

Mounties take two from T’Birds

Observer staff

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon University got a needed home sweep Friday in Cascade Collegiate Conference play, downing the University of British Columbia, 12-9 and 6-5.

Mandy Feters sparked a five-run sixth-inning rally in the opener with an RBI single that put the Mountaineers ahead for good on their way to the win.

Feters single down the left-field line brought home Amanda Smith and put Eastern up 8-7. It was just the beginning for the Mountaineers in the frame. Katie Silvestri and Tina Furado both scored on errors, Madison Parker and Alaina Carson also scored on UBC miscues and when the dust settled, Eastern was up 12-7.

Cassa Courtney hit a two-run home run in the seventh for the Thunderbirds, but they got no closer.

Taylor Dow hit a two-run double in the third and later scored on an error for a 5-3 EOU lead



Staff photo by Ronald Bond
Eastern Oregon University's Glori Cheevers throws a runner out Friday.

in the third, and Jordan Henley scored on a hit-by-pitch for a 6-5 edge in the fourth.

An error and an RBI single by Jordan Britten-Yung allowed UBC to take a 7-6 lead in the fifth before EOU tied it in the home half of the frame on a sacrifice fly to set up the late-inning heroics.

Eastern pounded out 14 hits — Brittney Bertrand and Amanda Smith had three apiece — and also took advantage of six UBC errors. Ashton Kazmierski pitched a scoreless inning in relief to earn the win.

In the nightcap, EOU scored twice in the fourth and two more in the fifth, with Silvestri's two-run single in the fifth putting Eastern ahead 4-2. Courtney's two-run home run and a Nicole Salas RBI single put the Thunderbirds ahead 5-4 in the sixth, but the Mountaineers got the last laugh, with Smith's RBI single in the sixth tying the game and Bertrand clinching the win in the bottom of the seventh with a walkoff RBI single that scored Silvestri.

Bertrand, Smith and Silvestri all had two hits, and Kaylin Winans pitched 1-2/3 innings of scoreless relief for the win.

EOU (5-15 overall, 4-4 CCC) faces UBC in another double-header Saturday to wrap the series.

TIGERS

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its largest lead — and her short jumper just before the half made it 28-27 Tigers at the break.

In the third, Dunlap put in a layup and a long jumper to push the lead to five, then had a free-throw line jumper and a lefty basket inside to make it 36-29.

“She was a monster down around the basket, and Cascade knew that,” Wright said. “They watched film, but they had her pegged as only a low post player, so they were defending the low post, so she was stepping out to the high post and we (would) run that little triangle, and tonight she was on. Those shots were going in. That made them change their defense.”

A rebound and putback from Lauran Rinker and a long jumper from McK-aylee Orton in the final minute put the Tigers up 40-29 after three, and Orton's 3-pointer to open the scoring in the fourth gave La Grande its largest lead at 14.

The Cougars chipped away, getting within 43-36 on an Abbigail Cordero layup, and getting the margin down to 47-41 on a steal and layup from Kenna Coleman with 2:17 to play.

But a layup from Camryn Collman —

just her second field goal of the game — with 1:22 to play pushed the lead back to eight, and Cascade got no closer than six the rest of the way.

The teams got off to a slow start, then heated up, trading the lead six times in the first quarter alone, with Neer's second 3-pointer of the quarter putting La Grande ahead 13-11.

“I just kind of was like, if I don't shoot it, I can't make it, so why not?” Neer said of taking the early 3s, which typically are not in her repertoire.

Bailey Pedersen's 3-pointer with about a minute to play in the first put the Cougars up 16-15, but Neer beat the buzzer with a jumper that put the Tigers ahead before Dunlap took over.

Collman and Orton both added five points for La Grande. Cascade was led by Camryn Boyles and Cordero, each of whom scored 13 points.

The Tigers (18-7 overall) will face Astoria at 3:15 p.m. Thursday in the quarterfinals in Forest Grove.

Boys bounced out of playoffs

The La Grande boys basketball team saw its season end in the first round of the playoff with a 52-33 road loss at Marist.

Stats were not available by press time.

The Tigers finish the season with a record of 10-13.

EASTERN

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two events and in fourth at the time.

Dodd shaved more than 100 points off the margin with 541 points and a 33-foot-3/4 mark in the shot put to move into third, then posted a distance of 17-feet-3-1/4 in the long jump — good for second — for 631 points to move into second overall. She earned 672 points with a time of 2:31.67 in the 800.

Oleksak finished with 3,557 points.

Dodd said she wished “it would've gone better” but was proud of the accomplishment considering the injury bug that had plagued her as she dealt with both a hip issue and a more minor foot injury.

“For me, training had been an on and off process before nationals because of my injuries, so I still came a long way,” she said. “From not even being able to run three steps a few weeks ago to getting runner-up is still (an) accomplishment.”

EOU junior Olivia Lane entered the final event in 11th place but passed three participants on the scoreboard after her time of 2:25.68 in the 800, which was good for third in the race and 748 points.

Earlier she had posted marks of 9.76 seconds in 60 hurdles (758 points), 4-feet-11-3/4 in the high jump (644), 31-feet-6 in the shot put (503) and 16-feet-1-3/4 in the long jump (538).

In three other preliminary races Thursday, EOU relay teams reached the finals.

For the women, Katie Jo Gebhardt, Calista Van Delden, Michelle Herbes and Megan Boals took second in their heat in the 4x800 relay with a time of 9:28.27, and the 4x400 relay team of Elizabeth Herbes, Jasmine Devers, Michelle Herbes and Bolton also was second in their heat in 3:53.66.

The men's 4x800 relay of Travis Running, Hunter Schiess, Dustin Zimmerly and Alex Navarro was third in their heat in 7:46.37.

On Friday, the Mountaineers had two of those relay teams claim all-American bids as the women's 4x800 took sixth, and the men followed and placed fifth.

The 4x800 women's team of Gebhardt, Van Delden, Michelle Herbes and Boals followed its time Thursday with a mark of 9:41.39 Friday. Had the team matched its time from Thursday, however, it still would have placed sixth.

The men's squad — Running, Schiess, Zimmerly and Navarro — shaved 4.35 seconds off its time from Thursday to post a mark of 7:42.02 for its fifth-place finish.

Also Friday, Bolton won

her heat in the women's 600 and had the top time in the preliminaries at 1:33.23, just 0.02 ahead of Coshan Campbell of Wayland Baptist, and 0.1 ahead of Hannah Stoffel of Huntington. The top five finishers, in fact, were 0.25 seconds apart.

Boals was sixth in her heat and 12th overall with a time of 1:38.10.

Michelle Herbes placed third in her heat and eighth overall in the semifinals of the 1,000 with a time of 2:58.85 to reach Saturday's final, and in the 200 preliminaries Devers placed 15th overall and fifth in her heat with a time of 25.15 seconds.

The teams finish action in the final day of the national meet Saturday.

LOCAL SCHEDULE		
Saturday PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL • Joseph vs. Perrydale, Class 1A state tournament, third-place game, Baker High School, 12:30 p.m. • Union vs. Bandon, Class	2A state tournament, third-place game, Pendleton Convention Center, 12:30 p.m.	MEN'S COLLEGE WRESTLING • Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Championships, Wichita, Kansas, all day
	COLLEGE INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD • Eastern Oregon at NAIA Indoor Championships, Brookings, South Dakota, all day	COLLEGE SOFTBALL • British Columbia at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.
	— Subject to change	

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