



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Kaleb Myer, left, gets set for a serve during a doubles match, while Rebecca Conklin, right, charges the net during a singles match on Tuesday against Vale.

Tigers christen new courts

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers tennis team played on its new tennis courts for the first time Tuesday and came out with mixed results. The LHS boys went 4-4 in their matches against the Vale Vikings, while the girls dropped all eight contests.

The new courts, on the site of old Central Elementary School, are not quite finished, as they still need a hard court playing surface put on top of the asphalt currently in place.

But it still beats what the Tigers had been on previously, with the old LHS courts and the current courts at Eastern Oregon University plagued with cracks and battered nets.

"It's very exciting," Head Coach Mark Carollo said. "Not only for the tennis team and the high school, but really the community. Since my time here in La Grande, we haven't had any great courts. It still needs a little

bit of work — that top surface needs (to be placed) — but it's turning into a gorgeous facility. It's something we need to take pride in."

The boys had their best success against Vale in singles, winning three matches. Caysen Forsberg dropped the No. 1 singles match to Porter McKrola (6-0, 6-2), but the Tigers followed with wins by Colm Cahill over William Gonzalez (6-0, 6-1), Adam Remily over Blake Reed (6-2, 6-1), and Ashton Morwood over Gonzalez (8-3).

In doubles, James Thurman and Scott Remily fell to Marco Ramirez and Japheth Carlson (6-1, 6-4), Nick DuVernay and Kaleb Myer lost to Payton Kelso and Ricky Leyva (6-1, 6-1), and Mason Mellinger and Gabe Blackman dropped their match to Justin Buhrig and Jared Halley (6-3, 6-2). The Tigers' win in doubles came from Caden Johnson and Devin Ingram, who topped Jorge Mendieta

and Kaden Ruckman, 8-4.

The LHS girls dropped each of their matches in straight sets. In singles, Rebecca Conklin lost to Whitney Milleson (6-0, 6-3), Brenna Bushman fell to Flavia Bruton (6-0, 6-0), Maria Ortiz was defeated by Kailey McGourty (6-0, 6-0), and Emily Wilson dropped an 8-2 match to Jackie Marquez.

In doubles, Maylen Tommy and Mattie Hendrickson lost to Rachel Wolfe and Maycee Delong (6-1, 6-0), Brittany Robles and Maritza Villagomez were topped by Alexis Schaffeld and Riley Kelsey (6-1, 6-0), Katelin Banes and Lindsay Shaul fell to Morgan Bruton and ZuDiia Hill (6-0, 6-1), and Isabelle Hadley and Celeste Villagomez dropped a match to Erika McBride and Jessi Arriola (8-0).

The Tigers return to action Tuesday when they travel to Ontario. ■

Eastern suffers road sweep

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon softball team suffered a tough tripleheader sweep — including losses in the sixth and seventh innings — at the hands of Carroll College Monday in Cascade Collegiate Conference action, 7-2, 6-5 and 4-3. The games, originally set to be played March 29 and 30, were postponed to Monday and moved to Missoula, Montana, due to weather conditions.

CARROLL 7, EASTERN OREGON 2

An early lead for the Mountaineers in the opener was short-lived as Carroll scored six consecutive runs to take command of the game.

Haley Ebner's RBI single gave EOU a 1-0 lead in the first. Before the inning was over, Carroll responded with two runs to take the lead for good. The Saints added a third run in the second, then pushed three across in the third — capped by a two-run single by Anna ApRoberts — to go ahead 6-1.

Jordan Henley singled home a run in the fourth to cut the margin to 6-2, but the Mountaineers drew no closer.

Ebner, Hannah Rothwell and Shevan DeFreitas each had two hits for EOU. The Mountaineers, though, struggled with command pitching, as Jessica Lambert and Lauren Spencer combined to walk nine batters in six innings. Lambert, who started and took the loss, allowed five runs on five hits in 2-1/3 innings with four walks and a strikeout.

CARROLL 6, EASTERN OREGON 5

The Mountaineers were three outs away from ending a five-game losing streak in CCC play, but the Saints scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to steal Game 2 and take the series.

In the third inning, EOU scored three runs and briefly took a 3-2 lead on a Madison Barr RBI single and a two-run single by DeFreitas. In the fifth, an RBI single by Ebner gave Eastern a 4-3 lead, and Rothwell homered in the sixth for a two-run advantage. Spencer came on in relief and kept the Saints off the board until the final inning.

Carroll tied the score in the bottom of the seventh on back-to-back RBI doubles by Amber Brewer and Ken-

dall Mooney, and Natalie Gaber hit a walk-off RBI three batters later for the win.

Spencer was tagged with the loss, allowing three runs on five hits in 3-2/3 innings with a walk and three strikeouts.

CARROLL 4, EASTERN OREGON 3

The Mountaineers saw a lead fade in the closing innings in the series finale.

Rayne Spencer's RBI double in the second inning tied the score at 1-1, and a two-run single by Brandi Bowling put Eastern ahead, 3-1.

But Carroll scored twice in the fourth to pull even, and the eventual winning run came in the bottom of the sixth on a sacrifice fly by Megan McCormick.

EOU had two runners on with one out in the seventh, but failed to pull even.

Brianna Zwegardt took the loss in relief, allowing one run on two hits in 2-1/3 innings, walking two and striking out one.

The sweep drops Eastern Oregon (5-24 overall, 2-13 CCC) into 10th place in the conference as it heads into a road series at rival College of Idaho Friday and Saturday. ■

Bell leads La Grande to third place

Observer staff

Braden Bell shot a round of 78 to take third individually and lead the La Grande Tigers boys golf team to a third-place finish at the Wildhorse Invitational Tuesday in Pendleton.

Bell was one of three Tigers to break 90, with Cruz Gallegos following at 84 and Tristen Shepherd at 88.

Anton Evans and Jack Seydel both shot 108 to round out La Grande's scoring.

As a team, the Tigers shot 358. Hanford, Washington, had the best team score at 315, and Hermiston was second at 349.

The Tigers are back in action Thursday at Desert

Canyon in Mountain Home, Idaho.

WILLIAMS' CAREER BEST EFFORT PACES LHS GIRLS

Katie Williams shot a career-best round of 96 to lead three La Grande Tigers golfers who played a full round at the Wildhorse Invitational Monday in Pendleton.

Williams' score was good for sixth overall and just one stroke shy of being part of a tie for third.

The two other Tigers to complete a full round were Tori Bowen, who shot a 105, and Baylee McNeil, who carded a score of 110.

The Tigers return to action Friday at the Ridgeview High School Girls Invitational in

Redmond.

OUTLAWS BOYS COMPETE AT PUMPKIN RIDGE

The Enterprise Outlaws boys golf team turned in a team score of 441 at the 2A Invitational Monday at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course near Portland.

Tyler Gray led the way for the Outlaws with a score of 94, which is a personal best. The rest of the top three for Enterprise were Boone Harrod at 95 and Jacob Amaro at 108.

The Outlaws return to action Friday at the PCC Invitational in Pendleton. ■

LHS baseball takes down Irrigon in five

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers baseball team scored the game's first 13 runs and rolled to a 13-3 road win over the Irrigon Knights Tuesday.

Five Tigers had at least two hits, and Parker Robinson powered the offense by going 3-for-4 with four RBIs. Brody Kincaid also went 3-for-4, and drove in two runs. Kyler Malone added had a pair of RBIs.

Robinson's RBI double kicked off a three-run first inning for La Grande, and Malone's two-run single highlighted a four-run second for a 7-0 lead.

An RBI single by Robinson made it 8-0 in the third, and in the fourth Payton Cooper, Justin Frederick and Wyatt Earp all hit RBI singles before Robinson drove in two runs with a single for a 13-0 margin.

Isaac Zamora, one of four pitchers for La Grande, struck out three batters and allowed three hits in two in-

nings for the win.

La Grande (4-5 overall) travels to Ontario Saturday.

BOBCATS FALL AT HOME

The Union/Cove Bobcats baseball team dropped its Special District 7 opener to the Weston-McEwen Tiger-

Scots at home Tuesday, 7-4.

Keegan Glenn, Gannon Carneiro and Landon Moore each had two hits, and DJ Coon struck out six batters in three innings. The Bobcats (0-2 overall, 0-1 SD7) travel to Nyssa Saturday. ■

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