



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Emma Logan, right, and the Eastern Oregon women's basketball team opened the NAIA women's basketball tournament today in Sioux City, Iowa.



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Eastern Oregon's Maya Ah You-Dias was named CCC player of the year.

EOU ready for St. Francis

■ Mounties open national tournament in Iowa today against Cougs

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team could be looking in the proverbial mirror in its first-round matchup in the NAIA Division II tournament against St. Francis, Indiana.

"It's going to be a great matchup," EOU Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh said of today's contest against the Cougars. "They're a lot like us. They shoot the three, they have a perimeter game (and) they have an all-American post player."

The biggest similarity is the high volume of 3-pointers shot — and made — by both teams. The Mountaineers are 272-for-733 (37.1 percent) from deep, while the Cougars are 253-for-760 (33.3 percent) from beyond the arc. Lauren McBryar (78-for-223) and Savannah Buck (51-for-170) are the two who have connected the most from deep for St. Francis.

"They have some versatility," Weissenfluh said. "Watching film, it's definitely going to be a fair fight. They're in a tough conference (the Crossroads League) so they're prepared. We're going to have to defend the perimeter and keep them off the boards."

The Cougars enter with a record of 20-12 and were 11-7 in the Crossroads. The record, though, may be misleading as they have also played — and defeated — some high-ranked schools. St. Francis is 1-6 against top-10 competition, but has a win over then-No. 6 Marian. The Cougars also have a victory over Campbellsville, which at the time was ranked No. 5 in NAIA Division I.

Weissenfluh said "size and quickness" are two areas that St. Francis might have an advantage against her Mountaineers.

For EOU, the edge has to come on the boards.

"We have to rebound well and we have to run," she said. "We (have to get in

transition."

EOU also has to shoot well, the coach said.

"That's the part that isn't always easy back here," Weissenfluh said. "The teams that can settle in, find the rhythm, and shoot well do well, and then you have to stay out of foul trouble."

If they do get in a rhythm, a higher scoring game may play into the Mountaineers' hands. The Mountaineers have played in — and won — 20 games in which they have scored 75 points or more. The Cougars have played in just seven games where they broke that plateau, but are 6-1 in such contests.

Overall, St. Francis averages 69.2 points per game, a touch lower than EOU's 78.3.

Individually, EOU will have to try to slow down Kara Gerka, who leads the Cougars in scoring with 14.9 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. McBryar (13.3 points per game), Lindley Kistler (11.3) and Emma Applegate (11.1) are the other three top scorers for St. Francis.

The Cougars, conversely, will have to contend with Maya Ah You-Dias, who finished with 23.7 points and 9.5 rebounds per game to lead EOU, which enters the game with a 28-3 record. Maren Herrud (12.5 points game) is the only other Mountaineer to average double figures, but EOU has balance with five other players averaging between 5.1 and 9.7 points per game.

"I feel like we're confident — not overconfident, but confident," Weissenfluh said. "We're relaxed. I think our conference tournament will help us for this stage."

A win by the Mountaineers would send them to a third straight berth in the second round, which would take place Friday.

EOU has reached the final eight on three occasions, but has yet to get to the national semifinals. ■

Leading the way in the CCC

■ Ah You-Dias named player of the year, Weissenfluh coach of the year for women's hoops

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team was well recognized in the Cascade Collegiate Conference postseason awards last week.

The Mountaineers, who won the regular season and tournament titles in the CCC, saw four players and a coach honored, with Maya Ah You-Dias leading the way as the player of the year and Anji Weissenfluh honored as coach of the year.

"I was really proud of our girls who got recognized," Weissenfluh said. "As a whole our conference has some quality players, so for us to get four recognized was great. The (other) coaches (in the CCC) recognized what they did for our team and how they led our team."

Ah You-Dias made an immediate impact on the Mountaineers when she returned to the lineup in December. All told, she averaged 23.7 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. She also averaged 3.3 assists and two steals per contest, shot 45.3 percent from 3-point range and eclipsed 30 points in a game six times.

"Maya is, if not the absolute best that has ever put an EOU women's basketball jersey on, she's right up there," Weissenfluh said following the CCC title game. "We've had a lot of great players, but she's elevated her game to a whole new level."

The sixth-year senior was first-team all conference and was joined on the first team by Maren Herrud and Jane Nelson.

Herrud, another senior, was second on the team in scoring with 12.5 points per game. She added 3.1 rebounds per contest and was also a prolific 3-point shooter, hitting at a 42 percent clip. She also led the team with 19 blocks.

Nelson, in her first year with EOU, rounded



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Maren Herrud was a first-team all-CCC selection for the Mountaineers.

out the first-team players. The junior transfer from Southern Idaho was third in scoring at 9.7 points per game and often impacted the game with her defense and energy.

"Maren is one of the best shooters in the conference (and) Jane is very versatile," Weissenfluh said. "She can score, defend and (plays) with a motor."

Madison Crews rounded out the honorees amongst the players as honorable mention. A first-year Mountaineer like Nelson, Crews averaged 6.6 points and 3.0 rebounds per game. Her main impact on the game was with her passing, as she led the team in assists with 4.9 per game. The transfer from Lower Columbia Community College also had a 1.92-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio, best on the team among the regular players.

For Weissenfluh, it's her seventh time being named CCC coach of the year, and

See CCC / Page 7A

Successful road trip ends on sour note as Blazers lose to Memphis

By Clay Bailey
The Associated Press

Mike Conley went scoreless in the first quarter, then carried the Memphis Grizzlies down the stretch against a team jockeying for playoff position in the Western Conference.

Conley scored 19 of his career-high 40 points in the fourth quarter as Memphis overtook the Portland Trail Blazers late for a 120-111 victory Tuesday night.

Conley made six of his seven shots in the fourth, including all three 3-point attempts, as

Memphis erased a nine-point Portland lead in the final quarter with a 38-25 scoring advantage in the period.

"It was a lot of fun," Conley said. "It was a weird game, because I felt like I didn't play well at the beginning of the game. The whole team really didn't start well, and to end it the way that we did and for me to play like that in the second half was special."

For three-plus quarters it looked as if Portland would end its season-longest seven-game

trip on a successful note. The Trail Blazers, who led by 16 in the first quarter, appeared headed to closing the trek with a 6-1 record because they held an 86-82 lead entering the fourth and stretched it to nine points with eight minutes left.

But Conley started his 19-point push with a 3-pointer. That began an 11-2 rally that pulled Memphis even at 96-all. After a couple of ties and trio of lead changes, Memphis pulled away down the stretch, a key basket coming on a 4-point play

by Conley with 1:38 left.

Delon Wright matched his career high with 25 points and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 17.

CJ McCollum led Portland with 27 points, while Damian Lillard added 24. Maurice Harkless finished with 20 points.

"We had a 16-point lead, and they just kept playing and defending," Portland coach Terry Stotts said of the Grizzlies. "Mike Conley was outstanding. He had his shot going and was directing the offense. And he got into us defensively."

While Conley was scoring, the Trail Blazers were struggling. While Portland was 9 of 18 from the field in the fourth, it missed all six of its shots from beyond the arc. Coupled with six turnovers in the final 12 minutes, Memphis was able to overtake Portland.

The loss, along with Oklahoma City losing to Minnesota, plus the Houston defeating the Toronto Raptors, left the Trail Blazers, Thunder and Rockets all tied for the Western Conference's

See Blazers / Page 7A

CHECK OUT THE
Local Sports Report...

ON THE
Johnny Ballgame Show

THE OBSERVER

Tune into the Johnny Ballgame Show for the Local Sports Report with Observer Sports Editor Ronald Bond at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday.



@lgoBond



Listen to the Johnny Ballgame Show from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday on SuperTalk 1450 AM.



@JBG_Show