

DAVIS CARBAUGH
CARBAUGH'S CORNER

Quarterback competition hampers Mounties

Recent offensive struggles have taken a toll on the Eastern Oregon University football team, which has dropped its last four consecutive games.

The inefficient offensive production and quarterback uncertainty has left fans scratching their heads.

After starting the season 3-0, the momentum stalled for the Mountaineers and the team has averaged just 11.4 points per game over the last five contests. Despite leading the team in rushing yards with 344, All-American quarterback Kai Quinn was benched late in a loss to winless MSU-Northern after throwing his 11th interception of the season.

Redshirt freshman Carson Bohning came into the game, going 6-for-15 in the pocket with 78 passing yards. While his play was solid enough to keep Eastern in contention late in the matchup with the Lights, the Mountaineers ultimately fell flat in the five overtime periods.

Quarterback play often relies heavily on momentum and poise in the pocket, which Bohning exhibited and helped tie the game at 13-13.

However, he fell flat in overtime outside of a key 4th-and-15 conversion. In the final three overtimes in which both teams ran alternating two-point plays, the Mountaineers were held scoreless.

The benching of Quinn may have come a bit late, as a disastrous six-turnover performance against Rocky Mountain on Oct. 9 felt like a nightmare for fans in attendance. He also played the entirety of a three-point showing against Southern Oregon.

With that being said, Quinn's mobility likely could have been the difference in overtime when Eastern just needed a few yards to score.

Both quarterbacks have shown strengths and weaknesses, but not having a clear starter at this point in the season is a difficult task to overcome. Head coach Tim Camp is playing his cards close to his chest coming into this Saturday's home game with Carroll, so it remains to be seen who will start under center this week.

With three games left, it's a bad time for Eastern to lack identity on the offensive side of the ball.

This week's game could be a chance for either Quinn or Bohning to make a statement performance and help the Mountaineers get back on track.

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Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File
Eastern Oregon University forward Morgan Farrington (25) slides for possession during a match against Corban University on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. On Oct. 22, she scored her 30th career goal and became the program's all-time leading goal scorer.

Breaking records
EOU's Morgan Farrington becomes soccer program's all-time leading goal scorer

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — One strike into the back of the net made history for the Eastern Oregon University women's soccer program.

Morgan Farrington, a red-shirt-senior forward, scored her 30th career goal in a match against Carroll on Friday, Oct. 22, to become the program's all-time leading goal scorer. The moment was surreal for Farrington, who has grown as a player and individual over her five years with the university.

"Just to have the support of everyone in the stands as well as my coaches and my teammates on the bench was rewarding," she said. "It was great to have their support, knowing that they were right behind me helping me the whole way."

Farrington's goal mark broke Kristen Rice's former record of 29, which was set from 2003 to 2006. The Meridian, Idaho, native struck a well-played ball into the lower-left corner off a deflection, sealing her position in history.

It was a dreamlike night for Farrington, who came into the matchup against Carroll with 28 career goals. In the second minute of the match, she found the back of the net to tie the career scoring record.

"I was aware after the first one, but it was surreal to think that I tied it and broke it all in the same game," she said.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File
Eastern Oregon University forward Morgan Farrington (25) plays during a match against Corban University on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. Farrington leads the Mountaineers in goals scored this season.

"This is just as much my reward as it is theirs. They both have put so much time and effort into helping me do all this."

Morgan Farrington, EOU soccer standout, praising head coach Jacob Plocher and assistant coach Josh Goodman

Starting from scratch

For Farrington, the journey from coming in as a freshman learning the ropes to an all-time great in the program has been both challenging and rewarding.

"I was very shy and quiet my freshman year," she said. "I really kept to myself,

but eventually I was able to grow and do more as a player. I'm really happy with that progress."

The forward chose to return to Eastern for a fifth season, using her extended eligibility granted by the NAIA.

After a shortened, unique

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PAC-12 NOTEBOOK

Beavers look to become bowl eligible

A win over Cal would make OSU bowl eligible for first time since 2013

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

Here are some things to watch this week in the Pac-12 Conference:

North division game of the week

Oregon State at California. Bowl-bound Beavers? Could be. A win would make Oregon State (5-2, 3-1 Pac-12) bowl-eligible for the first time since 2013. It could also push them into the top 25, which would be the first time since that '13 season. What's more, a victory would keep things moving toward a high-stakes game with Oregon on Nov. 27 in Eugene — and possibly the Pac-12 North title. This will be the 74th meeting between Cal (2-5, 1-3) and Oregon State. The Bears lead the series 38-35. The Beavers rallied for a 31-27 win last season, scoring the decisive touchdown late in the fourth quarter. Oregon State enters the contest averaging a league-leading 35.1 points a game.

South division game of the week

UCLA at Utah. The Utes (4-3, 3-1) are coming off their first conference loss of the season at Oregon State. But they look to get back on track and take a step toward a Pac-12 South title against UCLA (5-3, 3-2). The Utes have won four straight over the Bruins. A win by UCLA would make the team bowl-eligible for the first time since 2017. The key number for the Bruins will be 20: They've won 58 consecutive regular-season games when holding opponents under 20 points. Their last regular-season loss when surrendering less than 20 was 16-14 at Colorado in 2003. The Utes will retire the number "22" during the game to honor running back Ty Jordan and defensive back Aaron Lowe. Lowe was killed in a shooting at a house party in September. Jordan died in an accidental shooting on Christmas Day 2020.

Inside the numbers

Colorado (2-5, 1-3) travels to No. 7 Oregon (6-1, 3-1). The Buffaloes haven't beaten a top-10 team since knocking off No. 3 Oklahoma in Boulder, 27-24, in 2007. ... Autzen Stadium opened in 1967 and Colorado was the first visitor. The Buffs won 17-13. ... The Ducks have won 16 straight games at Autzen. ... Washington State (4-4, 3-2) is 13th in the country with 15 takeaways heading into its game at Arizona State (5-2, 3-1). ... Stanford (3-4, 2-3) hosts Washington (3-4, 2-2) as the Cardinal play four of their final five games at home. ... Cardinal coach David Shaw's 93 career wins are tied for 10th among coaches in Pac-12

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SPORTS SHORT

Stetson Wright wins Big 4 Rodeo award

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Stetson Wright won the coveted Big 4 Rodeo Association's Best in the Northwest title as a result of competing at the Kennewick Horse Heaven Round-Up, Walla Walla Frontier Days, Lewiston Roundup and the Pendleton Round-Up.

The Best in the Northwest award is given to the contestant accumulating the most points while competing at all of the Big 4 Rodeo Association events.

Wright, of Milford, Utah, won the tightly contested 2021 title while competing in saddle bronc and bull riding at all four rodeos.

The award is a custom-made saddle designed especially for the winner by Stoney Saddlery of Wickensburg, Arizona.

Wright's combined winnings were \$27,120 at the Big 4 Rodeos, plus another \$18,106 in Xtreme Bulls events.

"I am honored to win the Big 4 Award," Wright said. "This is a very coveted award and the contestants all know about and want to win this award. Winning an award that my dad (Cody Wright) previously won is what our family always tries to accomplish."

Wright, and his father, Cody, are the first father-son Big 4 Champions. Cody won the award 10

years ago in 2011.

The saddle will be awarded to Wright at the Big 4 Rodeo Association Reception on Dec. 1, at the South Point Hotel Casino & Spa, during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

The Big 4 Rodeo Association, which was established in 1948, celebrated its 73rd anniversary this year paying out over \$1,436,000. It remains one of the oldest associations of its type in professional rodeo today.

The Big 4 Rodeos are held annually in consecutive weeks starting in late August with Kennewick's Horse Heaven Round-Up and finishing with the Pendleton Round-Up the second week of September.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Stetson Wright, of Milford, Utah, rides Lunatic from Hell to a saddle bronc championship on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up.