

Frontier Conference modifies spring schedule

Return to play plan prohibits fans from attending events

By **PHIL WRIGHT**
The Observer

WHITEFISH, Mont. — The Frontier Conference, which includes Eastern Oregon University for football, is revamping its 2021 spring football schedule — again.

Montana Tech and Montana Western recently announced they would opt out of the conference spring football season.

“As the pandemic has progressed, the health and safety of our student-athletes has always been our No. 1 priority,” Montana Western Director of Athletics Bill Wilson said in a press release. “As each week has passed, it became increasingly clear to us that moving forward with the conference football schedule was going to be very difficult at best. With scheduled games taking place as early as March, we had to make this very difficult decision.”

Tech and Western join



The Observer, File

Eastern Oregon University and Carroll College face off in November 2017 in La Grande. The Frontier Conference, which includes EOU for football, starts its 2021 season with a bye week and will not step on the gridiron until March 20, when it will host Carroll College at Community Stadium in La Grande.

Southern Oregon University in opting out of the modified spring schedule. Five Frontier Conference schools — EOU, College of Idaho, Carroll College, MSU-Northern and Rocky

Mountain College — have committed to play a spring schedule.

“We certainly know that these tough decisions by the three member institutions have been

well thought out,” Frontier Conference Commissioner Kent Paulson told MontanaSports.com. “The league is most appreciative that this decision has been made now so that the rest

of the Frontier Conference member teams will be able to know what the modified schedule looks like. Teams can adjust travel plans, and coaches and student-athletes will have a definitive direction as we move forward in preparation for the upcoming conference season.”

The new schedule has the season starting March 13 and will go five weeks. Each team will get a bye week and will play a pair of home and away games, respectively. Eastern Oregon starts the season with a bye week and will not step on the gridiron until March 20, when it will host Carroll College at Community Stadium in La Grande.

The following week, EOU hits the road to face Rocky Mountain College on March 27. The second home game for the Mounties will be on April 3 when they host longtime rival College of Idaho for Senior Day. The final game of the regular season has EOU playing at MSU-Northern on April 10.

Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. local time for all games.

Meanwhile, the Cascade Collegiate Conference, which covers other EOU athletics, announced on Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Oregon Health Authority approved the league’s comprehensive return to play plan for high contact sports. CCC Commissioner Robert Cashell explained the plan covers basketball and wrestling at EOU.

Early this month, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s office reported it would accept return to play plans for college sports as well as high school activities, which the state prohibited during the pandemic.

The CCC in an online press release reported its revised plan includes strict daily wellness screening, twice per week testing for men’s and women’s basketball and stringent procedures for mitigating against the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The conference will use a combination of PCR/Antigen testing to comply with the approved plan.

The conference and the Council of Athletic Directors have been working on options for a final schedule.

EOU pair qualify for nationals

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University will have a pair of representatives when the Mountaineers compete at the 2021 Indoor National Championship for the heptathlon.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics released its list of 16 qualifiers for the multi-event Monday, Feb. 22, including EOU’s Tyler Davis and Sam Roddewig.

Davis and Roddewig find themselves on the final qualifiers list after put-



Davis



Roddewig

ting together solid competitions early this season at the College of Idaho. EOU reported Roddewig, a senior from Helena, Montana, was the heptathlon winner back on Feb. 6 at the C of I Icebreaker. He was fifth after day one but mounted a comeback to win the event with a total of 4,647 points.

Davis, a junior from Sandpoint, Idaho, qualified after winning the heptathlon this past weekend at the C of I Polar Vortex Classic. He led the entire way from beginning to end, winning four of the seven events.

Roddewig’s point total ranks sixth most in EOU history, while Davis’ total is seventh.

The 2021 NAIA Track & Field Indoor National Championships will take place March 3-6 in Yankton, South Dakota.

Golfer lucky to be alive after crash

Tiger Woods faces difficult recovery

By **STEPHANIE DAZIO AND DOUG FERGUSON**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In a career filled with remarkable comebacks, Tiger Woods faces perhaps his toughest recovery of all.

Woods was driving alone through a sweeping, downhill stretch of road through coastal suburbs of Los Angeles when his SUV struck a sign, crossed over a raised median and two oncoming lanes then flipped several times before coming to rest on its side. Its airbags deployed.

A sheriff’s deputy poked his head through a hole in the windshield to see Woods, still wearing his seatbelt, sitting in the driver’s seat.

The crash caused “significant” injuries to his right leg and he underwent what was described as a “long surgical procedure” at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Anish Mahajan, the chief medical officer, said Woods shattered tibia and fibula bones in multiple locations. He suffered “open fractures,” meaning the skin was broken.

The bones were stabilized by a rod in the tibia. He said a combination of screws and pins were used for injuries in the ankle and foot.

A statement on his Twitter account said he was awake, responsive and recovering.

“I will say that it’s very fortunate that Mr. Woods was able to come out of this



Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP Photo

A crane lifts a vehicle following a crash involving golfer Tiger Woods, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021, in a suburb of Los Angeles. Woods suffered leg injuries in the one-car crash.

alive,” said Carlos Gonzalez, the deputy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department who was the first on the scene after a neighbor called 911.

No charges were filed, and police said there was no evidence he was impaired.

The golf world was stunned by the news.

“As if his body hasn’t endured enough,” Jon Rahm, the No. 2 player in the world, said from the Workday Championship in Florida. “I just hope he can get out of the hospital after recovery and he can still play with his kids and have a normal life.”

Dr. Joseph Patterson, an orthopedic trauma surgeon at Keck Medicine of USC in Los Angeles, said injuries like those sustained by Woods are among the most common seen in hospital emergency rooms.

Patterson didn’t treat Woods and wouldn’t comment specifically about the golfer’s injuries but said the risk of infection is extremely high for patients with open fractures.

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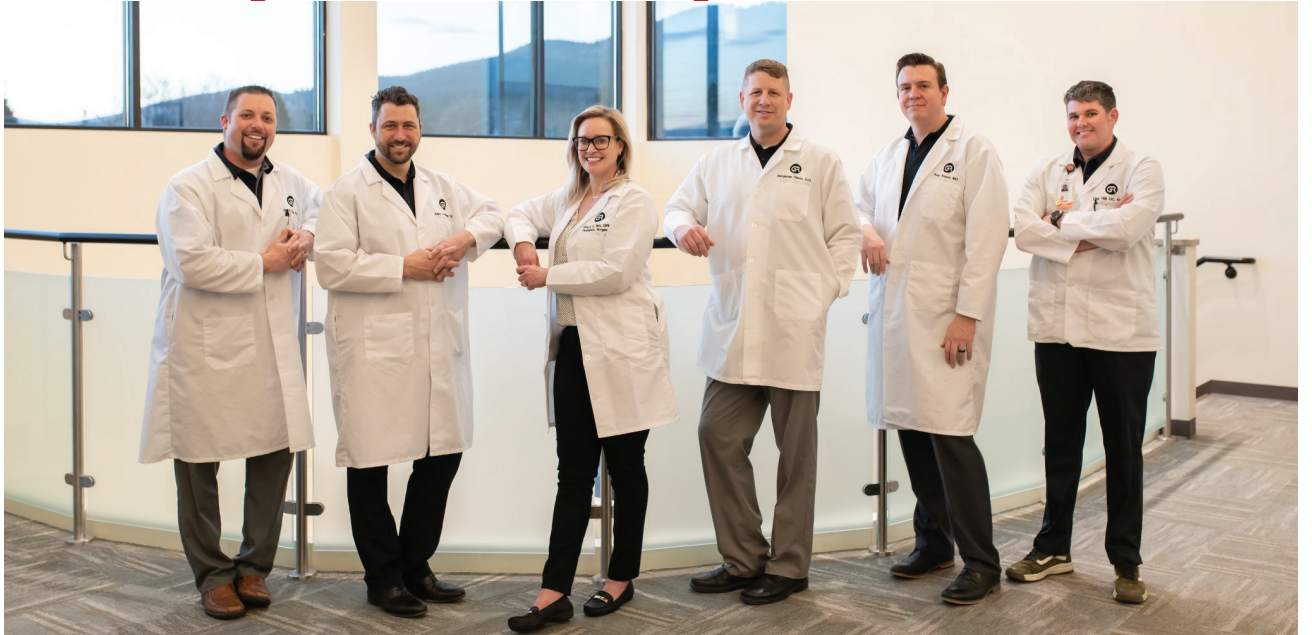


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