LHS swim teams sweep competition at districts

Observer staff

MOLALLA — It was a sweep for the La Grande swim team.

Both the LHS boys and the LHS girls won the 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 2 championship Saturday in Molalla, with the girls — who are among the favorites to win next weekend's state title — winning with 394 points and the boys earning 262 points.

The LHS girls earned four titles, had five second-place finishes and qualified competitors for the state swim meet in all 11 races.

Riana Scott, Romayne Ricker, Kristal Jensen and Maria Capra won the girls 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:51.08, and Ricker, Capra, Reagan Kruse and Jensen grabbed the top spot in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:45.18. The Tigers' other district titles came from Scott in the 100 backstroke (1:00.26) as she edged Baker's Brianna Stadler by 0.58 seconds, and in the 200 freestyle, where she finished in 1:59.99.

In all, the girls team saw nine

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Mounties survive scare

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — There was a point Saturday night when Eastern Oregon University's Jarek Schetzle thought the Mountaineers may fall at home on senior night to a team winless in Cascade Collegiate Conference play.

But Schetzle and Landon Jones, two of EOU's three seniors, stepped up to make sure that wouldn't happen, combining for 51 points and making several key baskets to help EOU rally from an eight-point second-half deficit to ultimately hold off Evergreen State College in a double-overtime thriller, 97-89.

"They persevered. The seniors came through. Landon and Jarek were amazing," head coach Carlito Labarda Jr. said.

"Poetic justice" is what Schetzle called him and Jones having big nights in their final games at Quinn Coliseum. "We both could have had really bad games, but we didn't. We came out and it showed."

Evergreen entered with just three wins overall and was 0-18 in the CCC, but the Geoducks gave the Mountaineers a major scare when it went on a 13-2 run to go ahead 65-57 with eight minutes to play in regulation and was still up 70-64 with less than five minutes to go.

"It was about seven minutes ... and I said, 'We're about to lose this game to a team that has never won a game (this season in conference),'" Schetzle said. "I couldn't believe it (but) I did my thing and got us back into it."

Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Eastern Oregon University's Landon Jones throws down a dunk Saturday in La Grande during the first half of the Mountaineers' double overtime win over Evergreen.

EOU responded with the next 11 points with Schetzle, who had 30 points, and Jones, who added 21, leading the way. Schetzle gave EOU a 72-70 lead, and Brandon Porter put Eastern up by five with a 3-pointer with 2:22 to play.

But the Geoducks forced overtime when Gloire Biongo drained a tough 3-pointer in the final seconds, then forced a second extra session when LaBrandon Price hit a trey to tie the score at 83-83.

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Lathrop, Evans, Staigle claim district titles

Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Elgin's Joe Lathrop, top, won the Special District 4 championship Saturday in Union at 132 pounds.

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

UNION — Elgin's Joe Lathrop, Enterprise's Trace Evans and Joseph/Wallowa's Jonah Staigle each finished off district championships Saturday to lead nine area automatic state qualifiers at the 2A/1A Special District 4 Tournament in Union.

Lathrop, who along with teammate Clayton Hammond qualified for state automatically for Elgin, was dominant in his 132-pound title match against Cutter Huff of Pine Eagle, winning by an 11-1 major decision. He earlier defeated Glen Starbuck of Crane by a 17-0 technical fall to reach the finals.

"I'm just really happy," Lathrop said. "At the beginning of the season I wasn't really focused on winning a district title. I was more focused on the other tournaments to practice for a district title. I'm really happy to win district for my seeding for state and want to give a big thanks to my coaches and my teammates for pushing me in practice. I wouldn't be where I'm at without my teammates pushing me."

Evans continued his dominant season, picking up his 44th win by topping Culver's Anthony Hood by a 7-0 decision at 138 in a match he controlled throughout. That came on the heels of a win by fall over Crane's Levi Roath in the semifinals.

"He's definitely a really good experienced wrestler (and) a pretty good heavy leg rider," Evans said of

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LHS girls finish off GOL play with win

Observer staff

MILTON-FREEWATER — The La Grande girls basketball team had no issues on the road Saturday in their Greater Oregon League finale, holding the Pioneers to just five made field goals in an easy 52-18 win.

Lauran Rinker had a game-high 15 points to lead La Grande, which raced out to a 15-1 first-quarter lead and coasted from there. Camryn Collman added nine points and Grace Neer, Kenzie Williams and Ella Dunlap had six points each.

La Grande (16-6 overall, 4-2 GOL) will host either Ontario or Mac-Hi Thursday in the semifinals of the GOL district tournament.

Powder Valley 47, Elgin 36: The Badgers used a big third quarter Saturday to build up a lead and hold off Elgin at home in the Old Oregon League final for both teams.

Powder Valley was ahead just 18-17 at the half but outscored the Huskies 13-4 in the third to take a 10-point lead. That came on the heels of holding Elgin to just two points in the second quarter to pull ahead.

Belle Blair finished with 25 points, including 15 in the second half, to lead the Badgers. Autumn Davis added eight points.

Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Powder Valley's Belle Blair, shown earlier this season, scored 25 points Saturday in the Badgers' win over Elgin.

Tymra Anderson scored 15 points to pace Elgin, while Jayden Palmer netted 12 points.

Elgin (18-4 overall, 10-2 OOL), the No. 2 seed from the OOL-North, faces Pine Eagle Thursday in the first round of the district tournament in Baker City, with the winner meeting Powder Valley (13-9, 9-2), the OOL-South champion, Friday.

Joseph 54, Nixyaawii 40: The Eagles locked up the top spot in the Old Oregon League-North Saturday with their win over Nixyaawii in Enterprise.

The win and Elgin's loss to Powder Valley broke a tie between Joseph and the Huskies to give the Eagles the North's No. 1 seed.

Sabrina Albee scored 23 points to lead three players in double figures for Joseph. Madelyn Nelson added 12 points, and Brianna Micka scored 10. Albee had 13 of her points in the second half and Micka had all 10 of hers after the break to help Joseph distance itself after leading just 24-19 at the half.

Joseph (18-6 overall, 11-1 OOL) faces either Wallowa or Cove Friday in the OOL district tournament in Baker City.

Wallowa 56, Griswold 15: The Cougars routed the Grizzlies on the road Saturday to secure a berth in the Old Oregon League district tournament.

Stats were not available

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Bolton breaks yet another record

Observer staff

BOISE — Add another record for Eastern Oregon University sophomore Megan Bolton.

The sprinter set the program mark in the women's 200-meter run at the Boise State Team Challenge over the weekend, breaking the record in the preliminaries with a time of 25.02 seconds before resetting it in the finals with a winning time of 24.88, marking the third time this year the 200 record has been broken. Jasmine Devers earlier in the winter broke the record.

The effort now puts Bolton atop the school lists in the 60, 200, 400 and 600.

EOU added several additional top placers in Boise. On the track, Michelle Herbes, Elizabeth Herbes, Bolton and Olivia Lane were third in the 4x400 relay in 3:57.29, while in the field Maggie Ledbetter was third in the shot put at 43-feet-6. Michelle Herbes also was fifth in the 400 (58.40) and ran on the sixth-place distance medley relay team with Calista Van Delden, Devers and Katie Jo Gebhardt in 12:47.36. Devers, Gebhardt, Carlee Heindel and Scout Reagan were seventh in the 4x400 relay in 4:14.47. Rounding out the top placers in eighth were Molly Gulden in the 5,000 in 20:32.41, and Payton Jolley in the triple jump at 37-feet-2-1/4.

On the men's side, Corey Sledge led a large contingent in the pole vault for EOU, winning with a mark of 15-feet-11. Darrian Walker followed in fourth at

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