



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Eastern Oregon guard Josh Brown, left, scored 28 points and added eight assists in the Mountaineers' win over Pacific Union Saturday.

Eastern rallies for 107-95 win

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

The Eastern Oregon University men's basketball team looked to be in trouble early in the second half of its final game in the Quinn Classic.

The Mountaineers trailed Pacific Union by 12 points, had picked up two technical fouls in less than three minutes, and seemed on the verge of letting the visiting Pioneers pull away.

But EOU regained its composure, retook the lead with a 17-0 run, then finished off a 107-95 victory Saturday night at Quinn Coliseum.

The Pioneers' lead reached its largest at 63-51, with 15:44 to play after a free throw by De'Rajae Austin, before EOU regrouped and put the game in hand — which head coach Carlito Labarda Jr. said resulted largely from getting back to playing basketball and not worrying about what it felt were questionable calls.

"This includes myself — I think we were concentrated too much on calls and the refereeing, so I made a conscious effort not to say anything to the refs, and I told the bench during a timeout, 'No more talking to the refs, no more complaining about calls,'" he said.

It worked. A jumper by Josh Brown — who led Eastern with 28 points — a 3-pointer by Zane Wright and a rim-rattling dunk by Landon Jones pulled EOU within 63-60 and fired up the team and the crowd. Two field goals by Max McCullough gave the Mountaineers their first lead since the 9:04 mark of the first half, and two more Jones field goals — including another big dunk — pushed the lead to five.

"This year we've got more

versatility, and we as a team can just come together and bounce back," Jones said.

Tim Ford finally ended the run — and a six-minute scoring drought for Pacific Union — with a jumper with 9:41 to play. But Eastern — which shot 59.6% from the floor — gradually began to distance itself, either with timely 3-pointers from Wright, Brown or Brock Johnson, inside scoring off dribble-penetration from Brown or McCullough, or the free-throw line. Eastern was 32-for-37 from the floor for the game, 23-for-27 in the second half.

"I think it started with our guards starting to get penetration, and that led to dump-downs or kick outs to shooters," Jones said of the turnaround. "Zane Wright hit a couple (and) Brock hit a couple."

The lead reached double figures at 84-74 on a Brown 3-pointer with 4:47 to play in the game, and it grew to as much as 14 — 92-78 — on Wright's corner 3-pointer, his third of the game, with 2:38 left. The Pioneers got no closer than eight the rest of the way.

Brown, who also had a team-high eight assists, was one of five players in double figures for EOU, which seemed incapable of missing once it found its rhythm in the second half. After the break, the Mountaineers shot 69.2% (18-for-26) from the floor and were 5-for-9 from 3-point range after the break. Jones added 23 points and 15 rebounds for EOU, which had nine players score. McCullough (12 points), Wright (11) and Johnson (10) were also in double figures.

"I like the balance of this team. If one guy doesn't play well, other guys can pick that slack up for them,"

Labarda said.

McCullough added seven assists, and Peter Hamilton played a big role defensively with three blocked shots.

Eastern grabbed the lead early in the contest, but Marc Williams' 3-pointer put the Pioneers up 10-9 with 13:47 to play in the opening half as both teams struggled to get going offensively. Two field goals by Andreas Brown gave EOU a 15-10 lead with 11:34 to play in the half before the Pioneers pulled ahead, going on a 21-6 run for a 31-21 lead on Isaiah McCullough's jumper with 6:13 to play in the half. The lead reached 11 before Eastern cut the deficit to 46-43 at the half, finishing on a 15-7 run.

The Mountaineers opened the Quinn Classic — and the season — with a much less stressful 109-81 victory over Westcliff Friday evening.

Eastern, which never trailed in Friday's win, broke the game open with a 20-3 run, going up 16-6 after consecutive 3s by Max McCullough and Wright, and 26-9 when Josh Brown's jumper capped the run. The lead reached 40-20 later in the half on a Brandon Porter jumper and its largest of the first half at the break — 57-29 — on a steal and jumper by Brown. The lead grew to as much as 30 in the second half.

A trio of Mountaineers reached 20 points in the game. McCullough led the way with 27 points and hit five 3-pointers. Jarek Schetzle added 21 points, and Brown scored 20. Eleven players scored all told for EOU, which shot 56.3% and hit 10 3-pointers. Schetzle added 13 rebounds and four blocked shots to lead EOU.

The Mountaineers (2-0 overall) face Montana Tech Friday at the Montana Tech Fall Classic



Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

Wallowa's Tristin Bales (12) scored five touchdowns in the Cougars' win over Cove Friday in the season finale for both teams.

Wallowa finishes with win

Observer staff

The Wallowa Cougars finished the football season on a high note, thumping Cove, 80-0, Friday night in Special District 3-East action in Wallowa.

The Cougars won two of their final three games after an 0-5 start to the season. Their final two victories were both in blowout fashion, and two late losses came by a combined total of 18 points.

Wallowa totaled 461 yards of offense, including 413 on the ground, and held Cove to just 49 yards. Tristin Bales accounted for five first-half touchdowns and Zeb Ramsden added three as Wallowa scored 30 points in each of the first two quarters to lead at the break, 60-0.

Bales rushed for 95 yards and three scores, and also had a kickoff return and an interception return for a touchdown. Ramsden had 135 total yards, a receiving touchdown, a rushing score and a punt return for a touchdown.

The Cougars finish with an overall record of 2-6, and 2-4 in SD3-E. Cove finishes at 0-7, and 0-6 in the district.

UNION FINISHES REGULAR SEASON WITH WIN

Cameron Dillman rushed for 184 yards and two touchdowns, and the Union Bobcats wrapped up the 2019 regular season with a 40-8 home win over Lone/Arlington Friday in Special District 3-West action.

As a team, the Bobcats amassed 558 yards on the ground, and with its fourth

win secured its highest win total since 2016, when the team also won four games.

Anthony Goodwater added 93 yards rushing and a touchdown, and Gannon Carreiro added a 90-yard scoring run. Levi Hammond and Quinn Morton also scored in the win.

Union (4-3 overall, 3-2 SD3-W) will face Crane in the Special District 3 playoffs Friday at Community Stadium with a state playoff berth on the line. The teams met earlier this season, with Crane winning 56-0. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

ELGIN FALLS TO CRANE

The Crane Mustangs pulled away from Elgin in the second half to earn a 54-28 victory and secure the No. 2 seed in Special District 3-East Friday afternoon.

Elgin led 20-6 late in the second quarter before turnovers swung the game. The Huskies committed eight turnovers.

Tristan Simpson had 57 yards rushing and two touchdowns and also passed for 106 yards. Wyatt Hallgarth added 114 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Elgin (5-2 overall, 4-2 SD3-E) will face Dufur in the SD3 playoffs Friday at Community Stadium with an automatic state playoff berth at stake. Kickoff is set for 4 p.m.

EAGLES ROLL INTO TITLE GAME

The Joseph Eagles ran over yet another opponent, smoking Prairie City/Burnt River Saturday, 49-0, in the 6-man crossover.

The Eagles (6-0 overall) face South Wasco County Saturday at Madras High School for the 6-man state title.

LHS girls beat Ontario, boys tie

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers girls soccer team scored three goals in a seven-minute span to pull away for a 4-0 road win over Ontario Saturday and finish off another perfect Greater Oregon League season.

"(We had a) slow start in the first half. Much better movement and passing in the second half," head coach Sam Brown said.

Audrey Garlitz scored an early goal for the Tigers for a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute, but the team didn't break the game open until Katie Perry scored in the 39th for a 2-0 lead at the half. Luran Rinker (43rd minute) and Cecelia Aguilera (46th) scored early in the second half for the final margin.

La Grande (11-2 overall, 6-0 GOL) awaits to see who it will face in the first round of the state playoffs. La Grande will host the first-round game Nov. 5.



Nik Streng/Argus Observer

The La Grande boys soccer team celebrates after Devin Ingram, center, scores early in the second half Saturday.

LHS BOYS FINISH WITH A TIE

The La Grande Tigers boys soccer team was mere minutes away from stealing a win on the road against Ontario, but a late goal forced the teams to settle for a 1-1 tie in the regular season finale Saturday in Ontario.

Devin Ingram gave La Grande the lead early in the

second half. The match held at 1-0 until Julian Tellez scored in the closing minutes.

La Grande (7-4-1 overall, 2-3-1 GOL) now waits to see who it will face in a state play-in game, and the location of that contest. The matchups will be determined when the OSAA rankings freeze Tuesday, with the match likely to take place Friday or Saturday.

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