

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Union/Cove boys take third, girls fourth at Baker Invite

Observer staff

The Union/Cove Bobcat boys had three runners in the top 10 and finished in third place as a team at the Baker Invitational Friday.

Taylor Fox led the way for Union/Cove, which had 70 points and trailed just Baker (39) and Burns (58), by taking fourth (17:19.96). Teammate Israel O'Reilly followed in fifth in 17:23.15, and Andrew Lackey was eighth in 17:41.32.

Monte Kirby (22nd, 18:45.53) and Carter Blackburn (32nd, 19:00.76) rounded out the top five for the Bobcats.

The La Grande Tigers followed in fourth with 121 points and had three top-20 runners. Cristian Mendoza paced the Tigers in third place in 17:03.85 and was joined in the top 20 by Braxton Bisenius in 18th (18:30.47) and Donald Sweet in 20th (18:35.53). The rest of La Grande's top five was Caleb Murie in 38th (19:20.98) and Garrett Street in 49th (19:47.99).

The Elgin Huskies had just four runners on the afternoon, two of whom were in the top 50 as Kevin Hendrickson place 45th (19:42.83) and Kaden McClure followed in 46th (19:43.73).

The Union/Cove girls also paced the Union County schools, taking fourth with 85 points. Burns ran away with first place with 28 points, followed by Pendleton and Baker (78 points each).

The Bobcats put all five runners in the top 25, with Jaimee Baxter leading the way in fifth place in 21:23.63. Ashlee Burtch (17th, 23:00.34) and Kaitlin Martens (20th 23:20.49) cracked the top 20, and Danielle



S. John Collins/EO Media Group

La Grande's Jacki Martini was the top Union County placer at the Baker Invitational, taking second.

O'Reilly (22nd, 23:32.63) and Audrey Wells (25th, 23:41.10) completed the top five.

Jacki Martini took second overall in 20:53.41 to lead the Tigers, who were fifth with 110 points. La Grande had four in the top 30. Along with Martini were Audrey Garlitz in 21st (23:31.51), Corbyn Sexton in 26th (24:00.15) and Gladys Alf Rippee in 29th (24:20.99). Maia Vandervlugt rounded out the Tigers' top five in 41st (24:49.94).

Elgin's lone runner, Jocelyn Palmer, took 27th in 24:02.65.

La Grande and Union/Cove are back in action Saturday in Pasco, Washington, while Elgin is off until the La Grande Invite Oct. 11.

EOU secures first CCC win

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon University Mountaineers were about 10 minutes away from an 0-3 start to Cascade Collegiate Conference play, then came up with two clutch goals late for arguably their most important win of the season.

Patrick Larsen scored the game-tying goal in the 80th minute, Erik Mattice scored the winner in overtime, and Eastern rallied for a 3-2 win over College of Idaho Friday in Caldwell.

"We worked super hard and we knew we were prepared," head coach Zach Mills said. "Going down early

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

didn't knock us off. (We) had to rally twice, but the guys know that hard work pays off. That win helped emphasize that we can accomplish our goals."

Ahmet Huremovic scored twice for C of I, including a go-ahead goal in the 60th minute for a 2-1 lead.

But Larsen, who assisted both of Eastern's other goals, scored off a pass from Javier Moran with 10 minutes to play to pull even with the Coyotes.

He found Mattice for the golden goal just 3:02 into the

extra session to complete the comeback in yet another overtime and one-goal affair for Eastern.

Huremovic gave the Yotes a 1-0 lead just seven minutes into the match. The margin held until early in the second half, when Elvis Pavon knotted the score in the 51st minute.

The win comes in what is already the Mountaineers' fifth overtime match this season. EOU had six all of last year. It's also the sixth match for EOU to be decided by one goal or less.

Eastern (3-4-1 overall, 1-2 CCC) hosts Carroll College Friday.

No. 9 Eastern stays unbeaten

Observer staff

Nan Kiebert scored the game-tying goal early in the second half and found Erika Skindlov for the eventual game winner with 13 minutes to play as the No. 9 Eastern Oregon University Mountaineers held off rival College of Idaho, 2-1, in Cascade Collegiate Conference play Friday afternoon in Caldwell.

"I thought we did a good job of controlling the game," EOU head coach Jacob Plocher said. "Once again we led in shots and shots on goal. C of I capitalized on their one opportunity, but I was proud of our composure and how we were able to answer back."

The Yotes briefly took a 1-0 lead in the

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

second half when Laura Staropoli found the back of the net in the 48th minute on what ended up being C of I's only shot on goal in the match, and its only shot of the second half.

The lead was short lived. Kiebert took a through ball from Kaitlin McLeod and scored in the 56th minute, then sent a through ball to Skindlov, which the freshman put home for the winner in the 77th to complete the comeback.

The Mountaineers (5-0-2 overall, 2-0-1 CCC), who are one of only five unbeaten teams remaining in NAIA, host Carroll College Friday.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 7A

force the deciding fifth.

Eastern started the final set on fire, taking a 4-0 lead on a Williams kill and going up 7-1 after two SOU attack errors. Southern did get as close as 9-8, but an error by the Raiders, a Breanna Shaffer kill and a Scott kill put Eastern back in control. The duo combined on back-to-back blocks to force match point, then Shaffer finished the match with a kill three points later.

EOU had three players reach double figures in kills, led by 17 from Megan Bunn, 12 from Shaffer and 11 from Scott. Scott and Nina Bailey had seven and six block assists, respectively, and Pilon had 47 assists. Eastern's back row was also tough, with five players getting dou-

ble figures in digs — Kiley McMurtre (21), Pilon (16), Williams (14), Bunn (13) and Aspen Christiansen (10).

EOU held on despite posting 15 service errors in the match.

On Friday, the Mountaineers shook off a bad second set to secure a four-set win over Oregon Tech, 25-22, 15-25, 25-15, 25-17.

Bunn led the EOU offense in the win with 14 kills and also had a big role on defense with 14 digs and four blocks. Taylor Tibbetts added 10 kills and Shaffer had eight. EOU also got three blocks from Bailey, who provided a boost off the bench. McMurtre had 15 digs, Christiansen added 12 digs, and Pilon had 37 assists.

Eastern never trailed in the first set and led by six on several occasions. OIT did get within one on an ace by

Amanda Powley, but Shaffer had a kill on the next point to end the 7-2 run and maintain the margin.

Tech used a 14-5 run to take command in the second set, but EOU followed with an equally dominant third set. The Mountaineers went on a 7-0 run to take a 15-8 lead on a Scott kill and finished the set with a 4-1 run.

A 6-1 run in the fourth gave EOU a 10-7 lead on a Sade Williams ace. Tech got within 16-15 on a Kaylin Talonen kill before EOU ended the match on a 9-2 run, with a kill by Bailey and a block by Bailey and Pilon ending the match.

Eastern (17-1 overall, 7-1 CCC), which moved into sole possession of second place in the conference with the wins, hosts Warner Pacific Friday.

Bobcats take two matches

Observer staff

The Union Bobcats came away with two more Blue Mountain Conference victories in a three-way match in Heppner Saturday — one that was a sweep and one that was a nailbiter.

The Bobcats swept past the Enterprise Outlaws 25-16, 25-7, 25-7, then had to work to get past host Heppner in five sets later Saturday 20-25, 25-12, 25-12, 22-25, 15-6.

The Bobcats came out firing against Enterprise and only played stronger as the match progressed. Kylie Marriott (14 kills) and Autumn Daggett (10 kills) led the offense in the win. Union also had strong efforts from Callie Glenn (27 assists, six digs, five aces), Brianna Kohr (14 digs) and Ahnica Shoemaker (five kills, five blocks).

PREP VOLLEYBALL

on keeping that momentum and when we lose it being able to pull out of it."

Marriott again led Union on offense with 21 kills, and added 12 digs.

Daggett added 14 kills, six digs and three aces. Shoemaker had seven kills, Kohr had 32 digs, and Glenn turned in a solid all-around match with 40 assists, 10 digs, five kills and four aces.

Earlier in the day, Enterprise played three close sets with Heppner to open the three-way, but was swept 25-22, 25-23, 25-18.

"We played solid volleyball against Heppner, but we lacked intensity," Farwell said. "We didn't have any sense of urgency to finish a set on top."

Claire Farwell had 23 digs to lead the defense for the Outlaws. Ashlyn Gray led the offense with 12 kills, and Zari Bathke had four blocks.

Union (12-2 overall, 4-0 BMC) hosts Grant Union Tuesday. Enterprise (7-8, 0-3) visits Weston-McEwen Thursday.

Also

LEOPARDS SWEEP GRIZZLIES

The Cove Leopards picked up an Old Oregon League win at home Friday, sweeping the Griswold Grizzlies, 25-18, 25-11, 25-16.

Kierra Moore led a balanced attack for the Leopards with nine kills. Elli Hines-Dunlap added eight kills and Austin Kendall had seven.

Cove (10-4 overall, 3-2 OOL) visits Powder Valley Tuesday.

ELGIN FALLS IN FOUR TO BADGERS

The Elgin Huskies took a set from Old Oregon League-leading Powder

Valley, but fell in four sets to the Badgers Friday, 25-21, 25-7, 18-25, 25-14.

Tymra Anderson had eight kills and 11 digs for the Huskies. Jayden Palmer tallied nine digs and seven assists, Gracie Evans had 10 digs and Kaelin Evans had two aces and two blocks. Maddie Harvey also had two blocks.

"They showed up to prove a point and demonstrate how much they've improved and I think they did just that. To keep up and win a set over a great team like North Powder was a big accomplishment," head coach Tiana Murphey said.

Stats were not available for Powder Valley.

The Badgers (19-1 overall, 5-0 OOL) host Cove Tuesday, while Elgin (6-9, 2-4) hosts Griswold Thursday.

COUGARSTAKE FOUR MATCHES

The Wallowa Cougars finished a busy week with four wins in two days.

Friday, Wallowa topped Adrian in four sets, 23-25, 25-22, 25-15, 25-16, and swept Jordan Valley, 25-18, 25-15, 25-22, in a pair of non-league matchups in Adrian.

Saturday, the Cougars swept Nixyaawii, 25-13, 25-18, 25-4, and Griswold, 25-12, 25-8, 25-10, in a pair of home Old Oregon League contests.

In the win over Nixyaawii, Ashlyn Young had 21 digs and three aces, Shanna Rae Tillery had 13 digs, seven kills and five aces, Jamie Johnston had eight kills, 19 digs, five blocks and three aces, and both Ella Moeller and Libby Fisher had 12 digs.

Tillery followed with eight kills against Griswold, and Sam Starner was 24-for-24 from the service line.

Wallowa (14-5 overall, 5-1 OOL) hosts Imbler Tuesday.



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