

CCC action on hold until at least November

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The Cascade Collegiate Conference announced Friday it is delaying the start of the fall sports season.

The conference in a press release stated it hopes to conduct its fall schedule in the winter or spring of 2021. It also said in the release it is suspending all intercollegiate competition in CCC sports until Nov. 1 at the earliest, and will reevaluate at that time.

“The ongoing issues with COVID-19 and the surge in cases, particularly in the geographical regions of our members schools, (have) made the prospect of properly conducting a fall season with the confidence we need to ensure the health and safety of our student-athletes during this pandemic unrealistic,” CCC Commissioner Rob Cashell said in the press release.

The CCC has schools that participate in fall sports in four states — Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana — and in British Columbia, Canada. The conference in the release pointed to this as one of the challenges with each region being in different phases of reopening. It noted the U.S.-Canada border is still closed.

“Our desire is to minimize risk and minimize the spread of the virus,” Cashell told The Observer Friday afternoon. “We’re allowing for practices and conditioning and all that, but within a team setting. They cannot compete against outside entities.”

Women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s cross-country, men’s and women’s soccer, and men’s and women’s golf are the sports impacted by the decision. Eastern Oregon University has teams in each sport with the exception of golf.

“It’s a difficult and disappointing decision because our athletes and coaches want to compete,” EOU’s athletic director, Anji Weissenfluh, said. “This has been the longest layoff any of us have ever had. Making the best decision for our campus community, to me, the only decision to make was to postpone it, and hopefully we’re in a better spot this spring.”

EOU President Tom Insko in a press release also pointed to health as the most important factor.

“This is a tough decision, and one that I do not take lightly, but I believe we are making it in the best interest of our students, coaches, staff and fans,” he said. “Managing around this current situation to enable our teams to have stronger, healthier seasons in the spring just makes sense.”

A decision has yet to be made on winter sports, such as men’s and women’s wrestling and men’s and women’s basketball.

EOU’s football team is not impacted by the decision, as it competes in the Frontier Conference for the sport. The Frontier has not yet made a call on its plan for the fall season.

“We’ve been in close communication with the Frontier,” Weissenfluh said. “The presidents met this Monday and at that time the Frontier was leaning more (toward) being in alignment with the NAIA.”

The move could mean that the CCC’s fall teams miss out on an opportunity to compete at national championship competitions if the NAIA fall season moves forward. The NAIA earlier this month announced that for a season to start, the sport would need to have half of the teams in each sport given



Observer file photo

Eastern Oregon University volleyball players Madison Pilon (4) and Cambree Scott (12) jump to attempt a block during a November 2019 match against Southern Oregon University. The Cascade Collegiate Conference announced Friday it is delaying its fall sports schedule until the winter or spring.

the green light to play. A sport with 200 teams, for example, would need to have 100 committed to the season.

Should that indeed happen, Cashell said, the conference would still aim to have a conference season and conference tournaments for its athletes.

“Our intent is to provide

seasons for these teams, and it may be that we culminate with our Cascade Conference season and a Cascade Conference championship,” he said. “We’ve moved out stuff to a winter/spring set up. If the NAIA doesn’t do that we are prepared to have just our conference season and conference championship.”

The decision also could mean a level of overlap between the fall, winter and spring seasons.

“It’s very conceivable we could have volleyball games at the same time as basketball games,” he said. “We hope we’re busy. That means we’ve come a long way with the virus and have opportunities.”

Legends get on the field

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — American Legion baseball isn’t happening.

But the La Grande Legacy Ford Legends have been able to get on the field.

The 16U Legends split a doubleheader July 10 in Pendleton with a 4-3 victory and a 13-6 loss, then Tuesday swept Baker City on the road 13-5 and 9-1.

La Grande trailed Pendleton 3-2 entering the seventh inning of the opener and at one point was down to its final strike, but Jarett Armstrong reached on an error with the bases loaded that allowed Sergio Staab and Gabriel Zamora to score and gave the Legends the lead for good.

La Grande also scored twice in the third inning when Cole Shafer hit an RBI single and later scored on a wild pitch. The Legends won despite getting just two hits.

Pendleton scored four times in the first inning of the nightcap and added on as it salvaged the split.

La Grande did pull

ONLINE

• For a complete version of this story, go to lagrandeobserver.com

within 6-5 in the fifth when Zamora scored on an error, Owen Rinker walked with the bases loaded and Jameson Stenkamp hit a sacrifice fly, but Pendleton responded with five runs in the home half of the fifth for an 11-5 lead.

In the opener Tuesday, La Grande used a seven-run second inning and a five-run fifth to kick off the sweep of Baker.

Austin Higgins tied the game at 2-2 with an RBI single, and Shafer had the key hit in the inning, a two-run single that gave La Grande a 5-2 lead. Two errors and a bases-loaded hit batter led to three more runs, and Sam Tsiatsos capped it with an RBI single for an 8-2 lead.

Shafer capped his four-RBI day with a two-run triple in the fifth, and Zamora’s RBI single finished off the Legends’ scoring and gave them a 13-4 advantage.

FIELD TEST Candidates Wanted

URGENT NOTICE: You may be qualified to participate in a special Field Test of new hearing instrument technology being held at a local test site.

An industry leader in digital hearing devices is sponsoring a product field test in your area next week and they have asked us to select up to 15 qualified candidates to participate. They are interested in determining the benefits of GENIUS™ 3.0 Technology in eliminating the difficulty hearing aid users experience in difficult environments, such as those with background noise or multiple talkers. Candidates in other test areas have reported very positive feedback so far.

We are looking for additional candidates in **LA GRANDE and the surrounding areas.**

Expires: July 29th, 2020

LA GRANDE
111 Elm Street
La Grande, OR 97850
541-605-2109

BAKER CITY
2021 Washington Ave.
Baker City, OR 97814
541-239-3782

ENTERPRISE
113-1/2 Front E. Main St.
Enterprise, OR 97828
541-239-3877

In an effort to accurately demonstrate the incredible performance of these devices, specially trained representatives will be conducting testing and demonstrations during this special event.

In addition to an audiometric hearing evaluation, candidates will receive a fiber-optic otoscope exam, a painless procedure that could reveal common hearing problems such as excessive wax or damage to the eardrum, as well as other common causes of hearing deficiencies.

Qualified Field Test Candidates:

- Live in La Grande or the surrounding area
- Are at least 55 years of age or older
- Have experienced some level of hearing difficulty, or currently wear hearing aids
- Don’t currently work for a market research company



FIELD TEST PARTICIPANTS
Will be tested and selected same-day.

We have a limited supply of the GENIUS™ 3.0 test product currently on hand and ready for testing. We have also been authorized to offer significant discounts if you decide to take the hearing instruments home. If you choose not to keep them, there’s no risk or obligation of any kind.[†]

TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1) You must be one of the first 15 people to call our office **Mention Code: 0JulField**
- 2) You will be required to have your hearing tested in our office, **FREE OF CHARGE**, to determine candidacy.
- 3) Report your results with the hearing instruments to the Hearing Care Specialist over a three week test period.

Qualified candidates will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis **so please call us TODAY to secure your spot in the Product Field Test.**

Participants who qualify and complete the product test will receive a **FREE \$100 Restaurant.com Gift Card*** as a token of our thanks.

AVOID WAITING – CALL AND MENTION CODE: 0 JulField

*One per household. Must be 55 or older and bring loved one for familiar voice test. Must complete a hearing test. Not valid with prior test/purchase in last 6 months. While supplies last. Free gift card may be used toward the purchase of food at participating restaurants where a minimum purchase may also be required. See restaurant.com for details. Not redeemable for cash. Promotional offer available during special event dates only. [†]If you are not completely satisfied, the aids may be returned for a full refund within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition. See store for details.