

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

DEFENSIVE STALWARTS

EOU's DeLong, Van Wyck conclude standout careers with national recognition

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Two pillars of Eastern Oregon University football wrapped up their collegiate careers by earning top honors at the NAIA level.

Senior defensive linemen Sage DeLong and Chase Van Wyck were both named NAIA All-Americans in the NAIA's official end-of-season release on Monday, Dec. 13. The two linemen were a nightmare for opposing offenses for what was a much-improved Mountaineers defensive unit this season. DeLong was named to the first team and Van Wyck earned honorable mention.

"What a great couple guys," head coach Tim Camp said. "They've had such an impact on what we've done and what we've been trying to do defensively."

DeLong was a menace on the defensive line this year, tallying 17.5 tackles for loss and 10 sacks on the year. Those splits ranked him 11th in the NAIA for tackles for loss and fifth in the NAIA in sacks despite missing three games



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Eastern Oregon's Sage DeLong pursues Rocky Mountain's DeNiro Killian Jr. in a game at Community Stadium in La Grande on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021. DeLong earned Frontier Conference co-defensive player of the year alongside teammate Chase Van Wyck.

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Bray named defensive coordinator for OSU

By NICK DASCHEL
The Oregonian

LOS ANGELES — Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said he spoke to many potential candidates about becoming his next defensive coordinator.

As those conversations took place, it became clear: The guy down the hall at Valley Football Center was right for the job. On Tuesday, Dec. 14, Smith named Trent Bray as OSU's defensive coordinator, taking the interim tag off a title the 39-year-old inside linebackers coach wore since Tim Tibesar was dismissed Nov. 7.

"It just kept coming back to Trent," Smith said Tuesday night during an LA Bowl media availability at SoFi Stadium. "The connection to the players, what he brings to the table. This guy's been around big-time ball for a long time."

Smith said he sees Bray, his inside linebackers coach for the past four years, can continue some things that have been established in the program, while adding his thoughts and personality to the defense.

"It got to the point where I felt really, really confident to make this decision," Smith said.

Smith and Bray came to an agreement Monday, and later told the team.

"They were excited. They



Nick Daschel/The Oregonian

Oregon State coach Jonathan Smith said he decided to make inside linebackers coach Trent Bray defensive coordinator because "I felt confidently for the next couple years to be good on defense, we've got a guy sitting right here who can do it."

were excited the day we made him interim, and when we told them yesterday," Smith said. "If they're enthused to have him as a leader, that made me feel even better."

Early in the process, Smith said he thought he'd make the hire around the middle of January. He made a list of poten-

tial candidates, talked to others, some who recommended Bray. Smith decided not to wait, saying ultimately his gut told him Bray was right.

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ON THE SLATE

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Vale at La Grande, 7 p.m.
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union and Powder Valley High Schools
Enterprise vs. Powder Valley, Powder Valley High School, 4:30 p.m.
Jordan Valley vs. Imbler, Union High School, 4:30 p.m.
Elgin vs. Imbler JV, Powder Valley High School, 7:30 p.m.
Cove vs. Union, Union High School, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union and Powder Valley High Schools
Enterprise vs. Powder Valley, Powder Valley High School, 3 p.m.
Jordan Valley vs. Cove, Union High School, 3 p.m.
Crane vs. Imbler, Powder Valley High School, 6 p.m.
Elgin vs. Union, Union High School, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Lewis-Clark State at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Lewis-Clark State at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.
COLLEGE MEN'S WRESTLING
Eastern Oregon vs. MSU-Northern, Reno, Nevada, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
La Grande vs. Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Stanfield High School, 7 p.m.
Wallowa vs. Umatilla JV, Helix High School, 4 p.m.
Joseph at Prairie City, 7:30 p.m.
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union High School
Elgin vs. Union JV, 9 a.m.
Cove vs. Enterprise, 1:30 p.m.
Powder Valley vs. Imbler, 4:30 p.m.
Union vs. Jordan Valley, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wallowa vs. Umatilla JV, Helix High School, 2 p.m.
Joseph at Prairie City, 6 p.m.
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union High School
Enterprise/Powder Valley loser vs. Crane/Imbler loser, Union High School, 10:30 a.m.
Jordan Valley/Cove loser vs. Elgin/Union loser, Union High School, noon
Enterprise/Powder Valley winner vs. Crane/Imbler winner, Union High School, 3 p.m.
Jordan Valley/Cove winner vs. Elgin/Union winner, Union High School, 6 p.m.

PREP BOYS WRESTLING

La Grande at Tri-State Tournament, Couer d'Alene, Idaho
La Grande at John Rysdam Tournament, Elgin High School

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Walla Walla at Eastern Oregon, 8:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Walla Walla at Eastern Oregon, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Wallowa at Helix Tournament, TBA
Joseph at Grant Union, 2:30 p.m.
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union High School
Elgin vs. Powder Valley JV, Union High School, 10:30 a.m.
Imbler vs. Enterprise, Union High School, 1:30 p.m.
Jordan Valley vs. Cove, Union High School, 4:30 p.m.
Union vs. Powder Valley, Union High School, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wallowa at Helix Tournament, TBA
Joseph at Grant Union, 1 p.m.
Bobcat Christmas Classic, Union High School
Seventh-place game, Union High School, 9 a.m.
Consolation championship, Union High School noon
Third-place game, Union High School, 3 p.m.
Championship game, Union High School 6 p.m.

PREP SWIMMING
La Grande at Lebanon High School

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

COLLEGE MEN'S WRESTLING
Eastern Oregon at Tournament of Champions, Reno, Nevada, TBA

MONDAY, DEC. 20
PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
La Grande at Gladstone, 7:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Enterprise at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
Linfield at Eastern Oregon, 6 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Horizon Christian/Hood River at Elgin, 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Horizon Christian/Hood River at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

New coach's contract at Oregon for 6 years, \$29.1M

By JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Dan Lanning's contract at Oregon is for six years and \$29.1 million.

The University of Oregon's Executive and Audit committee of the school's Board of Trustees on Tuesday, Dec. 14, unanimously approved the contract, which runs through January 2028.

Lanning will earn \$4.6 million next season and enjoy \$100,000 increases for each of the following five years. University documents state Lanning's starting compensation ranks fifth in the Pac-12 Conference and 27th nationally.

It's a slight increase from the \$4.4 million base salary Mario Cristobal was in line to receive under his existing contract at UO, which also included retention bonuses that are not part of Lanning's contract, but below the \$7 million base Cristobal was being offered before leaving for Miami.

Lanning, 35, was in the first of a three-year contract at Georgia worth \$1.7 million this season, \$1.75 million in 2022 and \$1.8 million in 2023. His buyout at UGA has been waived because he left for a head coaching job.

The buyout UO would owe Lanning if he were fired before the end of the contract is 70% of his remaining base salary and will increase to 80% if Oregon wins 10 regular season games in any season during the contract. It is subject to mitigation.

Lanning's buyout to leave UO is \$14 million through Jan. 31, 2023, and decreases annually to \$10 million, \$7 million, \$3 million, \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively.

The bowl participation incentives in Lanning's contract are \$500,000 for playing in the College Football Playoff National Championship game, \$250,000 for reaching the CFP semifinals, \$150,000 for any of the other four New Year's six bowls and \$100,000 for any bowl game where Oregon wins at least seven games. That's a higher incentive for the national title game than Cristobal's contract (\$375,000), but lower than the \$325,000, \$300,000 and \$150,000, respectively, the Ducks' former coach would've received for other postseason games.



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

New Oregon football head coach Dan Lanning takes questions from media after being formally introduced by the Ducks Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, in Eugene. Oregon hired Georgia defensive coordinator Lanning as head coach Dec. 11, completing a search for Mario Cristobal's replacement that took less than a week.