

TAYLOR

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the NAIA Honorable Mention All-American team.

“I played with Ismael (Valdez) and Phillip (Malatare) at North Idaho and I knew Chris Kemp through my coaches,” Taylor said. “I’m comfortable playing with those two, so we have a pretty good chemistry. I think we’ll be able to play together pretty well.”

For Kemp, recruiting Taylor was one of his top priorities this offseason.

“I hope he can be one of those leaders, especially with the experience he has,” Kemp said of Taylor. “Just being in that Division I program and the experience he has with some of the leaders on our team, we hope to get him rolling right away and have that seamless transition.”

Taylor stated that the idea of playing with his former teammates played a part in his selection process, knowing that he, Valdez and Malatare were able to build good chemistry on the court in the two seasons they played together. He also noted that the three were roommates at Northern Idaho, helping build a solid connection on and off the court.

“I think it will be a pretty smooth transition,” Taylor said. “I think it will be just going back to what worked for the three of us at NIC.”

Humble beginnings have helped shape the player and individual Taylor is today. He is Yakama/Nez Perce from Lapwai, Idaho — the school’s enrollment is just more than 100 students. Coming from a small town to playing Division I basketball, Taylor has taken life lessons at each stop along the way.

“Everywhere I’ve gone, I’ve learned something important,” he said. “Coming from a small town, it’s easy to not get looked at.”

Taylor noted that as one of the first-ever athletes from Lapwai to compete at the Division I level, he takes pride in being able to represent his community.

“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,” Taylor said. “We’re a big, tight-knit community so it’s pretty cool.”

Kemp and Taylor both noted that the guard will look to have a leadership role in addition to his shooting prowess, an opportunity that was often not as easily achieved on previous teams.

“He wanted me to take a bigger role, and I also wanted to take a bigger role,” Taylor said. “I’ve always been more of a role player, so I want to take that leadership role and I think I’m capable of that.”

The Mountaineers are coming off an 18-13 season in which the team went 12-10 in conference play and was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Cascade Collegiate Conference tournament. Entering his first season as a Mountaineer and last year of collegiate eligibility, Taylor is setting the bar high for next season.

“I definitely want to win a conference title and try to be as highly ranked as we can,” Taylor said. “I think we’re capable of being ranked highly. We have a great chemistry and balance of players, so I think it will work out really well.”



Kemp

ON THE SLATE

April 15 results

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Eastern Oregon 9, Northwest 1 Eastern Oregon 4, Northwest 3

PREP BASEBALL
La Grande 12, McLoughlin 0 La Grande 17, McLoughlin 0 Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 12, Pendleton JV 10 Pendleton JV 7, Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 5

PREP SOFTBALL
Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 11, Vale 0 Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 17, Vale 7

April 16 results

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Eastern Oregon 9, Northwest 5 Eastern Oregon 10, Northwest 1

Monday, April 18

(Games completed after

print deadline)
PREP BASEBALL
Baker/Powder Valley (JV) at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa, 4 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Union/Cove at Echo/Stanfield (2), 11 a.m.
PREP GIRLS GOLF
La Grande at Baker, TBA

Tuesday, April 19

PREP BASEBALL
Union/Cove at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
La Grande at McLoughlin (2), 2 p.m.
PREP TENNIS
La Grande at McLoughlin, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande at Baker/Powder Valley (2), 2 p.m.

Friday, April 22

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon (2), 2 p.m.
PREP BASEBALL
Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at Irrigon (2), 1 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
La Grande at Baker/Powder Valley (2), 2 p.m.
Union/Cove at Weston-McEwen (2), 2 p.m.
Grant Union/Prairie City at Elgin/Imbler (2), 2 p.m.
Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at Irrigon (2), 1 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

La Grande, Powder Valley at Wayne Invitational, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Eastern Oregon at College of Idaho (2), noon

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.
PREP BASEBALL
Philomath at La Grande, noon Sherman/Arlington/Condon at Union/Cove (2), 11 a.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Cove, Elgin, Imbler, Powder Valley, Union, Enterprise, Joseph at 1A/2A/3A Regional Track Meet hosted by Cove High School, Eastern Oregon University, 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 24

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Eastern Oregon at College of Idaho (2), 10 a.m.

CARBAUGH

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snow-less day. For example, a cold, windy day at the La Grande Track & Field Invitational on Friday, April 8, created difficult conditions for the large group of athletes from nearly 20 schools who traveled to La Grande to compete.

At the start line of the 1,500-meter race, numerous distance runners could be heard shouting outrage toward the gusting winds and doing what they could to convince themselves to ignore the cold conditions. In the boys javelin, however, one athlete seemed unaffected by weather-related factors. Pendleton’s Samuel Jennings launched a 209-foot, 5-inch throw, a mark that is currently the best throw from any high school athlete in the country.

As warm weather fans like myself will be crossing their fingers for more sun and less snow in the weeks to come, spring sports athletes will continue to grapple with the unpredictability of weather’s impact on playing conditions.

■ *Davis Carbaugh covers news and sports for The Observer. He can be contacted at dcarbaugh@lagrandeobserver.com.*

STANDINGS

Team	League	Overall	Team	League	Overall	Team	League	Overall
COLLEGE BASEBALL			Carroll	9-17	12-28	Lyle/Wishram	0-5	0-5
Cascade Collegiate Conference			Warner Pacific	3-21	5-31	PREP SOFTBALL		
LC State	12-3	41-4	Providence	1-22	2-30	Greater Oregon League		
College of Idaho	12-8	24-23	PREP BASEBALL			La Grande	2-0	6-4
Oregon Tech	9-7	30-17	Greater Oregon League			McLoughlin	2-0	4-3
British Columbia	7-8	20-21	La Grande	4-0	13-1	Ontario	0-2	7-4
Bushnell	9-11	11-32	Baker/Powder Valley	4-0	8-6	Baker/Powder Valley	0-4	5-6
Corban	7-9	20-20-1	McLoughlin	0-4	2-6	2A/1A Special District 6		
Eastern Oregon	2-12	9-30	Ontario	0-4	0-10	Grant Union/Prairie City	4-0	11-0
COLLEGE SOFTBALL			2A/1A Special District 7			Union/Cove	3-1	8-2
Cascade Collegiate Conference			Heppner/lone	6-0	7-2	Weston-McEwen	2-0	5-2
Team	League	Overall	Weston-McEwen	4-0	6-0	Echo/Stanfield	2-2	10-3
Oregon Tech	22-2	38-7	Dufur/South Wasco County	3-0	9-0	Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii	1-1	7-5
College of Idaho	20-4	35-8	Grant Union/Prairie City	2-1	7-4	Adrian	0-0	2-0
Eastern Oregon	19-5	34-11	Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah	2-3	5-6	Heppner/lone	0-4	1-12
Southern Oregon	18-6	38-10	Union/Cove	2-3	2-3	Elgin/Imbler	0-4	0-4
British Columbia	12-12	15-16	Adrian	0-0	1-0	Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat	0-0	0-0
Corban	10-12	16-26	Sherman/Arlington	0-2	1-3			
Northwest	10-17	14-30	Stanfield/Echo	0-5	2-8			
Bushnell	8-14	12-26						

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