

## Spring weather plays a big role



DAVIS CARBAUGH  
CARBAUGH'S CORNER

Just when it looked like it was the perfect time for fans to sit in the outfield and enjoy spring sports in good weather, mother nature had other plans.

Coming from Virginia, I've not had to worry about shoveling snow before games or canceling for winter storms in April, but Eastern Oregon's spring weather is surely unpredictable. Last week, several softball, baseball and tennis events were canceled as temperatures plummeted, snow fell regularly and highways were closed.

In my first spring as an Eastern Oregon resident, I am soaking up the intriguing role that the weather plays on spring sports. Many are telling me this is not normal weather, but either way, it is a unique sports environment. In my previous experience in Virginia, athletes typically had to worry more about packing sunscreen by this time of year rather than bringing an extra sweatshirt to their competitions.

Snow and cold weather can have a big impact on baseball and softball, especially when it comes to maintaining the fields. With the new turf down at Pioneer Park, the La Grande and Eastern Oregon University baseball teams have the added advantage of a more weather-proof playing field.

Spring weather, regardless of the recent snow, is often unpredictable even on a more typical,

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# MOUNTING UP

## Former Division I player set to join Eastern Oregon men's baseball team, sets goals high for upcoming season

By DAVIS CARBAUGH • The Observer

LA GRANDE — Oftentimes it is said that connections you make in sports can last a lifetime.

For Emmit Taylor III, the Eastern Oregon University men's basketball program is providing the opportunity to rekindle past connections and team up with former teammates — the transfer guard previously played with two of Eastern's top returning players, Phillip Malatare and Ismael Valdez. The accomplished shooting guard is leaving the Division I ranks to bring his perimeter shooting prowess to La Grande next season.

"Chris (Kemp) has the team going in the right direction. He just needed a little more pieces," Taylor said. "I think I can really come into Eastern Oregon and have an impact right away."

The graduate transfer, who has one year of eligibility remaining, comes to Eastern after playing last season at Division I Idaho State. Taylor averaged five points per game, scoring in double figures off the bench in five games.

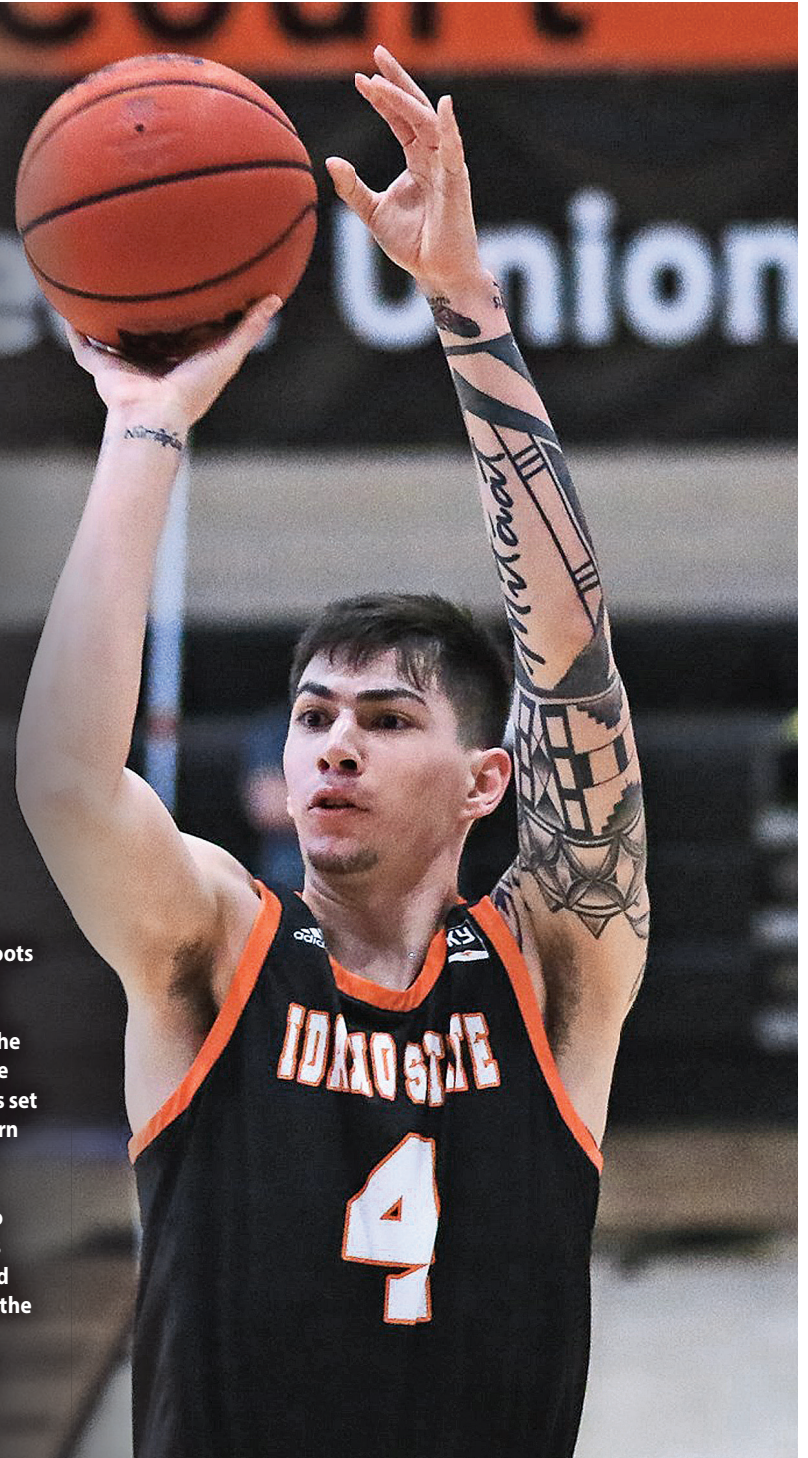
Prior to making the leap to the Division I ranks, Taylor was a standout at Northern Idaho College — he averaged 13.9 points per game in the 2018 season off 42.9% shooting from 3-point range. Taylor scored a career-high 46 points in a game that season, hitting 12 3-pointers. In his sophomore year, he averaged 11 points per game and shot 36.6% from long range.

North Idaho College, where Eastern head coach Chris Kemp was an assistant for the 2016-17 season, has several ties to Eastern that played a role in Taylor's decision to transfer. The guard played two seasons with Malatare and Valdez, two key players in last year's rotation at Eastern — Malatare averaged 19.2 points per game and was named to

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Emmit Taylor III shoots from the top of the key for Idaho State University during the 2021-22 season. The graduate transfer is set to transfer to Eastern Oregon University next fall, joining former North Idaho College teammates Phillip Malatare and Ismael Valdez with the Mountaineers.

Idaho State Athletics/  
Contributed Photo



*"I think my town will take a lot of the credit for getting to where I am, since it was a big part of growing up."*

— Emmit Taylor III, from Lapwai, Idaho

## SPORTS SHORT

### Shoni Schimmel faces federal assault charges

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — Former WNBA player Shoni Schimmel, 29, of Pendleton, is facing federal assault charges that could put her in prison for 15 years.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon in a press release reported a federal court unsealed an indictment Friday, April 15, charging Schimmel with assault by strangulation of an intimate dating partner and assault resulting in substantial bodily injury on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

According to the indictment, the alleged assault happened on June 13, 2021.

Federal authorities on April 15 arrested Schimmel, who also made her initial appearance in federal court, where during an arraignment she pleaded not guilty. The court

released her and scheduled a two-day jury trial scheduled for June 14.

If convicted, according to the press release, Schimmel faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in federal prison, three years' supervised release and a fine of \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug of the District of Oregon made the announcement.

The FBI and the Umatilla Tribal Police Department investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley R. Cadotte is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is only an accusation of a crime, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

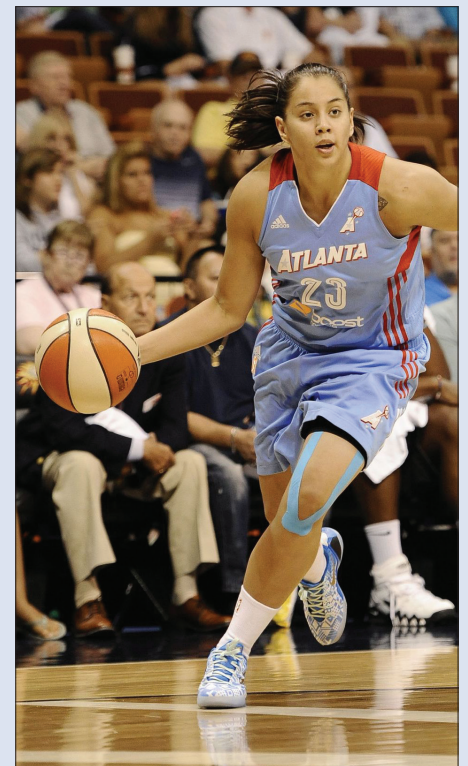
Domestic violence is a serious crime that includes both physical and emotional abuse. It is frequently hidden from public view. Many survivors suffer in silence,

afraid to seek help or not knowing where to turn. The traumatic effects of domestic violence also extend beyond the abused person, impacting family members and communities.

If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you need assistance or know someone who needs help, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). Many communities throughout the country have developed support networks to assist survivors in the process of recovery.

The StrongHearts Native Helpline offers culturally specific support and advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence. Call 1-844-762-8483 or visit [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org) for more information.



Jessica Hill/The Associated Press, File

Atlanta Dream's Shoni Schimmel dribbles the ball during the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Connecticut Sun Aug. 17, 2014, in Uncasville, Connecticut. Schimmel, 29, is facing federal assault charges that could put her in prison for 15 years.

Find up-to-date scores and additional game coverage for your local high school, available 24/7 at [www.lagrandeobserver.com](http://www.lagrandeobserver.com).