

EOU posts four-game football schedule

By KALEB LAY
The Observer

WHITEFISH, Mont. — The Frontier Conference announced in a press release on Thursday, Jan. 21, that collegiate football tams can begin practicing as soon as Feb. 15.

Eastern Oregon University is a part of the Frontier Conference, and Mountaineer footballers already have been undergoing conditioning even though they have been unable to fully practice, according to EOU Athletics Director Anji Weissenfluh.

Under the conference's plan, the first day of competition in the month-long season would be Saturday, March 13, while the last would be April 10. According to the release, conference teams will have the ability to play "up to five football games" during the season. The NAIA football playoffs are scheduled for April 17 and 24 and May 1 with the National Championship game scheduled for May 10, 2021 at Eddie Robinson Stadium in Grambling, Louisiana.

EOU 2021 FOOTBALL

- Game 1 — vs. Montana Western, 1 p.m. March 20
- Game 2 — at Montana State-Northern, noon March 27
- Game 3 — at Montana Tech, noon April 3
- Game 4 — vs. Southern Oregon, 1 p.m. April 10

EOU men's wrestling receives votes in latest poll

The Observer

KANSAS CITY — The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics released its third set of the top-20 rankings for the 2020-21 men's wrestling season on Thursday, Jan. 21, and a pair of Cascade Conference teams remain in the top 20.

Arizona Christian University leads the CCC at No. 18 in the fourth edition of the 2020-21 NAIA Wrestling Coaches' Top 20, while Montana State-Northern sits at No. 20.

Grand View University claimed the No. 1 spot, followed by Life University at No. 2, Lindsey Wilson at No. 3, Reinhardt University at No. 4 and Indiana Tech rounding out the top five.

Cascade Conference's Vanguard University sits just outside the top 20, sitting three points behind the Lights. Eastern Oregon University dropped in the poll from 20th to 23rd.

Despite the slip in the team rankings, Eastern still has three grapplers in the top-20 for their respective weight classes. Keegan Mulhill ranks seventh at 174 pounds, as does Noel Orozco at 285 pounds. Marco Retano rounds out the trio at No. 16 for 197 pounds.

Two individual CCC wrestlers remain at the top of their respective weight classes, with Warner Pacific University's Austin Wallace-Lister in the No. 1 spot at 133 pounds and MSUN's Isaac Bartel leading the 197-pound weight class.

Two more Eastern Oregon girls to run at EOU

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — A pair of Eastern Oregon friends are lacing up their spikes for cross-country and track and field at Eastern Oregon University.

Heppner senior Madelyn Nichols signed a letter of intent on Jan. 6 to run with the Mountaineers, and Pendleton's Jordyn Murphy signed her letter of intent on Jan. 14.

"At first, I was set on Eastern," Nichols said. "My brother (Hunter) is there. Then I started talking to coaches at Mount Hood (Community College), Lane (Community College), Western Oregon and College of Idaho. Eastern won out because I know a lot of people there and I'm familiar with the campus."

EOU also moved to the top of the list because the COVID-19 pandemic limited campus tours, and meeting with coaches and prospective teammates.

"Madelyn and I have run together with Athletic East (running club) since the seventh grade," Murphy said. "Eastern is close to home, and my friend Kaylee runs there and we are super close."

Kaylee is Kaylee Cope of Helix, who joined the EOU program in April 2020.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Madelyn Nichols runs in the 3A/2A/1A district cross-country championships in November 2019. The Heppner senior signed a letter of intent on Jan. 6, 2021, to run cross-country and track at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande.

At 5-feet-11, Murphy has a long stride that has served her well on cross-country courses. Her personal best time is 19 minutes, 56.10 seconds, which she ran as a sophomore at



Julie Murphy/Contributed Photo

Jordyn Murphy of Pendleton runs in a cross-county race in 2019. She signed a letter of intent on Jan. 14, 2020, to run cross-country and track at Eastern Oregon University. An honor student, Murphy has plans to major in athletic training.

the Kyle Burnside Wildhorse Invite.

Her junior year, Murphy ran a 21:15.50 at the Mustang Invitational in Heppner.

Three weeks later, she

turned in a 21:26.60 at the Intermountain Conference district meet in The Dalles, finishing 14th.

"I love seeing our kids sign to compete at the collegiate level," Pendleton cross-country and track coach Ben Bradley said. "Especially when they are nearby. Eastern has done well with their distance runners, and Ben Welch is a good coach."

In the fall of her junior year, Nichols finished fifth at the 3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Cross-Country Championships at Pendleton Community Park. She ran a personal best 19:41.60 to earn the last spot to state.

She finished 18th at the state meet in a time of 20:33.10.

Nichols has a 4.0 GPA and will graduate in the spring with about 50 college credits. She would like to major in molecular biology.

"I've thought about being a doctor or a (physician assistant)," she said. "There is less schooling being a PA."

An honor student, Murphy has plans to major in athletic training.

"I like learning what happens to your body and how to stay healthy," she said. "I like learning how the body works, and how to prevent and help people through injuries. I want to stay involved in sports."

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