

Warriors best EOU in closing minutes

■ Indiana Tech scores game's final four points to escape with 61-57 win and end Eastern's season

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team saw a nine-point first-half lead vanish, rallied from an 11-point second-half deficit to briefly take the lead, and was tied with Indiana Tech, 57-all, after a Beverly Slater 3-point play with 3:42 to play.

But the Warriors scored the final four points of the game to hold on for a 61-57 victory over the Mountaineers in the second round of the NAIA National Championship Friday morning in Sioux City, Iowa, bringing an end to the Mountaineers' season.

The Mountaineers fell behind as much as 40-29 midway through the third quarter when Rachel Bell scored for Indiana Tech. The basket capped an extended 22-2 run dating back to the second quarter — a stretch that saw EOU go scoreless for more than seven minutes.

But EOU found a spark



Iain Dexter/EOU Athletics

Players and coaches on the Eastern Oregon basketball team look on during Friday's game against Indiana Tech. EOU lost, 61-57.

to get back in the game, closing to 41-37 on a Slater field goal and within 44-41 after a Jane Nelson free throw.

The Warriors took a 50-44 lead into the fourth, but 3-pointers by Maya Ah You-Dias and Madison Crews tied the score, and Maren Herrud scored to give EOU a 52-50 lead with about seven minutes to go.

The teams jockeyed to 57-all before Bella Lozano-Dobbs scored in the paint for Indiana Tech with 3:26

on the clock, and the Warriors added two DeAnn Kauffman free throws with 13 seconds remaining for the final margin. EOU went 0-3 and turned the ball over three times following Slater's game-tying points.

EOU used a pair of first-half runs to gain the early advantage. Herrud scored in the paint to cap a 9-0 run and give Eastern an 11-6 lead with 3:45 to play in the first, and an 8-0 second-quarter rally — book-

ended by Ah You-Dias and Julia Hanni 3-pointers — put the Mountaineers ahead 27-18 with 6:33 to play in the opening half.

Those were the final points Eastern scored in the half, as the Warriors rattled off the next 16 points to take a 34-27 lead at the break on a Kauffman field goal. Nelson scored EOU's only points during Tech's game-changing run, which was an 11-minute, 50-second stretch where the Mountaineers

went 1-for-10 and turned the ball over eight times.

Turnovers, in fact, were the primary difference in the contest. The Mountaineers committed 19 turnovers, which led to 22 Indiana Tech points. By comparison, Tech committed just eight turnovers, and EOU converted those extra chances into only five points.

Ah You-Dias scored 17 points to lead all scorers. Herrud and Slater both added 12 points, with

Slater also collecting a team-best eight rebounds. The Mountaineers owned a 39-28 advantage on the boards.

Lozano-Dobbs had 13 points for the Warriors. Bell had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Alexis Hill scored 10 points. The Warriors shot 42 percent, just ahead of EOU's 38 percent.

The Mountaineers finished the season with a record of 29-4, the fourth-best win total in program history. ■

Stanford gets revenge, tops Ducks for Pac-12 Tournament title



John Locher/The Associated Press

Oregon's Ruthy Hebard, left, and Satou Sabally, right, guard Stanford's Alanna Smith during Sunday night's game in the final of the Pac-12 women's tournament in Las Vegas.

By Doug Feinberg
The Associated Press

Stanford got a measure of revenge en route to winning another Pac-12 Tournament title.

DiJonai Carrington scored 22 points, and the seventh-ranked Cardinal erased some unpleasant recent history against No. 6 Oregon, beating the Ducks 64-57 on Sunday night.

For the Cardinal, it was their 13th championship of the 18 Pac-12 tournaments. Stanford lost to Oregon last season in the title game, and the Cardinal also were routed by 40 points a month ago by the Ducks — the worst defeat in Hall of Fame coach Tara VanDerveer's career.

"I think that was something that

we had in our minds ever since we lost that game," said Stanford's Alanna Smith, who earned Most Outstanding Player honors for the tournament. "When you take a loss like that, you have no choice but to learn from it. We were happy we got to play Oregon today. We wanted another chance at them."

With the game tied at 51, Carrington made a layup, then stole the ball and drove the length of the court for another lay-in. After Ruthy Hebard made a free throw to get Oregon within 55-52, Kiana Williams hit a 3-pointer from the wing to give the Cardinal their biggest lead of the fourth quarter to that point.

Sabrina Ionescu, who led Oregon with 27 points and 12 rebounds, end-

ed a four-minute field goal drought with a jumper with 1:14 left. She was the only Oregon player to hit a basket for the Ducks in the final eight minutes.

Stanford made all six of its free throws in the final minute to seal the victory. As the final seconds ticked off, the Cardinal players ran to half-court to celebrate.

"The competition we played day in and day out prepared us for today's game," VanDerveer said. "We won with our defense. We came in as the top-ranked defensive team in the Pac-12 and people locked in defensively."

Smith added 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Cardinal.

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Corban takes four straight from Mountaineers on the softball field

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon softball team was dealt a four-game sweep at the hands of Corban over the weekend in Salem, falling to the Warriors in Saturday's doubleheader, 12-1 and 1-0, and dropping Sunday's games 13-2 and 5-1. The first three games of the weekend were Cascade Collegiate Conference affairs, while the final game was a nonconference contest.

Corban jumped out to

a 5-0 third-inning lead in Saturday's opening contest with runs in each of the first three frames, including when Taylor Lawson scored on a wild pitch in the third for the five-run lead.

Madison Barr scored an unearned run on a fielder's choice in the fourth to get EOU on the board, but Corban scored the next seven runs, capped off with Madison Wyllie's two-run home run in the sixth, to build a double-

digit lead.

Corban outhit EOU 13-2 in the contest.

Amanda Smith allowed six runs on nine hits in 4-1/3 innings to take the loss for EOU. She walked two batters and struck out four.

EOU's best shot at a win on the weekend came in Saturday's nightcap, a pitchers' duel that saw the teams combine for 11 hits. Corban, though, scored the only run on a Kaylee Buhrkuhl sacrifice fly in the seventh inning.

Haley Ebner had two of EOU's five hits in the contest. Lauren Spencer pitched the final three innings, allowing one run on one hit, but took the loss. Ashton Kazmierski pitched four innings of shutout ball, allowing four hits, for Eastern.

Corban put the final CCC game of the weekend away early Sunday with seven runs in the first inning to take command. The frame was capped by a Wyllie grand slam for a 7-0 lead.

EOU scored on an Ebner solo homer in the second and a Barr RBI single in the third to get within 8-2, before Corban added five more runs in the fourth.

Spencer, less than 24 hours after limiting Corban on Saturday, gave up three runs on four hits in 2/3 of an inning in the loss. Barr finished with two hits.

The Mountaineers took their lone lead of the weekend in the second inning of the finale Sunday, going up

1-0 on Jordan Shaw's RBI single. But a four-run third by Corban, highlighted by a Sam Woodley two-run double, put the Warriors ahead 4-1. They added a run in the fifth for the final margin.

Smith pitched a complete game, allowing five runs on 11 hits in seven innings for EOU.

The Mountaineers (2-16 overall, 1-5 CCC) face the University of British Columbia on the road Friday and Saturday. ■

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