



Alex Navarro photo

The women's 4-by-400 relay team of Megan Bolton, Elizabeth Herbes, Michelle Herbes and Olivia Lane took sixth to garner all-American status on Saturday in Brookings, South Dakota.

## EOU adds all-Americans in four more events

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon track and field team added seven more all-Americans in four events as it wrapped up its stay at the NIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships Friday and Saturday in Brookings, South Dakota.

Ebony Wilson posted a new program record in the women's long jump with a mark of 18-feet-10-1/4 inches to take third overall. The sophomore, who won her flight to reach the finals, notched the mark on her second attempt of the day.

"That was a very good performance on her part," Head Coach Ben Welch said. "We knew there was a big jump in there. It was just a matter of time."

EOU scored all-Americans in three events on Saturday, two of which came in the men's pole vault. Corey Sledge took fourth overall with a mark of 16-feet-1, and teammate Darrian Walker placed seventh, clearing 15-feet-7.

Justin Gould also cleared 15-feet-7, but slipped to ninth, one spot out of all-American range, based on missed jumps at that height.

"We went in with two guys seeded (Sledge and Gould), and we were hoping to sneak all three of those into the top (eight)," Welch said. "Darrian had gone 15-feet-2-3/4 (previously) so he had a big PR there."

The men's team garnered a third all-American from Alex Navarro, who came in fifth in the 1,000-meter run with a time of 2:29.70. He reached the finals by winning the preliminaries Friday in 2:29.27.

"He was in the lead most of that race. Ran tough, just ran out of gas toward the end," Welch said. "(It was) only the fourth time he ran a 1,000."

Eastern's final all-American on the day was the women's 4-by-400 relay team, as Megan Bolton, Olivia Lane, Michelle Herbes and Elizabeth Herbes placed sixth with a time of 3:55.94 —

and that despite a crash that likely kept the team out of the top four.

Welch said teams three through six, which included EOU — were in a tight bunch when they reached the handoff for the anchor leg. One of the runners just ahead of EOU's Elizabeth Herbes crashed into her, bringing her briefly to a full stop, Welch said.

Welch said the crash likely cost the team a couple seconds, and without it, Eastern would have "pretty easily (been in) fourth. If not third, probably close."

EOU's Kalulusno Ngaida tied for 13th in the women's triple jump at 37-feet-5-3/4, and tied for 16th in the women's high jump at 5-feet-1-3/4. Paige Dodd, who was coming off an all-American in the pentathlon, didn't clear a height in the high jump and was 30th in the preliminaries of the 60-meter hurdles in 9.43 seconds.

As a team, the EOU women tied for 18th with 15 points, while the men tied for 23rd with 11 points. ■

## SOU softball takes three from Eastern

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon softball team split with No. 3 Southern Oregon in its Cascade Collegiate Conference-opening doubleheader Friday, then was swept in Saturday's doubleheader to go 1-3 on the road trip and drop two of the three CCC games.

In Friday's opener, the Mountaineers surrendered three late runs to fall to the Raiders, 6-3. EOU pulled even in the fourth at 3-3 with a Hannah Rothwell two-run double and an RBI single by Madison Barr, who had two of EOU's four hits.

Hannah Shimek broke the tie in the bottom of the fourth with an RBI single, and the Raiders added two runs in the sixth for the final margin.

Amanda Smith allowed six runs — four earned — on 10 hits in six innings for EOU, walking three and striking out two.

In Friday's nightcap, Ashton Kazmierski shut down SOU for her first win of the season, allowing just one run on six hits in seven innings as Eastern earned a 5-1 victory.

Ashley Kelly, Haley Ebner and Jordan Henley all hit RBI singles for the Mountaineers. EOU also

took advantage of two bases-loaded walks, the second of which scored Ebner in the fourth for a 5-0 lead.

Ebner, Rayne Spencer and Shevan DeFreitas each had two hits for Eastern.

In Saturday's opener, and the final CCC game of the series, EOU managed just two singles off of SOU ace Gabby Sandoval in a 4-0 loss.

Barr and DeFreitas had the lone hits. Smith allowed four runs on four hits in six innings for the Mountaineers.

The final nonconference game went to Southern, 11-6, though EOU rallied from a 9-0 deficit to make the game closer when Spencer homered, tripled and drove in three runs. Her two-run shot got Eastern on the board in the third, and her RBI triple triggered a four-run fifth that kept EOU in it.

Spencer and Madison Parker both scored twice for the Mountaineers. Kazmierski, one day after shutting Southern down, gave up seven runs on five hits in 2/3 of an inning.

EOU (2-12 overall, 1-2 CCC) faces Corban Friday and Saturday. The games were originally set to be at home, but may be moved to a neutral site due to field conditions. ■

## ENTERPRISE

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And the Trojans' first big run dealt the main blow to Enterprise's third-place hopes.

The Outlaws had an early 5-2 lead after five points from Ashlyn Gray to start Saturday's game, but then the Trojans got rolling. Four Sophia Carley points gave Kennedy the lead at 6-5. Five straight points by Kalyssa Kleinschmit, who led the way with 18 points, made it 14-6 Trojans early in the second quarter, and Kleinschmit followed an Elise Suing 3-pointer with two more free throws and a jumper for a 21-6 margin with five minutes to play in the half. The run came during a stretch of more than 11 minutes when Enterprise was held to just a free throw.

Crawford noted that Kennedy had two players limited with injuries in the game, and told his team

Kennedy could, as a result, play more scrappy, like a team cornered.

The Trojans did just that. "They went full court and we accommodated with the turnovers in the first half," he said. "The end result was they made a big run, they made their free throws. They made 3s. They did everything they needed to do."

Enterprise shot just 26 percent and committed 17 turnovers in the first half, which ended with the Outlaws trailing 28-14.

Enterprise did score five straight to open the second half and get within 28-19 after a Shelby Moncrief layup, two Karli Bedard free throws and a free throw from Gray before the second Kennedy run, this one an 11-4 push to end the quarter, built the margin back to 16 points. Enterprise pulled no closer than 13 points in the fourth.

Moncrief finished with 10 points and three steals to lead the Out-

laws. Gray added seven points, and both Bedard and Carsyn Miller had four points.

Clarissa Traeger added nine points for Kennedy.

The season ended for Enterprise with a final record of 20-8, but was one the longtime head coach was pleased with.

"All year long I told them there's something special about the team. (They had) what it takes," he said.

In fact, the coach said he knew from the first day of the season the team had potential to make a state run, even after losing five seniors from last year's team that reached the first round of state.

A big part of that was from the players who were back from the team that made the playoffs last year before being bounced by Oakland one win shy of the state quarterfinals.

"The desire to get back to the postseason and advance was in us.

They were motivated to get it done, (and) they won 20 ball games," Crawford said. "I'm happy as I can be with my kids. They did a great job. They represented the league really well."

The 20 wins is the most for the program since the 2012-13 team won 21 games. That group, though, went two-and-out when it reached the state tournament in Pendleton.

On Friday, the Heppner Mustangs got the best of the Enterprise Outlaws girls basketball team for the third time this season, leading throughout for a 39-32 victory in the 2A state semifinals at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The Outlaws, who shot just 25 percent and spotted Heppner the game's first seven points, never led. On three occasions Enterprise pulled within one point, including when Rilyn Kirkland scored to cap a 6-0 run to end the third quarter and bring Enterprise within 29-28.

"We were right there. Heppner knew we were right there. But they got the win," Crawford said.

The Outlaws were held without a field goal in the fourth quarter, while a 3-pointer by Sydney Wilson and a jumper by Jenna McCullough pushed Heppner's lead to 35-29 with 3:37 to play.

Bedard, one of the few Outlaws to have a strong shooting game, led the way with 11 points on 3-for-5 from the floor. She also grabbed seven rebounds. Lexie Gasset added 10 points and seven boards.

Wilson had 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead Heppner, which had its own shooting issues, going just 30 percent from the floor.

Heppner built as much as an eight-point first-half lead before the Outlaws inched within 17-14 at the half on a Moncrief jumper. Enterprise was as close as 17-16 early in the third on two Miller free throws. ■

## JOSEPH

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four seniors. "It was a good, hard-fought game. Crane played really well."

The Eagles struggled from the floor throughout the contest Saturday, going 10-for-55 for 18 percent, and 4-for-26 in the first half.

Yet Joseph pulled within 24-20 early in the third quarter after a pair of jumpers by Miller to open the second half.

That's when Crane began to distance itself.

The Mustangs scored the final 12 points of the third quarter to build what at the time was its largest lead of the game. Riley Davis, who had nine points and 17 rebounds, scored on a nice move in the low post for a 30-20 lead, and a layup by Elizabeth Jenkins to end the third pushed the margin to 36-20.

A layup by Camille Crenshaw and a steal and layup by Emma Hite early in the

fourth brought Joseph within 12 before the Mustangs put the game away, extending the margin to 45-24 on a Shelie Doman jumper with about 3:30 remaining and as much as 49-27 in the closing minutes.

"It was tough and emotional since it was our last game," Joseph sophomore Sabrina Albee said.

The game was a stark contrast to when the teams met in the second game of the season, a 44-28 home win by the Eagles.

Joseph never led Saturday, struggling to get shots to fall while seemingly everything Crane attempted went in. The Mustangs shot 44 percent in the first half and scored the final five points of the second quarter to take a 24-16 lead at the break.

The Mustangs also held a decisive rebound advantage, boosted by Davis' 17 boards and Kelsie Siegner's 12 rebounds. Siegner was also the game's leading

scorer as she finished with 20 points.

Miller led the Eagles with 15 points, 10 of which came in the second half. Albee added nine points, all in the first half. Albee also had a team-best six rebounds.

"It (was) a good season. They made it here and they did well. When we started this journey our goal — because we didn't know where we were going to be after losing Alexis (Sykora to graduation last year) — was to get to the state tournament."

The Eagles, who finished at 26-5, not only met that initial goal of reaching state, but saw their hopes change as the season progressed and they kept winning.

"We came in with the expectation of winning (state), and I think we legitimately could have," Homan said. "It's a tough way to end, but I couldn't be any more proud of our kids."

Added Miller: "We're not a team. We're a family, and I

think that's the most important thing to ever have in a sport. We're really tight. It'll be really hard (to leave)."

On Friday, the Eagles found their touch as they recovered from a quarterfinal loss to St. Paul to pull away from the Days Creek Wolves for a 58-41 win behind a huge game from Albee, who poured in 31 points.

"Our momentum was up, we worked really hard and our press was definitely working," said Albee, who scored 23 of her points in the first half — including Joseph's final seven — to help the Eagles build a 36-28 halftime lead.

But the Eagles, who forced Days Creek into 32 turnovers, didn't pull away until the second half.

Two free throws and a layup by Madelyn Nelson and a jumper by Crenshaw boosted Joseph's lead to its largest at the time of 44-28 midway through the third quarter. A layup by Albee in the fourth pushed the mar-

gin to 15 points, and after Days Creek closed to within 11, Ella Coughlan's jumper with 2:17 to play started an 8-0 run to put the game out of hand.

"They played well," Homan said. "They took care of the ball (Friday). That was more of what we wanted to see, for sure. And Sabrina, once she gets it going, can fill it up as good as anybody in the state."

Albee, who shot 12-for-26 in the game, was 10-for-17 in the first half. As a team the Eagles shot 44 percent in the opening half, and 37 percent for the game. They held the Wolves to 31 percent overall, and 22 percent in the second half.

Nelson finished with 11 points and a team-high nine rebounds, while both Miller and Crenshaw scored six points. ■

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