Mounties win conference title

BMCC Men snap six game losing streak

East Oregonian

OLYMPIA, WASH. — The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team won its third straight Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament Saturday with a 63-59 road win over Evergreen.

Airshay Rodgers led the Mountaineers (24-5, 16-2 CC) with 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting.

EOU led 29-18 at the half but was outscored by seven in the second.

The win clinches an automatic berth in the NAIA Division II tournament

BLUE MOUNTAIN 90, YAKIMA VALLEY 73 — At Yakima, Wash., the Timberwolves continue to roll, winning their third straight contest behind Marhay Moore's 33 points.

Riley Gerlinger added 21 points and seven rebounds for Blue Mountain (15-8, 8-4 NWAC).

The Timberwolves have already clinched entry into the NWAC tournament as one of four East division representatives.

BMCC has two games remaining on its slate. First they'll host Walla Walla on Wednesday for an 6 p.m. tip, then Treasure Valley on Saturday at 2 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BLUE MOUNTAIN 73, YAKIMA VALLEY 70 — At Yakima, Wash., Max Mueller scored 19 points to help Blue Mountain snap a six-game losing streak Saturday with a 73-70 road victory over Yakima Valley.

The Timberwolves (6-18, 2-10 NWAC) rallied from a five-point halftime deficit to earn their second league win of the season.

Coleman McElroy poured in four three pointers to join Mueller as a double-digit scoring with 16 points. Jared Schultz and Luke Meyers added 14 points each.

BMCC has two games remaining on its slate. First they'll host Walla Walla on Wednesday for an 8 p.m. tip, then Treasure Valley on Saturday at 4 p.m.

EASTERN OREGON 86, EVERGREEN 73 — At Olympia, Wash., the Mountaineers clinched a spot in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament Saturday thanks in large part to Bryan McGriff's 36 points. McGriff shots 12-of-20 from the field to lead EOU (14-14, 16-12 CCC) to the win.

The Mountaineers will open up Quarterfinals action in the CCC Tournament Wednesday night when they travel to Portland, Ore. to face Concordia (Ore.) at 7 p.m. PT.

Ducks get résumé-boosting win over No. 9 Utah

EUGENE (AP) — Larry Krystkowiak had a simple diagnosis for what ailed No. 9 Utah on Sunday.

His Utes suffered from a lack of an inside presence, subpar 3-point shooting and a dearth of second-half rebounds in their 69-58 loss to Oregon.

"There were a lot of 50-50 balls that didn't go our way," Krystkowiak said. "We just need to play harder."

Dillon Brooks scored 11 straight points late in the second half and finished with 19 to help the Ducks (20-8, 10-5 Pac-12) enhance their own NCAA tournament chances.

Joseph Young added 14 points and Elgin Cook had 12 for Oregon, which sits comfortably in third place in the Pac-12 after its first victory over a Top 10 team since beating then-No. 3 Arizona last year in the regular-season finale.

Delon Wright scored 20 points for Utah (21-5, 11-3). The Utes dropped a game behind Arizona in the conference race with a showdown against the No. 7 Wildcats set for next Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Utah attempted more 3-pointers (29) than shots from inside the arc (23) for the first time this season, though many of the long-range tries came in catch-up mode late.

"Guys get up in us (on defense) and we've got to be able to make some plays and feed the post," Krystkowiak said. "I thought we were miserable at getting the ball inside.

"Then when we did get the ball inside, we didn't finish very strong. That's something we've got to polish up this week."

Brooks, a freshman, scored seven consecutive points to put the Ducks up by 10 with 4:58 to play. After Utah had a 7-0 run to pull within three again, Brooks added four more points — the last two on a driving dunk — to give the Ducks a 59-52 cushion.

"I thought he hit big buckets for us," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "He really was aggressive taking the ball to the hole.

"We ran a couple things for him late because he did have the hot hand, and he responded pretty well."

Young's final shot brought the biggest roar from the season-best crowd of 10,725. After a video review gave the Ducks possession under their basket with 1:53 left, Young inbounded the ball and ran to the right corner.

Two quick passes and 4 seconds later, the ball was out of Young's hands, and his 3 made it 62-55.

"He hit a huge one when we needed it," Altman said.

Oregon sealed the win by hitting 7 of 8 free throws in the final 1:09. The Ducks were 15 of 18 overall from the foul line.

Utah made just 10 of 31 shots (32.3 percent) in the second half and finished 8 of 29 (27.6 percent) from 3-point range after coming in as the Pac-12's best beyond the arc at 40.6 percent.

The taller Utes, who also rank second in the Pac-12 in rebounding margin, saw the Ducks grab a 23-14 edge on the glass in the second half. Oregon finished with a 35-31 advantage in rebounds.

"They made plays when they needed to, and I thought they played with more energy overall," Krystkowiak said. "They kicked our butts on the glass in the second half."

Utah jumped to a 7-2 lead but lost 7-foot freshman Jakob Poeltl to his second foul after just 4 ½ minutes were gone on a play that also wiped out a 3 by Wright.

Poeltl, the Utes' top rebounder, missed the rest of the half and finished with five points and four rebounds.

Both teams struggled on offense until Young's layup gave Oregon its first lead at 21-19 with 5:30 left in the half. Young's first points also started a 9-2 run that helped lift the Ducks to a 32-27 halftime advantage.

Oregon forced the Utes into 11 turnovers in the first half and converted those into 11 points.

UP NEXT:

Oregon plays at California on Wednesday night.

AP Photo/The Register-Guard, Andy Nelson

Oregon's Dillon Brooks defends against Utah's Brekkott Chapman during the first half Sunday in Eugene.

A-Rod back early with Yanks, still avoiding PED specifics

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Alex Rodriguez reported to the New York Yankees three days ahead of schedule. He spoke for 8 1/2 minutes about his season-long drug suspension.

But on his first day back with the team since September 2013, he never said why he resumed the use of performance-enhancing drugs, never explained what he did and avoided getting into any specifics.

"I cringe when I look at some of things I did," Rodriguez said, surrounded by about 40 reporters on the sidewalk outside the Yankees minor league complex. "No mistake that I made has any good answer, no justification. It's unexplainable, and that's on me. I've dug a big hole for myself. Paid a price."

New York asked him to hold a pre-spring training news conference at Yankee Stadium, but Rodriguez declined. The Yankees told them they didn't want him holding one at Steinbrenner Field, where they felt it would be a distraction.

So Rodriguez improvised.

Wearing a green University of Miami sweatsuit, he arrived at Steinbrenner Field on Monday morning for his physical, three days before the first workout for Yankees' position players. Shortly before 1 p.m., he showed up at the minor league complex, a little less than 1 mile away, carrying what appeared to be a tan bat box.

After changing into Yankees' shorts, a T-shirt and a spring training cap, Rodriguez worked out for about an hour. He hit six home runs in 71 swings and took grounders at shortstop.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman say Chase Headley will be their starting third baseman and Rodriguez will compete for at-bats at designated hitter.

Rodriguez called Headley an "excellent addition" to the team. Rodriguez did not take grounders at first base.

"I'm willing to try," he said. "When Joe needs me, I'm going to be ready. I'm here early, trying to get a jump-start. It's a process. It's going to take time."

Suspended for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez apologized to team officials during a meeting at Yankee Stadium on Feb. 10 and to fans in a statement last week. His handwritten statement to fans offered no details.

"I'm fortunate for a lot of people, especially the commissioner's office, the players' union, the Yankees to give me an opportunity to play the game that I love," he said.

Asked whether he thought the Yankees' organization was on his side, Rodriguez said he didn't know.

"You'd have to ask them," he responded. "I created a big headache for a lot of people. So, I don't blame whoever is mad at me."

When asked if at any point he would address specifics regarding his mistakes, Rodriguez answered: "Right now I'm just focused on making this team. Obviously, it was a rough year."

Before speaking with reporters, Rodriguez spent 10 minutes signing autographs for a group of around 50 fans, who all cheered him.

Rodriguez stopped his SUV near the complex entrance, got out and walked toward the fans, who surged forward and semi-surrounded him. He also posed for photos with many of them, interacting with questions like "Where are you from?"

When he was done, Rodriguez turned to the group of reporters and said, "Let's keep this nice and short."

AP Photo/Lynne Sladky

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez talks with the news media following a workout for spring training Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday
Hermiston at Pendleton,7 p.m.
Echo at Crane (1A first round), 6 p.m.
Friday
Umatilla at Dayton (3A first round), 7 p.m.
Vernonia at Irrigon (2A first round), 7 p.m.
Faith Bible at Heppner (2A first round), 6 p.m.
TBD at Nixyaawii (1A second round), TBA

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday
Hermiston at Pendleton, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday
TBD at Echo (1A second round), TBA
TBD at Condon/Wheeler (1A second round), TBA
Regis vs. Pilot Rock (2A first round), 6 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Vernonia (2A first round), 2 p.m.
Umatilla at Amity (3A first round), 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Friday-Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at State Championships (Veterans Memorial Coliseum), 8:30 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wednesday
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 8 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Concordia (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.
Saturday
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tuesday
Concordia at Eastern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.
Wednesday
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Wednesday
Eastern Oregon at Walla Walla U. (DH), Noon
Friday
Eastern Oregon vs. Carroll (Cofl Invitational), 10 a.m. MT
Eastern Oregon vs. University of Great Falls (Cofl Invitational), Noon MT
Saturday
Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (Cofl Invitational), 10 a.m. MT
Eastern Oregon vs. Montana St-Billings (Cofl Invitational), 4 p.m. MT
Sunday, Mar. 1
Eastern Oregon vs. Montana St-Billings (Cofl Invitational), 10 a.m. MT
Eastern Oregon vs. University of Great Falls (Cofl Invitational), 2 p.m. MT

Basketball

National Basketball League
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Atlanta	44	12	.786	—
d-Toronto	37	19	.661	7
d-Chicago	36	21	.632	8½
Cleveland	35	22	.614	9½
Washington	33	23	.589	11
Milwaukee	31	25	.554	13
Miami	24	31	.436	19½
Brooklyn	23	31	.426	20
Detroit	23	33	.411	21
Indiana	23	33	.411	21
Charlotte	22	32	.407	21
Boston	20	33	.377	22½
Orlando	19	39	.328	26
Philadelphia	12	44	.214	32
New York	10	45	.182	33½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Golden State	43	10	.811	—
d-Memphis	40	14	.741	3½
Houston	38	18	.679	6½
d-Portland	36	19	.655	8
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	7½
Dallas	38	20	.655	7½
San Antonio	34	22	.607	10½
Oklahoma City	31	25	.554	13½
New Orleans	29	27	.518	15½
Phoenix	29	27	.518	15½
Utah	21	34	.382	23
Denver	20	36	.357	24½
Sacramento	19	35	.352	24½
L.A. Lakers	14	41	.255	30
Minnesota	12	43	.218	32

d-division leader

Sunday's Games
Cleveland 101, New York 83
Atlanta 97, Milwaukee 86
Detroit 106, Washington 89
Orlando 103, Philadelphia 98
Indiana 104, Golden State 98
Oklahoma City 119, Denver 94
Dallas 92, Charlotte 81
Memphis 98, Portland 92
L.A. Lakers 118, Boston 111, OT
Monday's Games
Miami 119, Philadelphia 108
New Orleans 100, Toronto 97
Chicago 87, Milwaukee 71
Houston 113, Minnesota 102
Brooklyn 110, Denver 82
Utah 90, San Antonio 81
Boston at Phoenix, late
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, late
Tuesday's Games
Golden State at Washington, 4 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Indiana at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Miami at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
New York at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 5 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 6 p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Montreal	59	38	16	5	81
N.Y. Islanders	61	39	20	2	80
Tampa Bay	62	37	19	6	80
N.Y. Rangers	58	36	16	6	78
Pittsburgh	60	34	17	9	77
Detroit	57	33	14	10	76
Washington	61	33	18	10	76
Boston	59	29	21	9	67
Florida	59	26	21	12	64
Philadelphia	60	26	23	11	63
New Jersey	60	25	26	9	59
Ottawa	57	24	23	10	58
Columbus	58	26	28	4	56
Toronto	60	24	31	5	53
Carolina	58	21	30	7	49
Buffalo	60	17	38	5	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Nashville	60	40	13	7	87
Anaheim	60	37	16	7	81
St. Louis	59	38	17	4	80
Vancouver	59	34	22	3	71
Chicago	60	35	20	5	75
Los Angeles	58	28	18	12	68
Winnipeg	61	30	20	11	71
Minnesota	59	31	21	7	69
Calgary	59	32	23	4	68
San Jose	61	30	23	8	68
Dallas	60	27	24	9	63
Colorado	60	26	23	11	63
Arizona	60	20	33	7	47
Edmonton	61	17	34	10	44

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
Sunday's Games
Nashville 2, Buffalo 1, SO
N.Y. Rangers 4, Columbus 3, SO
Philadelphia 3, Washington 2
Boston 6, Chicago 2
Vancouver 4, N.Y. Islanders 0
Pittsburgh 5, Florida 1
Colorado 5, Tampa Bay 4
Minnesota 6, Dallas 2
Monday's Games
New Jersey 3, Arizona 0
Detroit at Anaheim, late
Tuesday's Games
Vancouver at Boston, 4 p.m.
Arizona at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Buffalo at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Calgary at New Jersey, 4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 5 p.m.
Ottawa at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Auto racing

NASCAR
Sprint Cup Leaders, Through Feb. 22
Points
1, Joey Logano, 47.
2, Kevin Harvick, 42.
3, Dale Earnhardt Jr., 42.
4, Denny Hamlin, 41.
5, Jimmie Johnson, 40.
6, Casey Mears, 39.
7, Clint Bowyer, 37.
8, Martin Truex Jr., 37.
9, Kasey Kahne, 35.
10, Greg Biffle, 35.
11, David Gilliland, 33.
12, Sam Hornish Jr., 32.
13, Michael Annett, 32.
14, Austin Dillon, 30.
15, Aric Almirola, 29.
16, David Ragan, 27.
17, AJ Allmendinger, 25.
18, Danica Patrick, 23.
19, Cole Whitt, 22.
20, Carl Edwards, 22.

Money
1, Joey Logano, $1,621,953.
2, Kevin Harvick, $1,186,145.
3, Dale Earnhardt Jr., $886,670.
4, Denny Hamlin, $705,933.
5, Jimmie Johnson, $640,642.
6, Jeff Gordon, $634,876.
7, Matt Kenseth, $550,276.
8, Casey Mears, $508,628. 9, Martin Truex Jr., $488,628. 10, Clint Bowyer, $462,378. 11, Greg Biffle, $415,441. 12, Kasey Kahne, $399,495. 13, Austin Dillon, $391,394. 14, Aric Almirola, $389,056. 15, Matt Crafton, $382,849. 16, Carl Edwards, $380,053. 17, Kyle Larson, $379,473. 18, Jamie McMurray, $372,031. 19, Sam Hornish Jr., $366,678. 20, David Gilliland, $364,341.

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2	4	5	1	7	6	3	8	9
1	6	7	3	9	8	2	4	5
9	8	3	5	2	4	1	6	7
8	1	2	9	4	5	6	7	3
5	3	6	8	1	7	4	9	2
7	9	4	2	6	3	5	1	8
4	5	8	7	3	1	9	2	6
6	7	9	4	5	2	8	3	1
3	2	1	6	8	9	7	5	4

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