

NAIA'S BEST PLAYER



By Ronald Bond
The Observer

Add one more accolade to the docket for Eastern Oregon standout Maya Ah You-Dias.

The sixth-year senior was named NAIA women's basketball national player of the year Thursday at the conclusion of a season where she helped the Mountaineers win 29 games, claim a third consecutive Cascade Collegiate Conference championship and reach the second round of the NAIA national tournament.

"I was honestly really shocked," she said. "There's great players in the nation. To be recognized as one of the top ones was crazy to grasp. I couldn't really believe it."

Ah You-Dias played in the final 24 games of the season for the Mountaineers, and helped the team, which was on a seven-game winning streak prior to her return, reach another level. She finished with averages of 23.2 points per game and 9.0 rebounds per game, both of which led the team.

But they were just a fraction of the areas Ah You-Dias stuffed the stat sheet. The senior led the Mountaineers in 13 different categories, ranging from minutes per game (31.0) to steals per game (2.0) to field goal percentage (.535) to 3-point percentage (.443).

"It's unreal to me," she said of the numbers she posted. "Looking back, I had a season that I didn't think I could do. It's rewarding to have (the) season that I did."

She was never held under double digits in scoring this season, and dating to last season scored at least 10 points in 35 of her last 36 games. She eclipsed 30 points in a game six times and twice reached more than 40, including a program-record 45-point effort in a win at Northwest (Washington) on Feb. 1.

It's the second time Ah You-Dias has been named a first-team all-American after also accomplishing the feat a year ago.

Eastern Oregon finished the season a week ago with a 61-57 loss to Indiana Tech in the second round of the national tournament, finishing 29-4 overall. It was the

final game of a six-year run in the program for Ah You-Dias, who redshirted her freshman year in 2013-14. An injury forced her to sit out for the entirety of the 2015-16 season, but she was granted a second redshirt for this season, which allowed her one more year in an EOU uniform.

Injuries, in fact, have been a commonality for Ah You-Dias since high school. All told, she said she's worked through three torn ACLs — two in the left knee — "five or six" MCL tears, meniscus injuries and "four major surgeries" for her ACLs.

"Just my love for the game," she said of what kept her going through the myriad of setbacks. "I worked really hard to get to where I'm at. I've played basketball since I was 7. The thought of not playing because of injury didn't occur to me."

In her six years, she was part of the program during a stretch where the team went 160-39. The last three years of that run, with her as a primary catalyst on the team, were arguably the best in program history. EOU turned in a mark of 90-12, won three straight CCC regular season and conference tournament titles, reached nationals all three times and matched its deepest run at the national tournament, when it went to the final eight in 2016-17. The team in that three year run also went 57-3 in CCC play — 66-3 when counting the conference tournament — and was a perfect 42-0 at home.

She said if the right opportunity arose, she would consider playing past college, but for now she is satisfied with how her career ended.

"It's an amazing honor," she said of the award. "(I'm) happy I could bring this award to our conference and, most importantly, our university."

Ah You-Dias was joined on the national award stage by Jordan May of the Eastern Oregon men's basketball team, who was an honorable mention NAIA recipient.

The sophomore led Eastern, which finished with a record of 15-15 overall, by averaging 20 points per game. He also led the team in field goals made (193) and attempted (455), 3-pointers made (80) and attempted (222) and free throws made (75). ■

Glenn's unanimous pick leads Bobcats' postseason awards

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Union Bobcats boys basketball team reached the title game of the Blue Mountain Conference tournament and made the state playoffs for the first time since 2017.

Sophomore Keegan Glenn was a vital cog to the Bobcats success and along with Weston-McEwen's Stockton Hoffman was unanimous choice for first-team all-league in the BMC and an unofficial conference co-player of the year with Hoffman. Union Head Coach Dan Daggett said the conference dropped its player of the year honor this season.

"He puts in so much time outside of what I do (to coach kids)," Daggett said. "I run a summer program and do all kinds of stuff, but he does more outside of that. He's always finding a camp and finding time to improve himself. He works hard. He's got the work ethic of a great athlete."

"I haven't found a kid that works as hard as he does."

The Bobcats almost doubled their win total from a year ago, when they went just 9-15, improving to 16-9 for their most wins since the 2015-16 season. Glenn was the leading scorer and rebounder for the young Union squad, which had just two seniors on the team.

"He's just constantly trying to figure out how to improve everything," Daggett said of Glenn.

Glenn was joined in the postseason honors by one of those seniors, Tate Lantis, who was named honorable mention.

The Enterprise Outlaws boys basketball team also landed two players on the all-league team, with senior Dylan Marr and junior Devin Greer securing second-team spots.

The Outlaws finished with a 9-15 record overall, and were fifth in the BMC at 3-9.

On the girls side, three senior members of the Enterprise Outlaws girls basketball team, which grabbed the team's best finish at state in close to a decade, were recognized.

Shelby Moncrief led the charge for Enterprise by earning a spot on the first team, while both Karli Beard and Lexie Gasset were second-team members.

The trio bolstered the Outlaws, who turned in a record of 20-8 overall, finished second in the regular season in the BMC and placed fifth at state, matching the same placing the team had in 2012 when it last took home a trophy.

The Union Bobcats girls basketball team made a re-



Ronald Bond/Observer file photos

Top photo: Union's Keegan Glenn was a unanimous first-team all-Blue Mountain Conference selection. Bottom photo: La Grande's Camryn Collman was first-team all-Greater Oregon League.



turn to the state playoffs for the first time in four years by winning 14 games, and saw two players honored for their efforts.

Freshman Callie Glenn received a second-team nod from the BMC coaches, and sophomore Kylie Marriott picked up honorable mention.

The Bobcats' 14-11 record was their best since the 2014-15 season, when the team placed third at state.

Tigers girls land four, boys three on all-GOL

The La Grande Tigers girls basketball team had four players earn all-Greater Oregon League from its first team to make the state playoffs in three years.

Sophomores Camryn Collman and Ella Dunlap were both selected to the first team, while freshman

Grace Neer and junior Jacie Howton were voted to the second team.

The Tigers turned in their best record since the 2015-16 team won 20 games and placed fifth at state. La Grande finished with a mark of 13-9 overall and was second in the GOL at 4-2. All 13 of the Tigers' wins came in games where they held their opponent to 40 points or less.

The LHS boys, meanwhile, landed three players on the all-GOL squad, with senior Braden Bell earning a spot on the first team and seniors Hunter Youngblood and Nick Tsiatsos gaining a spot on the second team.

La Grande finished with an overall record of 7-13, was 4-2 in the GOL and reached the play-in round of the state playoffs, but fell a win shy of a state berth. ■

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