

## EASTERN

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But there are pluses Dickhausen said the team can carry over into the 2020 season.

“We have a good group of young kids who are eager and ready to jump on the field. I think they’re going to come back and be hungry in the fall,” she said.

The Mountaineers spotted OIT an early 4-0 lead before beginning to chip away, with their seniors leading the charge. Senior Brandi Bowling hit an RBI single and Ebner had an RBI groundout to cut the

lead in half in the first inning, and Rayne Spencer, another senior, cut the gap to 4-3 with a second-inning RBI double.

The lead reached 5-3 before EOU pulled even on RBI singles by seniors Madison Barr and Bowling in the fourth.

All of EOU’s senior starters in the batting order in the finale, in fact, swung the bat well. Each had a hit, with Bowling, Shevan DeFreitas, Bonner and Rothwell collecting two each, and together, those four, Rayne Spencer and Barr went 10-for-18 with five runs and five RBIs.

Another freshman,

though, got the win in the circle. Brianna Zwegardt tossed seven innings, allowing five earned runs on seven hits. She did walk eight, but struck out four.

### Also Saturday OIT 6, EOU 1

Eastern had nine hits — three off the bat of Rayne Spencer, but were able to scratch out only one run in a loss in the CCC finale earlier Saturday.

EOU’s lone run came when it caught a break in the sixth and trailing 5-0. Bonner hit a short pop in the infield, but OIT catcher Jacey Conklin and first baseman Andrea Sotelo collided going for the

ball, allowing it to drop and Bowling to score.

That was all Eastern managed against Sarah Abramson, who struck out 11 batters for OIT.

Lauren Spencer, in her finale game for EOU, tossed a complete game, allowing five earned runs on six hits with seven walks.

### Friday OIT 8, EOU 5

The Owls hit three home runs and responded to each rally by EOU to win the opener Friday.

Cierra Barkis and Sotelo hit home runs in the second and third innings, respectively, for a 3-1 lead.

The lead reached 5-2 before Rayne Spencer hit a two-run shot in the fourth to make it a one-run game. But Tech responded with three more runs, highlighted by a Logan Nunes two-run homer, to make it an 8-4 margin. An error in the seventh allowed Bowling to score. Bowling, Rayne Spencer and DeFreitas each had two hits.

### OIT 9, EOU 2

The Mountaineers hung close for most of what was a must-win game to keep its playoff hopes alive, but the Owls broke the game open with six runs in the seventh for the win.

Nunes homered twice

for OIT, including a three-run shot to cap the seventh and make it a 9-1 lead. Rothwell hit a solo home run in the bottom of the seventh.

The Owls scored three times in the fifth for the early lead before Rayne Spencer’s RBI double got Eastern on the board. The Mountaineers, though, had just five hits, two from Jordan Henley.

Lauren Spencer tossed 4-1/3 innings, giving up one earned run on four hits with a walk and a strikeout.

EOU finished with an overall record of 13-32 and was 7-20 in the CCC. ■

## TIGERS

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Kyler Malone RBI double. Putting pressure on defense is what we have to do,” McKinley said. “We have to put the ball in play and get pressure on guys in situations that we can have a favorable outcome, and we did that.”

Ontario caught a tough break in the fifth when it had a run wiped off the board after an appeal. With two on and nobody out, Chance Palmer doubled in a run, but Colton Seal got caught in a rundown and was thrown out at home. La Grande then appealed that Israel Rodriguez, who had scored on the double, didn’t touch home on the play. Rodriguez was ruled out, and the run taken off.

Ontario finally got on the board in the seventh on a Seth Forsyth RBI single.

Zamora walked two, struck out five and allowed one run on eight hits for the complete game.

Robinson was as good in the nightcap, if not better, giving up just one run one two hits and striking out seven.

“Just throwing strikes,” Robinson said of the key for him. “I’ve got a great defense. We’re up there with the best middle-infield in the state, and being able to rely on them makes you a lot more confident.”

Zamora’s RBI single in the first quickly gave La Grande a 1-0 lead, then an error-filled fourth led to four unearned runs. Three of the four runs in the frame, in fact, scored on an error, and Robinson added an RBI double.

Ontario got on the board in the fifth on Esplin’s RBI groundout, but Justin Comfort and Justin Frederick responded with an RBI double and an RBI single, respectively, for the final margin.

La Grande (11-6 overall, 7-1 GOL) travels to Hermiston today before hosting Baker Friday. A split would give the Tigers the GOL title and the top spot, as it would also give them the tiebreaker over Baker.

“Those are going to be two big games. We’ve gotta be ready for those,” McKinley said. ■

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