### **BEAVERS**

Continued from Page A9

Pitching and defense were the strengths of last year's club. Canham credited assistant coach Darwin Barney for his defensive work with the team and its outstanding fielding percentage of .982. The pitching staff compiled 611 strikeouts and posted an earned run average of 3.48.

Canham said practices are focused on fundamentals and situational baseball. He said the players' work ethic and drive to work on their hitting outside of practice makes that possible.

"We've done a ton of work on the fundamentals. All the guys, never have to worry about it, they're always gonna go in their free time and go hit in the cage. That's just part of the culture here. You can go up to the cages at 9 o'clock at night and there's a handful of guys up there, got the machine rolling and they're hitting. They're always going to do it on their own time," Canham said.

Because the roster is so deep there is competition for starting roles all over the field. Jacob Melton, who spent the offseason recovering from shoulder surgery, is fully healthy and is expected to spend most of his time in center field, with some time at first base.



Mario Terrana/Contributed Photo, File pitches against McNeese State in the

Oregon State's Cooper Hjerpe pitches against McNeese State in the Fort Worth Regional on June 5, 2021. Hjerpe is a returning starter for the Beavers this season.

Canham said Thomas Dukart has moved to shortstop from third base and is adapting well to the change.

Junior Gavin Logan is the most experienced option at catcher.

"Hasn't seen a ton of playing time last several years but how he goes about his work builds a lot of respect from all those around him," Canham said of Logan.

Freshman catcher Wilson Weber is already one of the strongest players on the team, Canham said, and has great arm strength for the position.

Returner Kyle Dernedde and Australian Travis Bazzana give Canham two great options at second base.

"Dernedde is a guy who worked his tail off all year last year waiting for that moment and when he took advantage of it he did very well. Played solid defense, and had some big at-bats driving in some runs," Canham said.

Bazzana, however, is making a push for playing time on the strength of his bat and he is also an option at designated hitter.

"Bazzana's got the kind of bat that you definitely want in the lineup all the time. I've seen him drag and push for hits, I've seen him steal bags, seen him hit the ball in the gap, seen him leave the yard. He can do a little bit of everything," Canham said.

The freshman has already made an impression on his teammates.

"Kid works extremely hard and has got great feel for the game. He's probably the first freshman I've been around with the maturity level on the field to really step in and I think be a really big performer for us," Melton said.

### **STANDINGS**

**COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL Cascade Collegiate Conference League Overall** Oregon Tech 14-2 17-6 College of Idaho 14-2 20-4 Southern Oregon 10-5 13-10 Corban 9-7 14-10 LC State 15-8 Eastern Oregon 8-8 14-10 Warner Pacific 12-12 8-8 Northwest 7-9 10-11 Multnomah 6-10 10-14 Bushnell 6-10 8-15 Evergreen 3-13 3-17 Walla Walla 2-16 1-10 **COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 

**Cascade Collegiate Conference League Overall Team** Eastern Oregon 13-3 16-8 LC State 18-3 12-3 Southern Oregon 19-4 12-3 Bushnell 12-4 15-9 Oregon Tech 9-6 16-6 College of Idaho 8-8 14-10 Warner Pacific 10-11 8-8 Northwest 7-9 13-10 Evergreen 5-11 6-13 Multnomah 5-11 5-18 4-19 Corban 3-13 Walla Walla 0-15 1-21

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL 4A Greater Oregon League

Team League Overall
Baker 3-0 14-3
McLoughlin 2-2 3-9
La Grande 1-1 10-2
Ontario 0-3 0-11
2A Blue Mountain Conference

TeamLeague OverallStanfield8-114-7Heppner5-013-2Union5-311-8

Weston-McEwen 3-5 9-9 Pilot Rock 3-5 6-13 **Grant Union** 3-6 4-14 Enterprise 0-8 2-16 1A Old Oregon League Team **League Overall** Powder Valley 6-0 16-1 Nixyaawii 14-5 5-2 **Imbler** 7-11 4-1 6-7 Joseph Cove 4-3 6-8 Pine Eagle 3-4 Wallowa 2-5 4-13 Griswold 1-15 0-6 0-6 0-11 Elgin PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
4A Greater Oregon League

 Team
 League Overall

 Baker
 3-0
 14-5

 La Grande
 2-1
 9-7

 McLoughlin
 2-2
 7-7

 Ontario
 0-4
 0-13

 2A Blue Mountain Conference
 0-1

**Team League Overall** Stanfield 8-1 18-3 16-3 Union 7-1 5-3 **Enterprise** 10-9 Grant Union 5-4 8-11 Heppner 2-6 7-10 Weston-McEwen 1-7 8-12 5-15

Pilot Rock 1A Old Oregon League Team **League Overall** Nixyaawii 16-3 7-0 Wallowa 6-2 12-6 Joseph 5-1 8-6 Powder Valley 5-3 8-10 **Imbler** 5-3 7-11 Elgin 2-5 5-12 Griswold 1-5 5-11 Cove 1-6 2-12 Pine Eagle 1-14

### **ON THE SLATE**

**Thursday, Feb. 3 PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**Joseph at Griswold, 7:30 p.m.

**PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL** Joseph at Griswold, 6 p.m.

**COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD**Eastern Oregon at WSU Invitational, Pullman, Washington, noon

Friday, Feb. 4
COLLEGE MEN'S

BASKETBALL Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla,

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla,

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Eastern Oregon at Linfield, 2 p.m.
COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Eastern Oregon at WSU Invitational, Pullman, Washington, noon

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Stanfield at Union, 7 p.m. Ontario at La Grande, 7:30 p.m. Griswold at Elgin, 7:30 p.m. Powder Valley at Imbler, 7:30 p.m. Cove at Pine Eagle, 7:00 p.m. Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.

Heppner at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Stanfield at Union, 5:30 p.m.

Ontario at La Grande, 6 p.m.

Griswold at Elgin, 6 p.m.

Powder Valley at Imbler, 6 p.m.

Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 6 p.m.

Heppner at Enterprise, 6 p.m.

Cove at Pine Eagle, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 5

COLLEGE MEN'S

BASKETBALL

Eastern Oregon at Lewis-Clark State, 5 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S

BASKETBALL

Eastern Oregon at Lewis-Clark

State, 3 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S

WRESTLING

Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S
WRESTLING
astern Oregon at Southern

Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 6 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL

Eastern Oregon at Linfield, 1 p.m. **PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**Joseph at Nixyaawii, 4:45 p.m.
Heppner at Union, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin at Pine Eagle, 5:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Baker, 5:30 p.m.
Imbler at Cove, 5:30 p.m.
Griswold at Wallowa, 5:30 p.m.

Grant Union at Enterprise, 5:30 p.m. **PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**Joseph at Nixyaawii, 1:30 p.m.
Elgin at Pine Eagle, 3:30 p.m.
Heppner at Union, 4 p.m.
Powder Valley at Baker JV, 4 p.m.
Imbler at Cove, 4 p.m.
Griswold at Wallowa, 4 p.m.

Grant Union at Enterprise, 4 p.m.

PREP GIRLS WRESTLING

La Grande at Special District 3,

Redmond High School, TBA **PREP SWIMMING** 

La Grande at Riverdale/Lewis and Clark, Portland, TBA Cove at Riverdale/Lewis and

Clark, Portland, TBA
PREP BOYS WRESTLING
Union, Imbler and Elgin at Bank of
Eastern Oregon Invitational, TBA

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