

Eastern softball stays in playoff chase with three wins

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon softball team gained ground on the sixth and final spot in the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament by taking three of four games from the University of Providence over the weekend, including winning two of three CCC games, in Pasco, Washington.

The wins, coupled with Carroll College suffering a sweep against College of Idaho, puts the Mountaineers two games

behind Carroll and Providence for sixth place with two weeks to play.

Friday EOU 7, PROVIDENCE 6

The Mountaineers opened the weekend set with a come-from-behind victory, scoring three times in the bottom of the sixth inning to take the lead for good.

Brandi Bowling tied the score at 5-5 in the sixth with a sacrifice fly before Haley Ebner and Jordan Henley hit back-to-back

RBI singles to plate two more runs and give Eastern a 7-5 edge.

Karlie Southworth hit a home run in the seventh for Providence, but the Mountaineers held on.

EOU took a 2-1 lead in the second inning when Rayne Spencer hit an RBI single, but fell behind 5-2 when the Argos scored four times in the fourth.

Two errors led to two more EOU runs in the fifth to help the Mountaineers draw closer.

An error in the first allowed Spencer to score the Mountaineers' first run.

Spencer and Henley each had two hits for EOU. Amanda Smith pitched three innings of relief to pick up the win, allowing one run on two hits with two strikeouts.

PROVIDENCE 5, EOU 1

The Argos jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead that they never relinquished in Friday's nightcap. Southworth's RBI double and

an error led to two runs in the first, and Hannah Vandomelen hit a two-run double in the second for a four-run advantage for Providence.

Eastern, which had just four hits in the second game, got on the board on Sarah Bonner's RBI double in the second inning.

Smith surrendered four runs on four hits in two innings for the loss for EOU. Jessica Lambert, in relief, kept EOU in the

See Eastern / Page 7A



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La Grande sprinters, from left, Sajun White, Nick Tsiatsos and Josh Zollman, took the top three spots in the boys 100 Saturday at the La Grande Invitational. The Tiger boys won 11 events to easily win the team title.

Tigers own the track

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The dominant effort put forth by the members of the La Grande Tigers boys track and field team didn't surprise their coach.

"They're just that high quality of a team," Head Coach Julie Bodfish said after the LHS boys recorded 11 victories and 25 top-three finishes to rout the competition at the La Grande Invitational Saturday.

The Tigers finished with 243.5 points, more than double the points of runner-up Baker (93 points).

"When you look at the quality of performance of the guys overall, they are right where we want them (to be)," Bodfish said.

The performances included a 1-2-3-4 effort in the boys 100 from Sajun White (11.57 seconds), Nick Tsiatsos (11.58), Josh Zollman (11.62) and Luke Bloodgood (11.79) and a 1-2-3 performance in the long jump by Tsiatsos (21-feet-6), Hunter Youngblood (20-feet-8-3/4) and Zach Wiggins (20-feet-6). And, in three events, the Tigers took the top two spots: the 4x400 relay (Callum Ebel, T.J. Clay, Owen Kreutz

and Josh Zollman in 3:42.04 and Bennett Welch, Westin Blake, Eli McLean and Cristian Mendoza in 3:43.17), White (23.55) and Zollman (24.00) in the 200, and Welch (4:17.39) and Mendoza (4:20.94) in the 1,500.

Welch also headed a 1-3-4 finish for La Grande in the 800, winning in 2:05.10 with Blake (2:07.11) following in third and Mendoza (2:07.66) in fourth. Ebel (16.57) and Clay (16.72) took first and third in the 110 hurdles, as did Tsiatsos (40-feet-11-1/2) and Youngblood (38-feet-6) in the triple jump. White, Tsiatsos, Zollman and Youngblood won the 4x100 relay (44.02), Wiggins took the high jump (6-feet-0) and Jacob Huntsman claimed the pole vault (13-feet-0).

White said the team is getting into a rhythm after having to deal with the inclement weather that has hampered the northeast portion of the state much of the spring.

"This meet shows we're coming back. We're coming for that state title again," he said. "We kind of dominated today, which is good."

Keith Oswald added a second-place finish in the javelin (137-feet-3-1/2) and



Ronald Bond/The Observer

La Grande's Jacob Huntsman cleared 13 feet to win the boys pole vault.

third in the discus (109-feet-5-3/4), and Kreutz was second in the 400 (55.53). Ebel and Clay went 3-4 in the 300 hurdles, both in 44.11.

The Elgin Huskies, who placed third with 57 points, collected wins from Tristan Simpson in the javelin (151-

feet-6) and Geoy Greenlee (54.85) as part of a 1-3-4 finish with Clay Wilhelm (55.67) and Simpson (55.99). The 4x400 relay team of Wyatt Hallgarth, Ian Smith, Wilhelm and Simpson was third in 3:44.01, and the 4x100

See Track / Page 7A

La Grande earns key road sweep of Baker

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers baseball team earned a key doubleheader sweep of rival Baker on the road in Greater Oregon League play Friday, winning 4-2 and 9-4 to move into a tie for first place in the GOL and hand the Bulldogs their first and second losses of the season.

LA GRANDE 4, BAKER 2

The Tigers strung together a late rally to come back from a 2-0 deficit and take the opening game.

A solo home run by Isaac Zamora in the fourth inning and a Justin

Frederick RBI double in the fifth evened the score at 2-2, and in the sixth Brody Kincade's RBI single and Riley Miller's RBI double gave the Tigers the lead for good.

Zamora, who along with Frederick had two hits, also pitched six innings for the win, allowing two runs on six hits with a walk and five strikeouts. Parker Robinson worked out of a jam in the seventh for the save.

LA GRANDE 9, BAKER 4

The Tigers never trailed and distanced themselves with a five-run sixth inning to complete the sweep.

Robinson, Kincade and Riley Cooper each drove in two runs for La Grande. Robinson's two-run single in the second gave La Grande the lead for good at 3-1. Kincade hit an early RBI single and was hit by a pitch during the decisive sixth, and Cooper hit a two-run double in the sixth that gave La Grande an 8-2 lead. Frederick added an RBI single for the Tigers.

Robinson collected the win, giving up two runs on four hits in five innings with two walks and nine strikeouts. During that stretch, Robinson

See Baseball / Page 7A

Tigers pummel rival Bulldogs

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers softball team turned in a beatdown of epic proportions on rival Baker Friday, sweeping a doubleheader, 21-0 and 23-0. The onslaught featured a no-hitter by Allie Brock and Sophie Bell in the opening game.

LA GRANDE 21, BAKER 0

Brock struck out five Bulldog batters in two innings, and Bell fanned two more in three frames, while the Tigers piled up 21 hits to roll past the hapless Bulldogs.

Jayde Wiggins went 4-for-5 with five RBIs. Jayce Seavert and Kinzy Bowen each had three hits, with Seavert driving in four runs and hitting a home run. Kara Gooderham and Jaiden Hafer both added three RBIs, and three players — Gooderham, Jacie How-

ton and Bowen — scored three runs each.

The Tigers scored in each of the five innings, taking a 7-0 lead through two frames before posting nine runs in the third to turn the game into a laugher. Wiggins and Seavert both hit two run singles in the frame, Hafer and Lexee Gomes each added RBI singles, and Gooderham capped the inning with a three-run double. Seavert added a solo home run in the fourth.

LA GRANDE 23, BAKER 0

The nightcap Friday saw the Tigers post 23 hits, including three home runs, as they finished off the easy sweep.

Bell, Hafer and Grace Neer each went deep for the Tigers. Hafer hit a two-run shot during an eight-run fourth, and

See Softball / Page 7A

EOU women cruise in Nampa

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon women's track and field team turned in a solid performance with two wins and a bevy of top-four finishes at the NNU Invitational Saturday.

The Mountaineers picked up victories from their 4x400 relay team of Paige Dodd, Megan Boals, Elizabeth Herbes and Michelle Herbes in a time of 3:56.77, and Morgan Reddington took the top spot in the long jump with a mark of 17-feet-4-3/4.

The Herbes sisters both added individual second-place finishes — Elizabeth in the 200 (25.66 seconds) and Michelle in the 400 (58.32), and Elizabeth ran on the second-place 4x100 team with Haley White, Kinnah Rhodes and Payton Jolley (49.32).

Maggie Ledbetter also had a big individual day for Eastern, taking second in the shot put (41-feet-1) and in the discus (133-feet-7) and adding a fourth-place effort in the hammer throw (135-feet-4). Dodd, in addition to being on the winning 4x400 team, was second in the high jump (5-feet-4-1/4) and fourth in the 100 hurdles (15.43), and White added a second-place finish in the 400 hurdles (1:06.18).

A second 4x400 relay team — Kendra Blake, Kaitlyn Burgess, Katie Jo Gebhardt and Faith Homer — placed third

in 4:16.62. Also in third were Boals in the 400 (1:00.69), Emily Palmer in the 400 hurdles (1:08.04), Kalulusno Ngaida in the high jump (5-feet-2-1/4), Victoria Branch in the long jump (16-feet-8-3/4), Jolley in the triple jump (34-feet-4-3/4), Danielle Church in the shot put (39-feet-9-3/4), and Makayla Akers in the javelin (124-feet-4), and in fourth were Kennedy Lake in the pole vault (9-feet-6-1/2) and Karianne Zollman in the javelin (123-feet-4).

The men's top effort came in the pole vault, with Corey Sledge taking second (16-feet-0-3/4), Sam Roddewig in third, and Jonah Coats and Lucas Hidalgo tying for fourth, with the latter three all clearing 14-feet-1-1/4. Devin Lewis-Allen (48.86) and Josh Wallin (50.10) turned in a 2-3 finish in the 400. Dawson Kennon (190-feet-3) and Jakob Sandhagen (188-feet-10) went 3-4 in the javelin. Also in third were Branden Phanhaha in the 100 (11.34) and Chase Van Wyck in the shot put (47-feet-4-1/4), and in fourth was the 4x400 relay team of Kobe Crump, Nicholas Griffin, Jeff Patterson and Hunter Schiess (3:33.05) and Patterson individually in the 400 hurdles (56.78).

Up next for Eastern is the CCC Multi-Events Championships Thursday and Friday in La Grande. ■