

No fans allowed at EOU football games this season

Frontier Conference coaches' poll picks Mountaineers to finish third

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Fans will not be attending Eastern Oregon Football games in person this season. The Frontier Conference presidents and athletic directors voted last week to continue the policy prohibiting spectators at games for the remainder of the 2020-21 season.

"We are very disappointed with not being able to allow spectators at our football games but the Frontier Conference is committed to providing a safe environment for student-athletes and visiting programs to compete," EOU Director of Athletics Anji Weissenfluh said in a press release.

In accordance to the policy, which the league developed in September, spectators will not be allowed at any Frontier



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo

Fans pack the stands at Community Stadium at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, in this undated photo. The Frontier Conference voted recently to keep the policy in place to prohibit spectators at football games and other sporting events for the remainder of the 2020-21 season, including at EOU.

Conference events — including football, basketball, golf, track and field, cross country and volleyball.

Eastern Oregon's two home football games are set to take place Saturday, March 20, against Carroll College of Montana and Saturday, April 3, against the College of Idaho. EOU

will livestream the contests on the Mountie Sports Network. Fans can catch the games by going to www.eousports.com/watch. Kickoff for each home game is set for 1 p.m.

Coaches in the conference picked the College of Idaho to win 2021 Frontier Conference football championship, with Carroll Col-

lege coming in second and EOU third in the five-team pool going into the spring season.

The conference released the poll Friday, March 12. Eastern picked up 10 points in the coaches poll to slide in at No. 3 for the preseason. The Mountaineers enter the spring season third after finishing 4-7

overall in 2019 and 4-6 in conference play, according to a press release from EOU.

The College of Idaho received 15 points and picked up three first-place votes. Coaches selected the Yotes as the favorite after winning the regular

season crown in 2019. Second-place Carroll College received 13 points and two first-place votes.

Rocky Mountain College, Montana, was picked with seven points, while Montana State-Northern was picked fifth with five points.

Local high school sports scores

BOYS SOCCER

Friday, March 12

• La Grande defeated Baker/Powder Valley 6-0.

GIRLS SOCCER

Wednesday, March 10

• La Grande defeated Baker/Powder Valley 9-1.

FOOTBALL

Thursday, March 11

• Wallowa (home, 1-0) defeated Enterprise (0-1) 42-0.

• La Grande (away, 1-0) defeated Nyssa (1-1) 42-8.

Friday, March 12

• Imbler (home, 1-0) defeated Cove (0-1) 48-20.

• Powder Valley (away, 2-0) defeated St. Paul (1-1) 44-20.

The Powder Valley Badgers opened the season March 5, defeating the Crane Mustangs

(0-2) on the road 18-8.

• Joseph (home, 2-0) defeated Monument (1-1) 33-13. The Joseph Eagles opened the season March 5 with a 37-18 win over the Harper Charter Hornets (0-1).

VOLEYBALL

Friday, March 12

• Powder Valley (4-0) defeated St. Paul (3-1) in straight sets: 25-22, 25-21 and 25-11.

• Joseph (2-1) defeated Pine Eagle (0-4) in straight sets: 25-8, 25-2 and 25-8.

• Enterprise (2-2) defeated Pine Eagle (0-4) in straight sets: 25-12, 25-10 and 25-18.

• Union (6-0) defeated Imbler (1-2) in straight sets: 25-12, 25-18 and 25-22.

• Imbler (2-2) defeated Cove (1-3) in four sets

(scores not available).

• Elgin (0-1) played Wallowa (3-1) (outcome not available).

Saturday, March 13

• La Grande (4-2) lost to Crook County (4-1) in a non-league match in straight sets: 25-20, 25-17 and 25-17.

• La Grande (4-2) lost to Pendleton in a non-league match in straight sets: 25-22, 26-24 and 25-18. La Grande's next league match is Thursday at 6 p.m. at home against Vale.

• Powder Valley (6-0) defeated Vale (2-4) in straight sets: 25-18, 25-12 and 25-16.

• Union (7-1) defeated Vale (2-4) in straight sets: 25-17, 25-17 and 25-22.

• Powder Valley (6-0) defeated Union (7-1) in three straight sets after losing the first set:

26-28, 25-15, 25-18 and 25-13.

• Enterprise (2-2) defeated Adrian (0-5) three sets to one: 25-17, 25-13, 20-13 and 25-20.

• Joseph (2-1) defeated Adrian (0-5) in straight sets: 25-10, 25-17 and 25-21.

• Wallowa defeated Pine Eagle in straight sets (scores not available).

— Source: Oregon School Activities Association

Gonzaga's bid for perfection begins with No. 1 overall seed

SPOKANE, Wash. — Gonzaga's road to perfection will be filled with familiar faces.

The Bulldogs were the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament bracket announced Sunday, March 14, as they try to become the first team in 35 years to complete a perfect season.

Gonzaga is the top seed in the West Region for the all-in-Indiana bracket that starts this week and the next three seeds are teams it has already beaten — all by

double digits.

The Zags (26-0) beat No. 2 Kansas 102-90 to open the season and took down No. 2 seed Iowa 99-88 a month later. Gonzaga also beat No. 4 seed Virginia 98-75 in late December.

Gonzaga won every game this season by double digits except for one — when star freshman Jalen Suggs was injured — and has a school-record 30-game winning streak over two seasons.

The Zags are the first

team since Kentucky in 2015 to enter the NCAA Tournament undefeated and have their sights set on the 1975-76 Indiana Hoosiers, the last team to finish a perfect season.

Gonzaga opens the tournament Saturday against the First Four winner between Norfolk State and Appalachian State. Get by that and the Zags will play the winner between No. 8 Creighton and No. 9 Missouri.

— Associated Press

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