



Connor Bracken/Eastern Oregon University, File

Eastern Oregon University's Maggie Ledbetter, shown competing in the weight throw last season, became the first EOU women's track and field discus All-American at the 2021 NAIA National Championships in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

BUSINESS: 'Going for a national title would be amazing'

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college for two more years. Ledbetter has her eyes set on passing Haney's mark and becoming the all-time top women's shot put thrower at Eastern.

"I'm hoping to get the outdoor shot record, which I'm really close to," Ledbetter said. "I want to break the 50-foot mark in shot put."

It was in the discus throw where Ledbetter doubled down and brought home her second All-American finish at Nationals.

"Discus I really wanted,"

Ledbetter said. "Two years ago I struggled and let the competition get to me, so I was coming back really wanting to do well."

Ledbetter competed at the 2019 NAIA Outdoor Nationals her freshman year, but the national competition was canceled last season due to COVID-19. She placed 15th overall at the 2019 Nationals in her only qualified event of the competition.

On her first throw of the 2021 event, Ledbetter scored a 127-1, a mark well below her personal bests. It was on her second attempt

that Ledbetter launched a 145-6 throw that put her in seventh place and qualified her for All-American status.

"With discus it was surreal. I've wanted it so bad," Ledbetter said. "EOU has never had a discus All-American, so that was a goal of mine to break that chain and be the first one."

Ledbetter has potential to finish her career as one of the most accomplished throwers in EOU women's track and field history. With two All-American finishes in the 2021 outdoor season under her belt, the ceiling is

high for her future.

"Going for a national title would be amazing," she said.

With sports back on a more regular schedule regarding COVID-19, Ledbetter and the Mountaineers will have a full offseason without interruptions to prepare for next season.

The upcoming indoor season is slated to start in December and will culminate in March 2022 with the NAIA Indoor Championships, where Ledbetter will look to bring home even more All-American honors.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian, File

The Oregon Senate passed a proposed legislation to permit college athletes in Oregon to be compensated for their name, image and likeness starting July 1, 2021. The legislation now heads to the House.

BILL

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Mississippi and New Mexico. Thirteen other states also have passed name, image and likeness laws.

Sens. Courtney and James Manning Jr., D-Eugene, are the chief sponsors of the bill and added Sen. Chuck Riley, D-Hillsboro, as a sponsor this week.

"College sports is a billion-dollar industry. Our players deserve their fair share," Manning said in a statement. "They are promised a 'free' education, but there's nothing free about it. They pay for it by pouring their blood, sweat, and tears onto the field. It's also an economic fairness issue. The NCAA and universities are prof-

iting off our athletes, many of whom are Black and from low-income households, and preventing them from making any money for themselves. We have an opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of our college athletes."

Both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University issued statements in support of the amended bill last month.

Federal lawmakers continue efforts to craft a national NIL bill with the goal of passing it before July 1, with various proposals being circulated. The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on college athlete NIL Wednesday.

The NCAA Division I Council is expected to address NIL proposals during its June 22-23 meeting.

ON THE SLATE

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 vs. Union, at Powder Valley High School, 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.

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