

OSAA moves 4A hoops tourneys

Pandemic concerns force relocation of tournaments to Coos Bay area

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

WILSONVILLE — The 4A state basketball tournaments are on the move.

The Oregon School Activities Association announced on Wednesday, Feb. 9, that the boys and girls state tournaments will be moved to the Coos Bay area. After Forest Grove requested not to host the event this year, Marshfield and North Bend high schools will be holding the state tournaments.

“We’ll travel wherever we need to go in order to play,” La Grande Athletic Director Darren Goodman said.

Goodman noted that La Grande teams have often had to travel far for tournament play in the past, stating that travel plan will not be an issue. The Tigers are currently tied for first in the Greater Oregon League boys standings and second on the girls side.

Forest Grove cited COVID-19 issues as the reason for not holding the tournament, stating that the community has been hit hard by the pandemic. Additionally, OSAA reported that the matchups would likely see a fan restriction at the Forest Grove facilities.

Marshfield and North Bend stepped up to host the event, in addition to also hosting the 3A state tournament finals. Pendleton was considered as a top location to host the event, according to OSAA, but there are more schools on the west side of the state that would have to travel to East Oregon.

The 4A boys and girls tournament final rounds are set to be held from March 10-12. The first-round matchups the week prior will still be held at the higher-seeded high schools.

La Grande and Baker teams that qualify for the tournament will likely face a nearly eight-hour drive, as opposed to about four and a half hours to Forest Grove.

Boys quarterfinal matchups are slated to be held throughout the afternoon at North Bend High School, while the remaining rounds will be played at Marshfield High School. The 4A boys championship game is scheduled for 3:15 on March 12 at Marshfield High School, according to OSAA.

On the girls side, the quarterfinals through championship matchup will take place at Marshfield High School. The girls final is slated for 8:30 p.m. on March 12 at Marshfield.

Marshfield is a 4A school that will likely qualify for the state tournament on both sides, with its boys team currently standing at 17-4 and the girls team at 15-6. Host schools typically do not play in the tournament, which is a concern OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber addressed in the release by OSAA.

“Obviously, it’s not an ideal situation,” Weber told John Gunther of The World newspaper in Coos Bay.

“We’ve had it come up in a few other circumstances.” Forest Grove was previously slated to host the 3A and 4A volleyball tournaments in the fall, but the tournaments were moved to Corvallis.

First-round matchups of the 4A OSAA tournament are set to begin on March 3.

Talent haul

Eastern Oregon football announces 2022 recruiting class

By DAVIS CARBAUGH • The Observer

LA GRANDE — A group of new athletes will pad up with the Mountaineers. The Eastern Oregon University football program announced its 2022 recruiting class on Tuesday, Feb. 8. The class includes a total of 21 new players, 18 high school recruits and three collegiate transfers.

“I think we met some needs that will help us out immediately, as well as building our roster toward the future,” Eastern head football coach Tim Camp said.

The class includes a mix of size and skill, with nine of the players primarily playing defensive positions. The group consists of 12 offensive-based players, but most of the high school recruits have played on both sides of the ball in prep competition.

Eastern added four linebackers, in addition to two running backs who also played linebacker. Colt Matson, of Bishop Union, California, Lawson Talamentez, of Seaside, and Jason Sieveking, of Redmond, primarily played the outside

linebacker position in high school. Andrew Domingos, of Hockinson, Washington, played primarily middle linebacker — the new Mountaineer recorded 159 tackles, 14 sacks, two blocked punts and a touchdown during his senior year at Hockinson High School.

The EOU team beefed up its lines, adding four primary offensive linemen and two defensive linemen. Most of the linemen play both sides, so Eastern will have some flexibility in moving them around to fill gaps on the roster.

According to Camp, a handful of incoming players will meet immediate needs on both sides of the ball.

“We’re going to start the best 11 guys on offense,



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File
La Grande’s Brody MacMillan (11) finds a hole in the Burns defense to score a touchdown at Community Stadium in La Grande on Friday, Oct. 1, 2021. The Tigers won 35-20. MacMillan will begin his collegiate career with the EOU Mountaineers.

defense and special teams,” he said. “If a freshman earns a spot on the field, everything is open.”

Eastern added three running backs, one of whom is a very familiar name in La Grande. Brody MacMillan, a running back and linebacker for the Tigers, signed to play for the Mountaineers. MacMillan was an anchor for La Grande, on the offense and

defense, helping the Tigers build their offensive identity around a bruising running style.

“He’s a competitor,” Camp said of the reigning Greater Oregon League offensive player of the year. “I really think he’ll add good depth and has a passion to play.”

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Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File
Solo Taylor leads the troops during Eastern Oregon University football practice at Community Stadium in La Grande on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021.



Eastern Oregon University/Contributed Photo