

TOP HONORS

Imbler wrestling coach Doug Hislop to receive national coaching award

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

IMBLER — A national award is on the way for one of the area's high school coaches, while several other Union County individuals will receive state recognition.

The Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) is set to honor Imbler wrestling coach Doug Hislop as the National Federation of State High School Associations national wrestling coach of the year.

The ceremony will take place at Eastern Oregon University at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 6, in the David E. Gilbert Center.

"He's not only deserving, but he was chosen as the top wrestling coach in the entire nation, which is quite the achievement," said OACA Executive Director Rob Younger.

Hislop is being honored as a NFHS National Coach of the Year alongside Anne Ellett of Centennial High School. The national award is given to one coach in each sport across the entire nation, slating Hislop as the top boys wrestling coach in the country.

Hislop was a long-time assistant coach at La Grande before taking over in Imbler in 2007. The 2020-21 season is Hislop's 50th season coaching wrestling.

Four Panthers have won individual state championships during his time at Imbler, but for Hislop, coaching goes beyond just success on the mat.

"My greatest success story is helping kids make decisions about what they want to do with their life," he said.

Alongside the successful run at Imbler has been assistant coach Ron Osterloh, whom Hislop said is more than an assistant coach to the program. The duo have been coaching together since Hislop convinced Osterloh to come out of retirement following a successful coaching



Ronald Osterloh/Contributed Photo
Imbler High School wrestling coach Doug Hislop with Panther wrestler Garrett Burns wait before a match at the 2020 state wrestling tournament in Portland. The National Federation of State High School Associations in January 2021 named Hislop the National Coach of the Year for wrestling.



Comfort



Teeter

career at Enterprise. "We've got some good athletes out here, great family support and an excellent school," Hislop said. "It's just a nice place to work."

The Imbler athletics department will have another coach receiving an award at the ceremony. Volleyball coach Jennifer Teeter is set to be awarded the Rob Younger Power of Influence Award. The OACA gives this award to a coach or athletic director who emphasizes the development of strong character traits among student-athletes.

"It makes me feel very proud and honored to be able to work with these coaches," Imbler Athletic Director Mike Mills said.

La Grande School Board member and sports announcer Merle Comfort will be honored with the

OACA Community Service Award, which is given to a community member who has positively contributed to Oregon high school sports.

In addition to his dedication to sports in the community, Comfort has been an instrumental part of the La Grande School Board. He was honored as the State School Board Member of the Year in 2019.

Powder Valley superintendent Lance Dixon is set to receive the Marv Heater Distinguished Service Award. The OACA bestows this award to an individual who is not a current coach or athletic director but has influenced athletics, the community, schools and individuals.

In addition to the awards, Powder Valley student Hunter Lind is one of eight recipients of the OACA 2021 scholarship. The OACA annually awards eight \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The organization has been passing out this scholarship since 1986 and has provided more than \$250,000 to graduating student-athletes since then.

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

2021 football schedule announced

By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A full slate of football is back at Eastern Oregon University.

After a shortened season in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mountaineers are set to play a 10-game season in 2021.

Eastern went 3-1 last season to claim a shared Frontier Conference title and finished the season ranked No. 21 in the NAIA coaches poll.

The Mountaineers will face only opponents from the Frontier Conference, three of which are home-and-aways with teams they will play twice. Eastern opens its season on the road Saturday, Aug. 28, against Montana Tech, a team that did not play at all in 2020 but went 6-4 in 2019.

The first home game of the season at Community Stadium is an afternoon matchup against Montana Western Saturday, Sept. 4. The Bulldogs also opted out of playing in the 2020 season.



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo
Fans pack the stands at Community Stadium at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, in this undated photo.

A big rivalry matchup takes place Saturday, Sept. 25, when the College of Idaho comes to La Grande. The two teams are set to face off twice this year, with the second matchup taking place Saturday, Nov. 6, in Caldwell, Idaho.

Eastern heads to Ashland to face its in-state rival Southern Oregon on Saturday, Oct. 2. The Mountaineers and Raiders will play again at Community Stadium for Eastern's final game of the regular season on Saturday, Nov. 13. Senior day will be celebrated prior to the home matchup against Southern Oregon.

Eastern will also play a home-and-away against Carroll College, a team that the Mountaineers have defeated in the last six matchups. The Mountaineers are slated to play at home against Rocky Mountain College and on the road against Montana State-Northern in single matchups.

With in-person attendance at sporting events coming back across the country, it is likely that fans will be able to attend games this season. The EOU website states that season ticket information will be available at a later date.

We thank these Chamber Members for their continued support

UNION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
www.VisitUnionCounty.org

CENTSABLE
Wealth Management

Eagle Cap Realty & Property Management

Charles Gillis
Attorney at Law

CS
Certified Personnel Service

ON THE SLATE

Schedule subject to change

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

Prep boys basketball

Imbler at Union, 7 p.m.

La Grande at Nyssa, 6:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Imbler at Union, 5:30 p.m.

La Grande at Nyssa, 5 p.m.

Prep wrestling

La Grande vs. Baker/Powder Valley Dual Meet, TBD

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

Prep boys basketball

Pine Eagle at Union, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Prep boys basketball

Griswold at Cove, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

Prep boys basketball

Baker at Powder Valley, 7:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Baker at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

Prep boys basketball

Powder Valley at Imbler, 5:30 p.m.

La Grande at Baker, 7:30 p.m.

Union at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Powder Valley at Imbler, 4 p.m.

La Grande at Baker, 6 p.m.

Union at Enterprise, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Prep boys basketball

Burns at Powder Valley, 2:30 p.m.

Enterprise at Imbler, 7 p.m.

Nixyaawii at Baker, 7:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Burns at Powder Valley, 1 p.m.

Burns at Union, 4 p.m.

Enterprise at Imbler, 5:30 p.m.

Nixyaawii at Baker, 6 p.m.

Prep wrestling

McLoughlin/Weston-McEwen vs. La Grande Dual Meet, TBD

Pendleton vs. La Grande Dual Meet, TBD

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Prep boys basketball

Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.

Union at La Grande, 6 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Union at La Grande, 4:30 p.m.

Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Prep boys basketball

Union at Wallowa, 6:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Union at Wallowa, 5 p.m.

Ontario at La Grande, 7 p.m.

Ask us about Delivery

MAYTAG

ELGIN ELECTRIC

43 N. 8th Elgin, OR 541-437-2054

AUTO LOANS
AS SMOOTH AS A
SUMMER CRUISE

Get ready for a new ride today!
Apply online in minutes at
HZCU.ORG/APPLY

*OAC. Membership fee and restrictions may apply.

HORIZON
CREDIT UNION
Your Path. Our Purpose.