The Observer



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo Eastern Oregon University cross-country student athlete Michelle Herbes runs in this undated photo. The junior from Union was the overall winner in the women's 5K race Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, in Lewiston, Idaho, at the Lewis-Clark State College Winter Invitational. EOU on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, announced the Embrace Health-Santiam Hospital named Herbes its Athlete of the Week.

# EOU's Herbes wins women's race at winter invitational

The Observer

LEWISTON, Idaho — Eastern Oregon University cross-country hit the trails again the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 12, as the men and women competed in Lewiston, Idaho, at the Lewis-Clark State College Winter Invitational. Michelle Herbes was the overall winner in the women's 5K race, while the men and women each placed third

Host school LC State picked up the win in both races. The men's team for the Warriors scored 23 points to secure the win, according to a press release from EOU, while the women scored 28 points. Northwest University was second in both races and the Mountaineers right behind.

Herbes, a junior from Union, headlined the day for the Mountaineers with a first-place finish in the women's race in a time of 18:35 for the 5K course. This was Herbes' first win of the season, and she has been the top finisher for the Mountaineers in each of their three races so far.

The winter storms that last week moved over the Pacific Northwest played a role in Lewiston. By race time, the temperature was a crisp 19 degrees with snow falling, according to the press release. The wind was not too strong, but the weather made for a challenging race day for all competitors.

The men hit the LC State cross-country trail first as they battled in an 8K race. Once again, sophomore Hunter Nichols of Hepper led the EOU pack as he crossed the finish line in 26:30 and placed eighth overall. It is the second straight race for Nichols where he has led the way for the Mountaineer men's

squad.

The next EOU runner across the finish line was senior Hunter Schiess of Salem. He placed 15th overall with a time of 27:58. The Mountaineers then had

three of the final scored runners come in all in a row, with the trio finishing in the top-20.

Freshman Jonathan Wind of Meridian, Idaho, was the first of the three as he placed 17th with a time of 28:08. Coming in behind him was freshman JP Friedrichsen from Burns in a time of 28:37. Ten seconds later, Eastern Oregon's final scored runner crossed the line — freshman Bennett Welch of La Grande had a time of 28:47. And senior Chris Llanos of Ketchikan, Alaska, was the final Mountaineer runner to finish as he placed 25th running a 30:46.

The women's race was highlighted by Herbes as she dominated the event and finished ahead of second place by 15 seconds and held a pace of 5:59.

The next EOU distance harrier to come in was freshman Jaimee
Baxter of Union who was 11th overall in a time of 19:52. Four spots back was junior Calista Van Delden of Grants Pass who placed 15th with a time of 20:27. And Katie Jo Gebhardt of Salmon, Idaho, was right behind Van Delden, running a rounded time of 20:27 to finish 16th.

Junior Kendra Blake of La Grande was the final scored run to cross the line for the EOU women, placing 24th in a time of 21:42. The next two runners behind Blake were also Mountaineers. Dierdre McKay, a junior from Portland, finished 25th at 22:05, followed by Jessica McDonald, a freshman from Zillah, Washington, in 26th at 25:00 flat.

Eastern Oregon University on Monday, Feb. 15, announced Herbes received recognition for her early cross-county season efforts, with the Embrace Health-Santiam Hospital naming her its Athlete of the Week. This was the second consecutive week an EOU student-athlete received the honor.

# Oregon looks for home

win against Colorado

EUGENE — Oregon looks for its sixth straight win over Colorado at Matthew Knight Arena, Eugene. The last victory for the Buffaloes (16-6, 11-5) at Oregon (12-4, 7-3) was a 48-47 win on Feb. 7, 2013.

Oregon has relied heavily on its seniors this year. Eugene Omoruyi, Chris Duarte, LJ Figueroa and Amauri Hardy have collectively accounted for 64% of the team's scoring

this year and 60% of all Ducks points over the last five games.

The Ducks have recently used assists to create baskets more often than the Buffaloes. Oregon has 50 assists on 82 field goals (61%) across its past three outings.

Oregon is ranked second among Pac-12 teams with an average of 75.4 points per game.

ame.
– *The Associated Press* 

#### CCC announces hybrid volleyball schedule

The Observer

CORVALLIS — Volleyball conference play, set to begin Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19 and 20, will undergo changes for the upcoming season.

The Cascade Collegiate Conference, which includes Eastern Oregon University, announced the changes Tuesday, Feb. 16, in a press release.

"With Oregon counties having been in the extreme risk category for the last several cycles, along with our desire to ensure the start of our season, we are moving to a hybrid model," stated CCC Commissioner Robert Cashell in the press release. "It is very important to everyone that we do everything we can to not delay the start any further so the student-athletes can get back to participation."

The hybrid schedule has the College of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College each hosting three other CCC teams in a tournament-style format in which each team will be able to play four matches in a weekend. The tour-

nament-style contests will take place at each campus the weekends of Feb. 19-20 and March 5-6.

With COVID-19 cases reducing across the conference footprint, the CCC anticipates that by March 19-20 the league will be able to return to a more normal home-and-away schedule. That likely depends on Oregon counties moving out of the extreme risk categories to high or moderate, which would allow for indoor activities.

At this time, according

to the CCC, the postseason tournament is on tap but reduced from six to four teams.

The league will continue with the policy of not permitting spectators at any CCC events — with the exception of cross-country and golf — until further notice. CCC member schools intend on livestreaming the majority of events.

Schedules are online at each athletic department's website or on the CCCWebTV link: portal. stretchinternet.com/ccc/.

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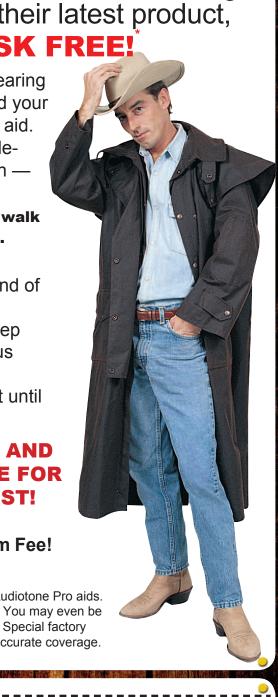
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