

**BOYS**

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Reece Dixon at the point guard position, several sharpshooters from long range and Krieger in the paint. Krieger is an efficient rebounder who can also run the floor well and play above the rim. Another weapon in the paint is center Ben Profit off the bench, an offensive lineman with size and mobility.

Defensively, Powder Valley will run a number of different schemes to throw off opposing offenses. With a high level of athleticism on the roster, coach Dixon said the team will have a variety of full- and half-court presses to draw from.

“We’re going to do a lot of different things defensively this year to try to mix it up,” Kyle Dixon said. “We’ll try some zone and

try some full-court stuff. I think I have the athletes capable of doing that.”

With years of experience playing together, the Badgers have potential to be a well-oiled machine as the season progresses, aiming to bring home a coveted Class 1A championship this year.

“They love to get out on the floor and get after it,” the coach said. “They’re a really good team, and they work together good.”

The Badgers are off to a 2-0 start to the season after picking up wins against Jordan Valley and Dufur. The team will be tested this coming week as a number of teams travel to North Powder for the Calvin Hiatt Memorial Tournament, which begins Thursday, Dec. 9.

“We just have to keep focused,” Kyle Dixon said. “That’s our goal.”

**GIRLS**

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players and we are fortunate to have them,” coach Bingham said.

The team has just one senior, Viri Rodriguez-Medrano, so the sophomore class will be asked to fill important roles for a Badger team that has 15 players. Five or six sophomores will potentially

see significant time on the court, coach Bingham said.

“Several of the sophomores will likely be major contributors, and I think we will be a pretty deep team,” he said. “We are not normally as deep as this team will be so that is an advantage. Each of the sophomores kind of brings their own thing and they are all athletic.”

Coach Bingham is impressed with the overall

athleticism of his team that will serve it well as it looks to execute its tenacious defensive plan. The Badgers like to press their opponents and use a stifling man-to-man defense.

Powder Valley spent the early days of practice working on fundamentals as coach Bingham looks to put the new pieces together to see how his team will best operate on the basketball floor. What the team

lacks in size it figures to make up with the ability to cut and move to create open shots.

“We are just developing skills,” he said. “We do a lot of dribbling, shooting and passing.”

More than their athletic skill, coach Bingham likes the team’s makeup off the court as well. He described his team as one that is “fun” and “plays for the group.”

**EOU**

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**Mountaineers shine at weekend wrestling competitions**

GREAT FALLS, Mont. and WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — The Eastern Oregon University wrestling programs had a solid weekend, traveling across the country for multiple competitions. The Mountaineers men’s team won three of its duals and finished fourth at the Battle of the Rockies Open at the University of Providence in Montana, while the women’s team went 4-3 in duals at the Patriot Open at the University of Cumberlands in Kentucky.

The Eastern men’s team knocked off Simon Fraser 39-10, Northwest College 51-3 and Providence 31-12.

Monte Zufelt, Chad Muenzer, John Bittinger and Kyle Knudtson all went 3-0 in the team’s duals. A handful of Mountaineers went 2-0 in what was a dominant overall effort.

In the Battle of the Rockies on the ensuing day, Eastern scored 92 points to place fourth overall. The Mountaineers hauled in four top-three finishes, highlighted by second-place performances from Bittinger, Noel Orozco and Marco Retano.

Eastern’s strong showing now has the team standing at 4-2 overall in competitions and 2-1 in conference matchups. With momentum on Eastern’s side, the Mountaineers will have two weeks off before competing at the Reno Tournament of Champions on Dec. 17.

On the women’s side, sophomore Olivia Robinson led the way with seven victories across the weekend at the 170-pound weight class. The Mountaineers won the team’s first four duals, but lost three straight to conclude the competition.

Neyeli Flores Roque won

four individual matchups on day one, helping Eastern take wins over No. 10 Lyon College, No. 6 Cumberlands, Tiffin and Liberty. Stephanie Blankenship Krystal Fabricante both won four head-to-head matchups, while Morgan Shines and Dempsey Talkington both walked away with three wins.

After a tough slate of matchups that included some major victories against ranked opponents, the Mountaineers will have a lengthy break before facing Grays College in Aberdeen, Washington on Jan. 14.

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