

Packing the stands in tribute



DAVIS CARBAUGH
CARBAUGH'S CORNER

Powder Valley athletics recently honored the life of Calvin Hiatt, a referee who was tragically killed in a November car accident in Malheur County.

The tournament was a success, with 12 different schools competing in the three-day event. Top local teams took the stage and powerhouse programs came in from surrounding counties to take part. All the ticket proceeds from 32 total games went to Hiatt's family — he left behind a wife and five kids.

Hiatt was well respected in the sports community for his tireless efforts to local athletics.

Powder Valley Athletic Director Brad Dunten called Hiatt a close friend and credited him for countless hours dedicated to sports in Eastern Oregon. The Vale native served as a referee, youth sports coach and assistant women's basketball coach at Treasure Valley Community College.

"Calvin was very instrumental in athletics and dedicated quite a lot of time to athletics," Dunten said prior to the tournament. "He's going to be missed."

Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, embracing those that make an impact on your life is a crucial habit that we often forget to do. In the sports world, connections are made so easily between coaches, players, fans and referees — sharing a common passion will often do that.

The home-team Badgers defended their turf

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A FITTING END

Sarah Mitchell (14) during a soccer match between Eastern Oregon University and Corban University on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. Mitchell was recently named NAIA Honorable Mention All-American, the second time in her career that she has earned the award. The senior played a crucial role in both the midfield and backline of Eastern's defense.

Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

EOU soccer standout Sarah Mitchell ends career with national recognition

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A pillar in the Eastern Oregon University women's soccer program ended her career on top.

Sarah Mitchell, a key part of the Mountaineers' backline and midfield, was named All-American honorable mention by the NAIA on Wednesday, Dec. 8. This is the second year in a row that Mitchell has earned All-American status, cementing her legacy at Eastern Oregon.

"It was a perfect way to end my individual career," she said. "I was really surprised, but it was a really big honor."

Mitchell played midfield and defense for Eastern, helping the team achieve an 11-6-0 record overall and an 8-4-0 showing in conference play. During Mitchell's time in La Grande, the Mountaineers posted a record of 51-14-8.

This season, the Palmdale, California, native started in 11 games for Eastern and was a major part in the team tallying nine shutouts on the year and allowing just 15 goals. Mitchell's versatility at both midfield and defense was essential for head coach Jacob Plocher.

"She's been vital," Plocher said. "Whenever we've asked her to take on a new role, she's been more than happy to do so."

In her four years at Eastern, Mitchell

started 56 games and scored four career goals. Mitchell's bread and butter was her impact on defense, a crucial part of Eastern's efforts in a season that ended in the conference tournament.

"She's a very talented player and very deserving of the award," Plocher said. "She's definitely earned it."

Mitchell transferred to Eastern after playing her freshman season at Marymount California University in 2016. At the time, her older sister, Natalie Mitchell, was on the team, which was a big reason she transferred. Mitchell's older brother, Calvin, also played for the Mountaineers.

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Beavers, Ducks release 2022 football schedules

The Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Oregon State, coming off its first bowl season in eight years, unveiled a 2022 football schedule Thursday, Dec. 16, that includes home games against USC, Oregon and Boise State.

As part of a conference-wide release of the Pac-12's 2022 schedule, OSU has seven home games next season, including one at Providence Park against Montana State. The Beavers play their remaining six home games in Reser Stadium while its West side is undergoing a \$153 million renovation.

The Beavers kick off the 2022 season on Sept. 3 against Boise State. All games but one are scheduled for a Saturday. The exception is the regular season finale, a Friday, Nov. 25, game against Oregon at Reser Stadium.

OSU plays three of its four September games at home, ending the month against USC on Sept. 24. The Beavers' slate of five road games includes one back-to-back, at Utah on Oct. 1, and Stanford on Oct. 8.

Oregon State's 2022 bye comes Oct. 29, eight games into the schedule.

The Beavers play two of their final three games at home, facing California on Nov. 12 and Oregon on Nov. 25. Sandwiched between those games is a Nov. 19 contest in Tempe, Arizona, against Arizona State.

For a second consecutive year, Oregon State does not play UCLA or Arizona in conference play.

Oregon State's noncon-



Oregon State quarterback Chance Nolan (10) drops back to pass during the first quarter Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021, in Eugene. The Beavers will host the Ducks at Reser Stadium in the final game of the 2022 regular season.

Andy Nelson/The Associated Press, File

ference games are Boise State (Sept. 3), at Fresno State (Sept. 10) and Montana State (Sept. 17).

The Pac-12 will announce game times and television partners at a later date.

OREGON STATE 2022 SCHEDULE

Sept. 3: vs. Boise State
Sept. 10: at Fresno State
Sept. 17: vs. Montana State, at Portland
Sept. 24: vs. USC
Oct. 1: at Utah
Oct. 8: at Stanford
Oct. 15: vs. Washington State
Oct. 22: vs. Colorado
Oct. 29: Bye
Nov. 5: at Washington

Nov. 12: vs. California
Nov. 19: at Arizona State
Nov. 25: vs. Oregon

OREGON DUCKS' 2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

EUGENE — Oregon's 2022 Pac-12 football schedule is set.

The Ducks, whose three nonconference games and conference opponents were previously announced, will open Pac-12 play at Washington State on Sept. 24 and host Stanford on Oct. 1.

Oregon opens the season Sept. 3 against Georgia at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

There is no Thursday night game this season for

UO, which never has more than back-to-back home games or back-to-back road games.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHEDULE

Sept. 3: vs. Georgia, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta
Sept. 10: vs. Eastern Washington
Sept. 17: vs. BYU
Sept. 24: at Washington State
Oct. 1: vs. Stanford
Oct. 8: at Arizona
Oct. 15: Bye
Oct. 22: vs. UCLA
Oct. 29: at Cal
Nov. 5: at Colorado
Nov. 12: vs. Washington
Nov. 19: vs. Utah
Nov. 25: at Oregon State

ON THE SLATE

- 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 Tourna-
- ment 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.
- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22**
PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Nixyaawii at Union, 6:30 p.m.
Imbler at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.
- PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Nixyaawii at Union, 5 p.m.
Imbler at Enterprise, 6 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
Elgin at Rollin Schimmel Memorial Tournament, Pendleton High School, TBA
- THURSDAY, DEC. 23**
PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Weston-McEwen JV at Elgin, 2:30 p.m.
- PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Weston-McEwen at Elgin, 1 p.m.