



Photo by Connor Bracken/EOU Athletics
Megan Bolton, shown earlier this season, placed second at nationals in the 600.

EOU women surge to seventh place

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

BROOKINGS, S.D. — The Eastern Oregon University women’s track and field team finished arguably the best indoor season in program history, netting several more all-Americans — including a second-place finish from Megan Bolton and a third-place finish from Maggie Ledbetter in record-setting performances — during the final day of the NAA national championships in Brookings, South Dakota, to score 29 points and take seventh as a team.

“We were looking for top 10 — anything in the top 10 was going to be exciting, but to finish that high is a

little extra exciting,” EOU head coach Ben Welch said, adding that of the 11 athletes to compete for the women’s team, 10 came away with all-American recognition either as an individual or as part of a relay team.

Bolton wrapped up a record-setting indoor season by breaking the program record twice in the 600, doing so in the preliminary round Friday and again Saturday with a time of 1:31.90 to place second behind only Jezelle Shaw of William Carey, who won the race in 1:31.43.

“I executed the race plan that my coaches and I had talked about, and I gave it my best effort,” Bolton, who was

first in the preliminaries, said. “Even though I didn’t get first, I am happy and proud that I got second knowing that I did everything I could.”

Ledbetter turned in a throw of 45-feet-8-1/2 on her final throw in the preliminaries of the shot put just to reach the final, then uncorked a heave of 47-feet-4 on her second attempt in the finals, which briefly put her in second before she took third.

“In the finals I finally got a hold of one,” Ledbetter said, noting she also had a “big one” during warmups. “I was just so overwhelmed with relief that finally a practice throw had come out

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A pair of fifth-place finishes

■ Pirates topple Joseph despite 21 points from Albee

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

BAKER CITY — Joseph ran into a Perrydale team Saturday in the third-place game that re-found its 3-point shooting touch and hassled the Eagles offensively, as a first-half surge by the Pirates gave them a lead they wouldn’t relinquish in a 56-39 win over Joseph despite a huge second half from Eagles’ star junior Sabrina Albee, who scored 21 points.

“Perrydale came out and played their game and got us out of our game,” Joseph head coach Lance Homan said. “Kudos to coach (Terry Newton) and the job he’s done there. They’re good. And we weren’t ready for it. I was proud to get it back to 10, 13, something like that. They had a ton of pride toward the end there.”

Joseph led most of the first quarter before a 3-point barrage — led by Perrydale’s Lawrence sisters — turned the game around. The trio hit all eight of Perrydale’s 3-pointers, including six in the first half, in a show Newton said is more typical of his team than the 3-for-17 effort it had in Friday’s semifinal loss to St. Paul.

“They all shoot like that, all three of them do. We typically average 7, 8, 9, 10 3s a game,” Newton said.

Kenzy Lawrence hit a trey late in the first that



Staff photo by Ronald Bond
Joseph’s Sabrina Albee attempts a layup Saturday in Baker City during the 1A third-place game against Perrydale. Albee scored 21 points, added four rebounds and four assists, but the Eagles fell to the Pirates, 56-39.

gave the Pirates the lead for good at 7-6, and Sydney Lawrence opened the second with a 3 for a four-point lead. Albee scored midway through the second to keep the Eagles within two and end a field goal drought of seven minutes before the flurry started.

In the span of a minute, the Pirates stretched the lead from 12-10 to 21-10, with their full-court press causing turnovers by Joseph and Sydney Lawrence hitting two 3s around a trey from Cody Lawrence. Kenzy Lawrence hit the team’s sixth triple later to put the lead at 26-11 at the half.

“They really pressure up top, which (makes it) hard to get (the ball) down low, and we’re really small, so getting it down low is pretty hard,” Albee said. “They had some good defense.”

Albee found another gear in the second half, scoring 19 points after the break as she took control in an effort to get the team back in the game.

“We were struggling so much in the first half, I just (said) to myself, ‘I gotta take over and get my team back positive,’” she said. “The best way I can do that is lead.”

The junior, who said she leads best by example,

set the tone in the third, going 4-for-4 with a pair of 3-pointers and scoring 10 points in spite of having a defender on her nonstop and being, oftentimes, double teamed.

“She’s one of the top five players in the state,” Newton said. “You gotta respect her.”

It didn’t matter what the defense did in the third, though. Newton even yelled to his team “Don’t let Albee shoot” during a possession midway through the third — right before she drove into the key and hit a runner.

“She brings a lot offen-

sively, defensively, typically rebounds pretty well, and when she gets the ball for the most part, she’s very calming for us,” Homan said. “She got hurried up a few times today, but she’s special. And I think the biggest compliment is she’s so humble.”

Camille Crenshaw, who added nine points and five rebounds for Joseph, said the offensive show energized her.

“Honestly when she starts going off like that, it makes me really excited as a player with her, because I’m like, ‘OK here

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■ Traylyn Arana scores 20 to lead Bandon past Bobcats in 2A third-place game at Convention Center



Photo by Kathy Aney/EO Media Group
Union’s Audrey Wells, left, and Autumn Daggett apply pressure to Bandon’s Sterling Williams during Saturday’s 2A state basketball girls third-place game in Pendleton.

By Brett Kane
EO Media Group

PENDLETON — The Union Bobcats were not prepared for Bandon’s Traylyn Arana on Saturday.

The 5-foot, 6-inch Bandon senior guard blew away all scorers with 20 points, and the Bobcats only managed a double-digit quarter once, as the Tigers rolled to a 56-34 victory to take third place and force Union into fifth in a 3rd/5th place contest to close their Class 2A girls basketball state tournament run.

“Of course we wanted to get the W — that’s a given,” Union head coach Rhondie Rickman-Johansen said, “but placing fifth in the state is no small task. You can’t discredit that accomplishment.”

Union fell into the consolation bracket with a

45-27 loss to Monroe in the semifinals on Friday. Bandon fell to Kennedy in the semifinals 51-33, snapping a 23-game streak.

“These past two games, we just haven’t played like the team that we are, and that’s a little bit disappointing,” Rickman-Johansen said. “Shots didn’t fall when shots needed to fall. We gave it our best. I wouldn’t want to walk off the Saturday performance feeling like we didn’t give our best. I think our best today, we gave, but it just wasn’t good enough to beat Bandon.”

The Bobcats trailed 18-11 at the end of the first quarter and were behind 27-17 at the half, but the game slipped out of reach in the third. The Tigers tore away on a 13-5 streak that

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Former LHS star named player of the year

Observer staff

NAMPA — A former La Grande High School standout who has been making waves at the collegiate level was recently named the best player in her conference.

Avery Albrecht, a senior for the Northwest Nazarene University women’s basketball team, was tapped as the Great Northwest Athletic Conference player of the year last week after helping the Nighthawks to a 22-7 overall record and a berth in the NCAA Division II national tournament.

This season Albrecht, who has started in all 29 games for NNU, is averaging 15.2 points per game, which is third in the GNAC and leads the Nighthawks, which are the conference’s top-scoring team.

But as she was during her time at La Grande, the former three-time Greater Oregon League player of the year is doing much more than just scoring.

She leads her team in rebounding at 5.9 per game, and also has team bests in offensive rebounds (2.5), minutes per game (28.3), field goal percentage (.488) and 3-pointers made (38). She also has 54 steals and 52 assists, and during the season scored the 1,000th point of her collegiate career.

The 5-foot-9 senior saw limited action as a freshman, but became an important piece to the team as a

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Ducks maul Stanford to win Pac-12

By W.G. Ramirez
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Sabrina Ionescu said she wanted to cut down three nets with her teammates before closing out her illustrious career.

One down, two to go.

Ionescu had 20 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds to lead No. 3 Oregon to an 89-56 victory over No. 7

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