

OSAA committee supports wrestling changes

By NIK STRENG
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Oregon's wrestling state tournament could soon be separated into two venues, a goal that the Oregon School Activities Association's State Championship Committee made clear during a meeting on Monday, March 14.

The committee's update following the meeting states that the goal is to have two locations for future wrestling state tournaments — a venue for 6A and 5A, and a second venue for 4A, 3A and 2A/1A.

The OSAA has been holding the culminating wrestling events simultaneously at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland since 2007. For the 2021-2022 season, the tournament had to be split up due to COVID-19 policies at the venue, which would have made the tournament unfeasible to hold at one location.

Increased participation was sparked by the start of the official girls wrestling tournament four years ago. This tournament would also move to two locations, splitting girls wrestling into a 6A/5A and a 4A/3A/2A/1A classification.

For the 2021-2022 season, the girls wrestling state championship was held at Culver High School and had 12-person brackets. The new proposal would make it so there are two classifications with each getting an eight-person bracket. The tournaments would be held at the same venue as the boys.

The big schools accounted for nine of the state champions in the 2021-2022 season, while the small schools took home five titles. Tillamook was the highest-scoring small school, finishing fourth.

The state championship committee again stated that it does not support holding a dual meet state championship.

The next meeting of the OSAA State Championship Committee will be on April 18. None of the changes made by the state championship committee are final, and all changes must be approved by the OSAA Executive Committee.

Hitting the links

Wildhorse Resort & Casino will host an Epson Tour event in September at Wildhorse Golf Course

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Wildhorse Resort & Casino will host an Epson Tour event Sept. 2-4 at Wildhorse Golf Course.

Epson Tour is the official qualifying tour of the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

The Wildhorse Ladies Classic will be the 17th stop on the Epson Tour's 2022 schedule, welcoming professional female golfers from all over the United States and more than 40 countries from around the world.

The Epson Tour, in its 42nd competitive season, annually awards the top-10 players on the season-long "Race for the Card" money list with LPGA Tour membership for the following season.

The main event is preceded by two pro-am tournaments beginning Aug. 31. This is when amateur golfers get to team up with professionals from the Epson Tour to compete in a scramble.

The pro-am also will be at Wildhorse Golf Course.

"Wildhorse Resort & Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are excited to showcase and welcome some of the most talented young professional golfers from around the world to our Tribal and local communities," CEO Gary George said in a news release.

When asked why Wildhorse joined the Epson Tour, George explained, "This event aligns with the Tribes' efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for Tribal youth and to grow the game of golf in our region."

The Epson Tour is hosted by other tribal venues throughout the season, including Circling Raven Golf Club in Idaho and Morongo Golf Club in California.



Wildhorse Golf Course/Contributed Photo

Wildhorse Golf Course will host an LPGA Epson Tour event Sept. 2-4, 2022.

Tamátslikt Cultural Institute fundraiser

The eighth annual Mammoth Cup Golf Tournament, presented by Wildhorse Resort & Casino, will be May 13 at Wildhorse Golf Course.

The scramble format tourney is the premiere fundraiser for Tamátslikt Cultural Institute and an excellent opportunity to play one of the region's top golf courses.

Foursomes (and singles) can register for the Mammoth Cup through May 6. The entry fee is \$95 per person or \$380 per foursome (tax-deductible, member discounts apply) and includes green fees, complimentary range balls, tee prize and sack lunch. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m.

There will be several prizes to be won, beverage carts throughout the day, a raffle for merchandise, golf items and rounds, and lots of side bets, including a \$10,000 hole-in-one, wrong hand putting contest, longest drive and more.

The Mammoth Cup is Tamátslikt's major fundraising event and is named in

recognition of the two mammoth teeth excavated when the Wildhorse Golf Course was being built. Designed by legendary golf architect John Steidel, Wildhorse Golf Course features 18 holes, beautiful lakes, long fairways and deep bunkers.

Guardian Care Center fundraiser

Golfers can help children in Umatilla County by teeing off in the Guardian Care Center Charity Golf Tournament on April 30 at Wildhorse Golf Course.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble is \$85 per person or \$340 per team.

Lunch is at 11 a.m., and there are prizes to be won throughout the day.

The tournament also is looking for event sponsors. For more information, call 541-276-6774 or go to www.guardiancarecenter.org.

Proceeds from the event cover the cost of each child abuse assessment in Umatilla County.

SPORTS SHORT

Eastern's Phillip Malatare selected as NAIA Honorable Mention All-American

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — In his first year with the program, Phil Malatare made quite the impact on the Eastern Oregon University men's basketball team.

The junior capped off his season by being named NAIA Honorable Mention All-American, as announced by the league on Thursday, March 24. Malatare is the first Eastern men's basketball player to earn All-American status since Max McCullough did so at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season.

"His overall efficiency made him special," Eastern head coach Chris Kemp said. "I was really glad he got that recognition."

Malatare led the offensive charge for the Mountaineers this season, posting 19.2 points per game, 5.9 rebounds per game and 3.3 assists per game. The Arlee, Montana, native shot 48% from the field and 39.2% from three-point range. He tallied five double-doubles on the year and scored a

season-high 29 points against Whitman College on Nov. 5.

The transfer from North Idaho College made his mark on the program throughout the year, earning Cascade Collegiate Conference first-team honors as well as conference newcomer of the year.

When all-time program leading scorer Max McCullough suffered a season-ending injury just five games into the season, Malatare saw his role increase to the team's primary scorer. Kemp noted that Eastern's win total would likely have taken a significant dip had Malatare not been on the roster to provide consistent scoring.

"I think he filled in a lot of our holes and could create his own shot," Kemp said. "We really relied on him for a lot. He stepped up and was big for us."

Malatare helped lead Eastern to an 18-13 record overall, while the team went 12-10 in conference play. The Mountaineers were tough to beat at Quinn Coliseum, going 10-3 in home games. Eastern finished its regular season on a four-game winning streak to finish sixth in the conference standings, before falling in a narrow season-ending loss to Lewis-Clark State in the conference tournament.



Malatare



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

The Mountaineers' Phillip Malatare (0) drives to the basket in Eastern Oregon's 67-61 win over Montana Western at Quinn Coliseum on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021.

ON THE SLATE

March 23 results

PREP BASEBALL

Dakota Ridge, Colorado, 5, La Grande 2, Surprise, Arizona

March 24 results

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande 12, Apollo, Arizona, 1, Surprise, Arizona

Friday, March 25

(Games completed after print deadline)

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Providence at Eastern Oregon (2), 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

La Grande vs. Timberline, Eagle, Idaho, 11 a.m.
Warrenton at Union/Cove, noon
Burns at Union/Cove, 2:15 p.m.
La Grande vs. Skyview, Eagle, Idaho, 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Bushnell at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Providence at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S

LACROSSE

Eastern Oregon at Puget Sound, 1 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

La Grande vs. Rocky Mountain, Eagle, Idaho, 1 p.m.

Bonanza at Union/Cove, 1 p.m.

La Grande at Eagle, Idaho, 3 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

La Grande, Powder Valley at Hawk Invite, College Place, Washington, 10 a.m.

Sunday, March 27

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Bushnell at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.

Tuesday, March 29

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon (2), 2 p.m.

Friday, April 1

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific (2), 2 p.m.

COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD

Eastern Oregon at NNU Invitational, Nampa, Idaho, TBA

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande at Seaside/Jewell, 4 p.m.
La Grande vs. North Marion, 7 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Banks at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.
Elgin/Imbler at Union/Cove (2), 2 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Cove, Elgin, Imbler, La Grande, Powder Valley, Union at Carnival of Speed, McLoughlin High School, 10 a.m.

PREP BOYS TENNIS

Pendleton at La Grande, 3 p.m.

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for your local high school, available 24/7 at
www.lagrandeobserver.com.