

# Eastern volleyball locks up share of conference title

Observer staff

The No. 4 Eastern Oregon volleyball team clinched a share of the Cascade Collegiate Conference title and the best regular-season record in program history with two more victories, sweeping Multnomah Friday, 25-16, 25-7, 25-13, and dropping Warner Pacific in four sets, 25-10, 22-25, 27-25, 25-19.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group for what they have accomplished this year," head coach Kaki McLean-Morehead said. "We knew coming into this year what we wanted to accomplish and we knew that it wasn't going to be easy, especially in this conference."

The Mountaineers, who moved to 18-2 in the CCC with the two victories, share the CCC title with Southern Oregon, which also won its final two games of the season. The Raiders, however, earned the CCC tiebreaker, meaning they will host the conference tournament semifinals and finals next weekend. According to the CCC website, it came down to the fourth tiebreaker — percentage of sets won in conference — to determine who gained the No. 1 seed into the CCC tourney.

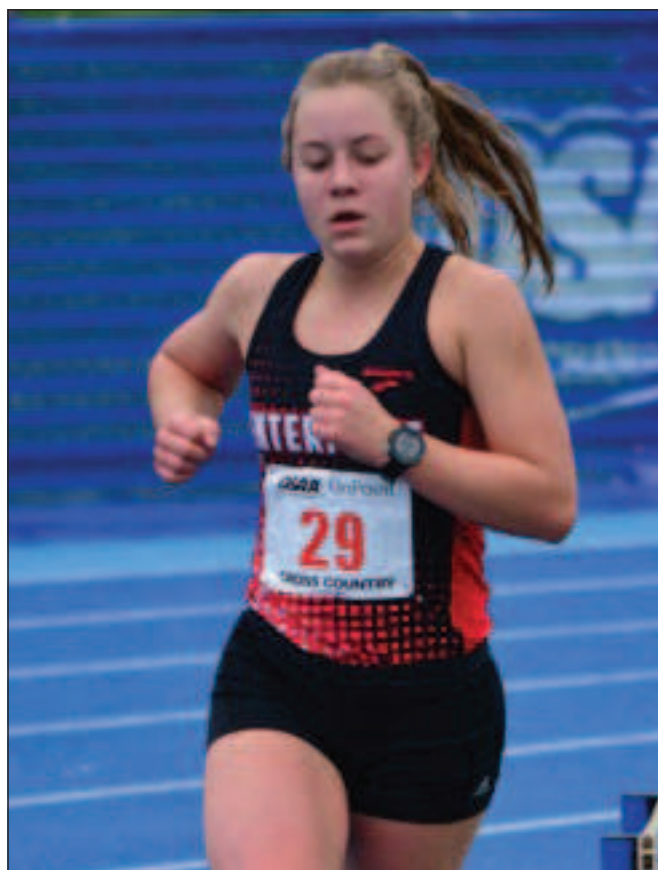
EOU was balanced on offense in the win over Multnomah, getting eight kills from both Megan Bunn and Jet Taylor; and seven kills from Taylor Tibbetts. Eastern had a .316 hitting percentage in the win, while forcing Multnomah to commit 28 attack errors and post a minus-.087 attack percentage. Taylor also had a team-best four block assists. Madison Pilon posted a double-double with 20 assists and 10 digs, and Kiley McMurtrey also had 10 digs.

On Saturday, Bunn and Taylor again had big nights at the net as EOU overcame a scrappy effort from Warner Pacific to win in four sets.

Bunn and Taylor both reached double figures in kills with 13 and 12, respectively. Bunn also had 13 digs to post a double-double. Breanna Shaffer added eight kills, and Cambree Scott had a team-best four blocks. Pilon had 37 more assists, and McMurtrey had 20 digs.

With the victories, EOU moves to 28-2 to finish its best regular season in program history.

The Mountaineers will play Friday in Ashland against a team to be determined by Tuesday's first-round contests.



Kim Tingelstad photo

Ellyse Tingelstad, the lone girls runner for Wallowa County, placed fifth overall.

## CHAMPS

Continued from Page 6A year they were ready for the challenge. According to Moody, the sophomore had a lot to do with that growth.

"He's a great leader for our team," he said. "He's a goofball sometimes, but he does what he has to do."

To Moody's point, Coughlan said he's got a simple plan to celebrate: Eat lots of unhealthy food. Especially Sour Patch Kids (watermelon flavor, of course).

But the Outlaws aren't done with the taste of success quite yet. With the entire team set to return next year, Knapp already has his eyes on another state title.

"I definitely think that's in the books," he said.

Though Moody's seen this team get complacent at times, he remembers the

same problem plaguing his team in '95. He also remembers how that team figured it out and repeated as champions in '96.

"Now we've got to really step up and push hard," Moody said. "They can't sit back."

In the girls 3A/2A/1A race, senior Ellyse Tingelstad was the Outlaws lone runner and finished fifth in 19:17.7.

"I tried to stay in contact with the leaders, but once I fell behind I just tried to keep my spot in the top five," Tingelstad said.

It was her second consecutive year with a top-five finish and ends prep her career with four appearances at the state meet.

"Cross country has taught me so much about myself," she said. "It's taught me about how to be a leader and to push through even when things get hard."

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