

La Grande Swim Club holds its own

Four swimmers compete at Western Zone Short Course Senior Championships

The Observer

ST. GEORGE, Utah — The La Grande Swim Club recently competed well against a large field of regional competitors, placing highly at the Western Zone Short Course Senior Championships at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. The regional event, which included more than 70 teams and north of 600 swimmers, took place from Wednesday, March 30, through April 2.

Four swimmers from the La Grande Swim Club — Tim Koza, Kaleo Theis, Sarah Koza and Becca Koza — competed at the regional club competition, three of whom placed at this year's 4A/3A/2A/1A state meet for Cove.

Tim Koza earned the highest finish of the event, placing 13th in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:10.9. He also placed 18th in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:56.91 and 20th in the 400-yard individual medley at 4:12.03 to conclude the event with three top-20 placements. In addition, he earned 29th place in the 200-yard backstroke at 1:57.7, 26th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:01.38 and 51st in the 200-yard freestyle at 1:48.38.

Becca Koza garnered a high placement in the 200-yard freestyle, taking 17th overall with a time of 1:54.39. She also placed 18th in the 1,650-yard freestyle at 18:05.36 to conclude the event with two top-20 finishes. She also earned 24th in the 50-yard freestyle at 25.2, 26th in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 53.32, 32nd in the 500-yard freestyle at 5:16.46 and 40th in the 100-yard butterfly with a finish of 59.93.

Sarah Koza earned her top finish in the 200-yard breaststroke, placing 43rd overall with a time

See, *Swim*/Page A10



The Observer, File

The La Grande softball team celebrates a home run hit by Jayce Seavert (1) during the 2019 state semifinals. Seavert, a former LHS standout, has become a key player for the Oregon Tech softball team.

Making her mark

Former La Grande softball standout Jayce Seavert finds success in the collegiate ranks

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

KLAMATH FALLS — A former local softball standout is making her name known on the big stage.

Former La Grande softball player Jayce Seavert is excelling in her time on the softball team at Oregon Tech, playing a key role in the team's success. In just her second year in the collegiate playing field, Seavert is near the top of the Cascade Collegiate Conference in multiple stat categories and an anchor for one of the nation's top-ranked NAIA softball programs.

Along with her consistency in the lineup this season, Seavert was recognized as the Cascade Collegiate Conference player of the week on Tuesday, March 22.

"It felt really good to show what I can do, especially

coming off an injury and being young," Seavert said. "It just felt really nice. I was pretty proud of myself."

Seavert was highly regarded during her time at La Grande, graduating as a two-time state champion at the 4A level.

Since joining Oregon Tech, Seavert has faced adversity in switching positions from catcher to infielder and overcoming an injury during her first year in the program. Even so, the 2020 La Grande graduate has settled into a solid spot at second base for the Hustlin' Owls.

"The transition was somewhat smooth after going at it at practice and working at it," Seavert said of switching positions. "Definitely getting those game reps pushed me into that



Seavert

second base spot. Getting that live action scenario helped me."

Roughly two-thirds of the way through the regular season, Seavert has a .356 batting average with nine home runs, 40 RBIs and 37 runs scored. Seavert's slugging percentage of .740 ranks fifth in the Cascade Collegiate Conference, while she is second in home runs, third in RBIs and fourth with 77 total bases.

On top of Seavert's individual success, Oregon Tech has been a consistent powerhouse in recent years. The Hustlin' Owls fell just short in the NAIA World Series last season, finishing as runners-up. Oregon Tech has staked its name near the top of the national ranking throughout this season, with Seavert and her teammates eyeing a post-season run. While the Hustlin' Owls are looking poised to compete with the nation's top

teams, Seavert emphasized that the collective focus remains on conference competition first and foremost.

"Overall as a team, our goal is to win the conference and host the conference tournament here at Oregon Tech," Seavert said. "From then on, we hope to win that conference tournament."

Not only is Seavert thriving in Oregon Tech's lineup, but the Hustlin' Owls have several players on the field performing near the top of the Cascade Collegiate Conference. Infielder Kaila Mick ranks tops in the conference with 51 runs scored and 58 hits, while infielder Kennedy Jantzi is right next to Seavert at second in the conference with 40 RBIs. In the pitcher's circle, Sarah Abramson leads the conference with 20 wins, a .184 opposing

See, *Seavert*/Page A10

SPORTS SHORT

Idaho approves basketball shot clock

Shot clocks in Oregon are likely inevitable says OSAA

By NIK STRENG
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Three of Oregon's four neighboring states either have a shot clock, or may soon have a shot clock, for high school basketball games.

The Idaho High School Activities Association on Wednesday, April 6, approved a first reading of a

new rule that would implement a shot clock for state tournament play. The rule change will need to pass a second round of voting during a June meeting to become final.

If passed, Idaho will join a cohort of states nationwide that have adopted a high school shot clock that includes Washington and California. Nevada has not

yet announced any shot clock additions.

Starting with the 2022-23 school year, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has changed its rules to allow a 35-second shot clock at the high school level. The Oregon School Activities Association had one of its first official discussions on shot clocks in Oregon during the Delegate Assembly on April 4.

The members of the Delegate Assembly generally supported the idea of a shot clock in Oregon, with many

of the members saying that it felt like an inevitability in the state. Delegates from the smaller schools added that it would not be smart to implement the rule for the 2022-23 school year to make sure that all schools are able to acquire a shot clock.

All of the delegates said that a primary concern will be finding someone to operate the shot clocks for every game, but added that this would be a change that coaches generally support.

Prior to April 4, OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber said the only discus-



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Jace Schow (21) looks for options following a rebound during the Tigers' 61-43 rout of Nyssa on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at La Grande High School.

sion on shot clocks came as an update on the NFHS rules. The implementation of shot clocks in Oregon would need to be voted on

by the OSAA Executive Committee.

The next scheduled meeting of the OSAA Executive Committee is May 2.

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