

ON DECK

May 6 results
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 Eastern Oregon 8, Corban 1
 Eastern Oregon 3, Southern Oregon 1
PREP BASEBALL
 Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 10, Umatilla 0
 Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa 10, Umatilla 2
PREP SOFTBALL
 Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii 15, Elgin/Imbler 0

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii 18, Elgin/Imbler 4
 Union/Cove 12, Vale 1
 Union/Cove 13, Vale 0

May 7 results

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 Oregon Tech 6, Eastern Oregon 5

Monday, May 9

(Results posted after print deadline)
PREP GIRLS GOLF
 La Grande at 4A/3A/2A/1A

Special District 4, Pendleton, TBA
PREP BOYS GOLF
 La Grande at 4A Special District 4, Ontario, TBA

Tuesday, May 10

PREP BASEBALL
 Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at Weston-McEwen (2), 3 p.m.
 Stanfield/Echo at Union/Cove, 4 p.m.
PREP TENNIS
 Four Rivers at La Grande, 3 p.m.

STANDINGS

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Lewis-Clark State	19-3	48-4
British Columbia	14-9	27-22
College of Idaho	14-10	29-25
Corban	10-12	23-22-1
Bushnell	9-14	11-36
Oregon Tech	9-15	30-25
Eastern Oregon	4-16	11-34

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Cascade Collegiate Conference

Team	League	Overall
Oregon Tech	25-5	46-10
Southern Oregon	24-6	46-12
Eastern Oregon	24-6	41-14
College of Idaho	22-8	40-15
British Columbia	18-12	22-19
Corban	11-19	18-36
Carroll	11-19	14-31
Bushnell	11-19	15-33
Northwest	11-19	16-32
Warner Pacific	4-26	6-36
Providence	4-26	6-34

PREP BASEBALL
Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
La Grande	10-0	21-1
Baker/Powder Valley	8-2	14-9
McLoughlin	1-9	4-11
Ontario	1-9	1-18

2A/1A Special District 7

Team	League	Overall
Dufur/South Wasco Co.	12-0	18-1
Weston-McEwen	11-1	13-2
Heppner/Ione	10-4	11-8
Grant Union/Prairie City	4-5	9-9
Sherman/Arlington	4-5	6-6
Union/Cove	3-6	3-6
Stanfield/Echo	3-10	5-13
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii/Ukiah	2-9	5-12
Adrian	0-0	3-0
Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat	0-9	0-10

PREP SOFTBALL
Greater Oregon League

Team	League	Overall
La Grande	9-1	13-5
Ontario	7-3	15-5
Baker/Powder Valley	2-8	8-10
McLoughlin	2-8	4-12

2A/1A Special District 6

Team	League	Overall
Grant Union/Prairie City	10-0	20-0
Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii	6-2	12-6
Union/Cove	6-4	14-5
Weston-McEwen	5-3	10-7
Echo/Stanfield	3-5	11-8
Heppner/Ione	2-6	3-15
Adrian	0-0	2-1
Elgin/Imbler	0-12	0-12
Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat	0-0	0-0

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page A9

only one run off three hits, striking out three batters. The victory secured Eastern's spot in the semifinals against No. 4 Oregon Tech, the host team for this year's tournament. The Mountaineers snapped a 17-game winning streak by Southern Oregon heading into the conference tournament.

Dropping an extra inning contest

After a successful first day, Eastern matched up with the top-seeded Oregon Tech Hustlin' Owls in the semifinal round. A three-game conference sweep of Oregon Tech in late April propelled the Mountaineers' up the season and stood out as a season-defining series. However, Eastern did not find the same success in the tournament contest, falling 6-5 in extra innings.

The Mountaineers remained neck-and-neck with the Hustlin' Owls, battling out a scoreless first three and a half innings. Oregon Tech took control of the game, managing one run in the fourth and two in the fifth for a 3-0 lead.

In a late-game push to reach the final game, Eastern's bats came alive in a huge sixth inning. Gaither and Kayla Berg each hit two-RBI doubles, giving the Mountaineers a 4-3 advantage.

Staler added an insurance run on a fielder's choice, scoring Berg on

an error to put Eastern in the driver's seat up 5-3. Just when it looked as if Eastern was in command, Oregon Tech's Zoe Allen hit a two-RBI single in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game at 5-all. Extra innings would be needed to determine the winner.

With one out in the bottom of the eighth inning, Oregon Tech's Lexi Klum connected on a solo home run to left field to walk off the game in victory for the Hustlin' Owls. The devastating blow propelled Eastern to the consolation bracket, where one more loss would spell the end of the team's conference run.

Bounced from tournament

In the consolation semifinal matchup against the College of Idaho, Eastern's strong run at the conference ultimately stalled.

The Mountaineers scored the first run of the game in the top of the first inning on a Tyree home run and went on to lead 2-1 after three innings, but the Yotes pulled away late to win comfortably.

A five-run fourth inning by the College of Idaho was the dagger for Eastern, which went on to lose 8-2. Smith received the loss, just her sixth of the season, after allowing six runs over three and one third innings.

The loss ended Eastern's conference title run, as Oregon Tech went on to win the championship game 1-0 on an eighth-inning walk-off hit. Despite bowing out in

the semifinals, the Mountaineers' late-season push propelled the team to a No. 15 ranking in the latest NAIA poll — the spot is favorable for an at-large bid into the NAIA tournament, but it is not a guarantee.

The NAIA selection show is set to air at 2 p.m. on May 10, on the NAIA's Facebook page. The committee's decision will determine if Eastern's season hopes continue.

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According to a new study by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Institute on Aging, men and women with hearing loss are much more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease. People with severe hearing loss, the study reports, were 5 times more likely to develop dementia than those with normal hearing.

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MARKETING

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for high school athletes could prove disruptive, but she tempered her criticism, saying, "I don't think we're going to see a lot of this."

High school, Niehoff said, "is not intended to be an opportunity to earn a living, and we hope it will stay that way."

The issue of NIL deals for high school athletes follows a U.S. Supreme Court decision last June that said the NCAA cannot restrict education-related compensation benefits for the country's nearly 500,000 college student-athletes. Since then, Alaska, California, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Louisiana and Utah have created laws or policies allowing NIL compensation for high school athletes.

Jackson, who attends Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, is represented by his AAU coach. Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, New York, has hired a marketing consultant to help Fland and other students at the school with NIL deals.

Generally, college and high school athletes can use sports agents to market their name, image and likeness, but they are not permitted to hire agents to represent them professionally without endangering their eligibility. The standard fee for marketing agents is 15-20% of an athlete's NIL deal.

High school athletic associations in states where NIL deals are permitted bar students from using their school names and team logos in the deals they strike.

In Florida, high school athletes are not allowed to benefit from their stardom. But Laney Higgins, a senior volleyball player at Carrollwood Day School in Lake Magdalene, cut a deal after her season ended that has

her donating earnings to a concussion center that treated her.

She signed with Q30 Innovations, a Connecticut company that produces devices to help reduce brain injuries, after suffering numerous concussions playing her sport. She donates the earnings to the University of South Florida Concussion Center in Tampa.

Higgins is continuing her volleyball career at Oglethorpe University in Brookhaven, Georgia, this fall.

"Brands are going to continue to see that female student athletes can fulfill goals in a unique and authentic way because the biggest name doesn't always mean the best success," Higgins said.

According to the latest data gathered by Opendorse Deals, a company that its officials say have helped connect 100,000 college athletes with third parties for NIL deals, the average payout has been small thus far. Division I athletes with at least one deal have earned about \$664 on average, according to the data. For Division II athletes, it's \$59 and just \$43 in Division III.

Nearly 70% of deals involve social media posts, the Opendorse data shows.

David Ridpath, an associate professor of sports business at Ohio University, frames the opportunity for student-athletes to benefit financially as a civil rights issue. Athletes are not employees of the schools they attend and should not be restricted from earning money, he said, adding that amounts won't be large but could put "a few extra bucks in their pockets."

"In my view, it's all been positive," Ridpath said. "College and, by extension, high school athletes are not employees and should not be restricted to any market place where they have value."