Yost led the Warriors with 18 points and Treasure Farmer had 14 points.

Eastern (28-3 overall) now waits to see who it plays in the first round of the NAIA National Championship Tournament next week in Sioux City, Iowa. The field will be announced later today.

"We're going to enjoy this one for a while, but then we'll get prepared," the coach said. ■

STATE

Continued from Page 6A

teams all season to stay within single digits of St. Paul, which averages 58.2 points per game and allows just 23.7. The Eagles have averages of 50.9 and 29.1 on offense and defense, respectively.

The Powder Valley Badgers girls, who are less than two weeks removed from their win over Joseph in the OOL title game, will meet another team that beat them earlier this season when they face

the Crane Mustangs in the quarterfinals at 8:15 p.m. Thursday in Baker City.

The Badgers have won 19 of 20 games since their 44-35 loss to Crane in December, with their lone setback since that game a 44-27 loss to Joseph, which they have since avenged.

Crane has lost just twice since its game against Powder Valley, both to Jordan Valley, which could be a possible opponent for the winner in the semifinals. Jordan Valley, in fact, is the only team along with

Crane and Joseph to top Powder Valley.

The matchup will be the quintessential battle of offense against defense. Crane averages 62.1 points per game and has been held under 40 points just twice. The Badgers, meanwhile, allow only 25.7 points and have held all but four opponents under 40 points. Powder Valley, in fact, is 24-0 when allowing 40 or fewer. It's allowed more than 40 just three times — all losses, and all, interestingly, games in which it gave up 44 points.

In the 2A ranks, the Enterprise Outlaws girls are playing in the quarterfinals at Pendleton for the first time since 2013, and have a favorable bracket after their opponent, the Vernonia Loggers, scored a 48-46 upset of No. 2 ranked Monroe, the defending state runner-up.

Enterprise just played — and beat — an opponent in Portland Christian that defeated Vernonia twice during the regular season, most recently 51-44 in the title game of the Northwest League tournament.

Enterprise, one of four teams from the Blue Mountain Conference to make the state playoffs and three to reach the quarterfinals, enters averaging 47.9 points per game and allowing 36.1 Vernonia, meanwhile, had netted 43.3 points and given up 32.6.

Both teams have had success in close games, with Enterprise posting a 5-3 record in games decided by 10 points or less, and the Loggers going 5-4 in such contests.

Enterprise and Vernonia tip at 8:15 p.m. Thursday in Pendleton. ■

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