



**DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
CARBAUGH'S CORNER

## A one-of-a-kind season

When the La Grande girls basketball team finished the 2020 season, expectations were high for a 4A state championship run. With the travel arrangements already planned, everything took a turn for the worse as COVID-19 put a stop to sports across the country.

More than a year later, the Tigers joined Union's boys, and the Powder Valley boys and girls teams in the group of Union County squads to make post-season runs. It's no secret that the pandemic-affected 2021 season provided a number of challenges, making these teams' tournament runs even more impressive. Starting the season in the spring and playing seniors that already graduated are just two of the challenges coaches in the area faced this season.

La Grande was near flawless this year, going 10-0 in the regular season and cruising by Madras in the first round of the 4A state tournament on Tuesday, June 24. Camryn Collman was unstoppable in the first-round matchup, scoring 43 points. Collman was the glue for La Grande this year and led one of the stronger Tigers girls teams in recent years. She is signed to play at the University of Portland next fall.

Collman was joined by seniors Ella Dunlap, Lauren Rinker, Grace Perry and McKaylee Orton in an upperclassmen-led effort. Dunlap's proficient scoring and rebounding in the paint balanced Collman's perimeter play to create a well-oiled offensive machine. La Grande averaged over 60 points and won by less than 10 points only one time in the regular season.

The Tigers faced their toughest matchup of the year in the 4A Showcase Final Four, battling undefeated the Mustangs of Hidden Valley on Thursday, June 24. La Grande fell 48-40 in a neck-and-neck battle. Despite falling short, La Grande was one of the more dominant teams in the area and its group of seniors should be applauded for leading that effort.

For the Union boys, head coach Odin Miller coached a similar senior-heavy roster this season. Led by offensive standout Keegan Glenn, six seniors guided the Bobcats to an 8-3 regular-season record and a first-place finish in the 2A Blue Mountain Conference.

Glenn regularly scored 30 or more points in games this year, while sharpshooter Vuk Koyadinovich often heated up from beyond the arc with ease. Koyadinovich scored four 3-pointers in Union's 59-50 victory over Portland Christian in the first round of the 4A state tournament.

The victory was a milestone for Miller and the Bobcats, marking the program's first state tournament win since 2000. Before then, a Union boys team hadn't won a state tournament game since 1950.

Now, there are spots to fill next year for underclassmen who toughed it out during a one-of-a-kind basketball season in 2021.



Joe Brogdon/Contributed Photo

Joseph alumna and Eastern Oregon University graduate Karianne Zollman recently earned an NAIA All-American in the women's javelin.

## Closing out a career

Joseph alum Karianne Zollman ends chapter on EOU throwing career

By **RONALD BOND**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

LA GRANDE — Some athletes save their best for last.

But for Eastern Oregon University javelin thrower Karianne Zollman, her best at the 2021 NAIA National Championships came first.

Zollman, a Joseph alumna who recently graduated from EOU, wrapped up her collegiate athletic career by earning All-American honors in the women's javelin with a personal-best effort at the national meet May 26 of 141 feet, 4 inches. It was a performance that lifted her to sixth in the nation and resulted in her second All-American in the event.

She didn't linger around till the end, either, to uncork the PR throw, or build up to it. Instead, she did so on her very first attempt of the day.

"I get really amped up for the first throw, and I get really nervous," Zollman said. "I have to be very disciplined. I always have a pep talk with myself. You can't wait until the next throw, you have to do it now."

Her conversation with herself included a reminder that it was going to be her final time on the javelin runway.

"This is your last opportunity. Let's go out having fun. Let's execute to the best of our ability," she said of her personal pep talk.

Having the big throw early took some of the pressure off as she set out to end her career with a bang.

"I was in the first flight,

so I knew I should be able to get into the finals (with that throw)," she said. "I wanted to get a good average. This was my last time competing. I didn't want it to be a fluke. Most of my throws were 40 meters (131-feet-3), and before that, I was struggling to get above 40 meters."

Her average on five marked throws that day was 133-feet-

10, including three throws

above the 40-meter mark, all boosted by the initial effort of the day.

It's not the first time her first throw has been her best at nationals.

In fact, she did the same thing in 2019. Then a junior, Zollman launched the javelin 140-feet-2 on her first throw of the day. At the time, it was her personal best. And like at the 2021 nationals, it landed her an All-American nod, as she finished eighth that day.

The strong sendoff came after a pandemic-canceled 2020 that would have been her senior campaign, one in which, coming off an All-American effort as a junior, she hoped to contend for a national title.

COVID-19 not only altered that, but put her in a spot where she was uncertain she would

compete in 2021.

"I wasn't even sure I was going to come back," she said. "I had a few classes, but I didn't have a reason to come back in the fall or winter, so I only showed up in spring term."

"The season before, I was really trying to go for a national championship. I had a good base of work I had done in the previous years.

Everything prevented the access to gyms and stuff. I couldn't get as much as I wanted, but toward the end I worked my butt off."

Throwing javelin runs in Zollman's blood, as her older sister, Grace, had a successful career and pursued the sport professionally, Karianne said.

"She was able to give me a lot of help," she said. "It was also so cool to watch her throw. I was inspired by her throwing."

Zollman briefly dabbled in the shot put, hammer throw and weight throw at EOU, but solely focused on the javelin her senior season.

"I did not have that much time, and I knew I could be the most successful in javelin and reach (nationals) in javelin," she said.

Her marks improved each week during the 2021 season, building up to that best — and first — All-American winning throw at nationals.

"Coming back and finishing, before this, it felt like you had to stop in the middle of a book," she said. "The final chapter was not complete. I didn't care how it ended up. I just wanted to put in the work, and however it ended, great."

## Former EOU standout takes job in Hermiston

Megan Bunn was a two-time All-American for Mountaineers volleyball

By **ANNIE FOWLER**  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — When it comes to volleyball, Megan Bunn has found success at every level. Hermiston High School is keen that winning attitude will continue as the Bulldogs' new coach.

"Coach Bunn has been successful in volleyball everywhere she has been," Hermiston Athletic Director Larry Usher said. "We are confident she will bring that competitive spirit to the Dawg House every day."

Bunn, 23, will replace Becky Wadekamper, who recently stepped down after one season.

"Becky had gotten ahold of me," Bunn said. "I think she was looking for some knowledgeable coaches to take on and be a part of the staff. I didn't think she was trying to recruit me as a head coach. It was kind of a last-minute decision for her. Life happens. She let me know it was open and she recommended that I apply. I guess she saw some potential in me."

A 6-foot outside hitter, Bunn was a standout at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande, where she was a two-time NAIA All-American then an assistant coach for the Mountaineers, who are a frequent participant at the NAIA Tournament.

While at Eastern, Bunn compiled 1,331 kills, the second most in program history. She also had 1,011 digs to become the first player in program history with at least 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs. She ranks sixth on the all-time digs list.

Her senior year, she was named to the NAIA Volleyball National All-Tournament team after posting three consecutive matches of 20 or more kills.

At the 2019 NAIA Tournament, she broke the EOU record for most kills in a match with 32 in a loss to Lindsey Wilson. She finished the season with 455 kills and 410 digs, making her a threat no matter where she was on the floor.

"I've definitely had a lot of experience," Bunn said. "I have seen a lot of things, I have been through a lot as a player, and I have grown through that. I have had success, but that has been because of the coaches I have had. Taking over a program, I hope I can do as good a job as my coaches."

A 2016 graduate of Banks High School, Bunn was a four-time first-team all-conference selection in the Cowapa League. She led the Braves to the state title her senior year and was named the Oregon 4A Player of the Year.

"I am young, and it's a big responsibility to take on," said Bunn, who also will teach fifth grade at Hermiston's Desert View Elementary School.

## SPORTS SHORT

### Alternate helmets returning to NFL in 2022

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL is bringing back alternate helmets in 2022, ending a nine-year hiatus that started because of concerns about player safety.

The league wrote to clubs in a memo dated Thursday, June 24, that it must be notified of plans to use alternate helmets by July 31 even though they won't be used for another year.

The memo was obtained by The Associated Press.

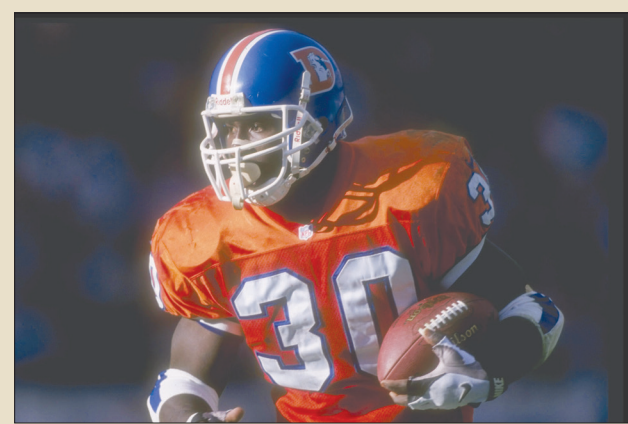
The use of a second helmet was dropped in 2013 over concerns that wearing more than one helmet might not be safe for players. As those concerns have eased, clubs have lobbied for a second helmet because options for alternate jerseys were expanded in 2018, the league said.

The second helmet can be worn only with so-called classic, alternate or color rush jerseys, and all players must be fitted for both helmets before training camp, the league wrote in the memo.

The primary and alternate helmets must be the same make, model and size. The alternate helmets must be worn in practice the week of the game they will be used, if not before.

The NFL began allowing throwback uniforms to commemorate its 75th season in 1994.

They gained popularity through the years before the limit of one helmet made alternate uniforms less enticing because of the difficulty matching the base color of the primary helmet.



Jamie Squire/Getty Images, File

Running back Terrell Davis of the Denver Broncos moves the ball during a game against the Seattle Seahawks. The NFL is bringing back alternate helmets in 2022, ending a nine-year hiatus that started because of concerns about player safety.