

College Football

EOU aiming to sweep rivalry series

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — It’s rivalry week part two for the Eastern Oregon football team, as the Mountaineers travel to Ashland for the second meeting against Southern Oregon this season on Saturday evening.

“In my mind it’s a battle for the state of Oregon, it’s bragging rights,” EOU coach Tim Camp told EOUSports.com. “Southern Oregon is a very good football team ... I think they’ve been one of the best teams in the country the last several years.

“But at the same time, you throw the records and rankings out the door when Eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon get together.”

The No. 16 Mountaineers (3-2, 3-2 CCC) and the No. 8 Raiders (4-2, 4-1) met earlier this year on Sept. 3 in La Grande, where the Mountaineers held off a



#16 EOU
Mountaineers
(3-2, 3-2)



#8 SOU
Raiders
(4-2, 4-1)

• Saturday, 6 p.m.
• at Raider Stadium

late-game charge by the Raiders to hold on for a 45-40 victory. Eastern’s last victory in Ashland came in 2014 when EOU knocked off the then-ranked No. 4 Raiders 31-27.

Saturday’s meeting will also be the 72nd time the two teams go head-to-head on the football field, with the Raiders leading the all-time series 51-17-3. For the Mountaineers to win the 72nd meeting, Camp believes the key for his team is simple.

“Just playing good football ... We have to continue to get the ball in playmaker’s hands and let them make plays,” he said.

“Offensive line, you (have) to win more than you lose, it’s a next play mentality and I think we’ve been successful this year when we’ve been able to win our one-on-one match-ups and be able to run our offense.”

The Mountaineers are coming off their best all-around game of the season, a 52-31 victory on the road over MSU-Northern to snap a two-game losing streak. EOU gained a season-best 548 total yards of offense, led by quarterback Zach Bartlow’s 19-27 passing effort for 325 yards and four touchdowns.

On the other side of the field, the Raiders come into the game on a four-game win streak and most recently erased a 20-point second-half deficit to defeat Rocky Mountain 35-34 last Saturday. The Raiders also had a strong performance from its quarterback, Jack Singler, throwing 299 yards

and three touchdowns on 19-27 passing. Camp said that his team is looking forward to hitting the road again this week, as the Mountaineers are 2-0 in road games this season, winning by a combined score of 87-54.

“I know Mountie nation will travel well and we’ll be well represented in Ashland,” Camp said. “I told the kids in the meeting room that it’s the state of Oregon so you should feel at home (Saturday). We’re not traveling into Montana or anything like that, it’s Oregon so you should be really, really familiar with what’s going to happen at 6 p.m. at Raider Stadium.

Fans can listen to the game on the radio by tuning into 103.1 FM or online at MyEasternOregon.com. A pay-per-view live broadcast of the game is also available at Portal.StretchInternet.com/SOU.

PREPS: Ione football earns first win of season

Continued from 1B

HOOD RIVER 3, HERMISTON 1 — At Hermiston, the Bulldogs lost for the fourth straight game as Hood River left town with a 25-23, 13-25, 18-25, 6-15 victory on Thursday night.

Stat leaders for Hermiston (6-12, 2-6 CRC) included Kynzee Padilla with nine kills and 16 digs, Clarissa Nitz with 21 assists and five aces, and Ebony Wilson added two blocks.

Hermiston will finish up the regular season on Tuesday night when it hosts Pendleton at 6:30 p.m.

WESTON-MCEWEN 3, HEPPNER 0 — At Athena, the TigerScots put forth a balanced team effort on the court Thursday night to take down the Heppner Mustangs 25-21, 25-21, 25-9 in CBC action.

Weston-McEwen (17-10, 5-2 CBC) coach Shawn White said he was happy to see his team improve within each set.

“Our ability to keep playing was key,” he said. “Heppner came out and played great against us, really made us earn our points ... it was a fun match.”

Team leaders for Weston-McEwen included Ali Schroeder with 20 assists, Sarah Finifrock with 10 kills, Chelsea Quaempts with 15 digs, and Hailey Weaver with four blocks.

Weston-McEwen finishes up its regular season next Tuesday when they host Pilot Rock at 5 p.m., and White said he hopes the team keeps up its improved work and play

that he has seen over the past several games.

“We’ve had two really good weeks of improvement,” he said. “We’re peaking at the right time and that’s good to see.”

Heppner (11-12, 1-6) will finish up its regular season slate Tuesday as well when they host Stanfield at 6:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

IONE 56, MITCHELL/SPRAY/WHEELER 8 — At Ione, the Cardinals cleaned up their act and earned their first win for head coach Todd Knop.

A week after losing eight fumbles, Ione (1-6, 1-3 SD4) went without a turnover on Thursday and led 44-8 at halftime.

“It just feels good to win finally,” said first-year coach Knop. “It was our senior night and our seniors really stepped up.”

Ione ran for 308 yards while holding Mitchell (2-4, 0-2) to negative 28 yards of total offense.

“They got our fumble problem and had some missed shotgun snaps for big negative yards,” Knop said, but added it was a great game for his defense as well. “I’m guessing they had three first downs the whole game.”

Knop said senior Pedro Bolanos was a revelation at safety in his first start, while classmates Henry Padberg and Cord Flynn both should be over 100 yards rushing when he tallies the final statistics.

Flynn finished with four touchdowns, Padberg had two, and JR Rogue and Dan Doherty each scored one.

BURNSIDE: Dawgs looking to reclaim CRC title

Continued from 1B

districts because The Dalles is here and Pendleton is here, and we wanted to key off The Dalles and see if we could beat them. Today I think we did that,” said Hermiston junior Emanuel Ibarra, who also medaled for the Bulldogs.

He said Hermiston is looking to reclaim the Columbia River Conference crown it lost last year for the first time since the conference’s formation in 2010.

“We’re trying to have a comeback,” he said. “We were undefeated at districts for the longest time ever, then last year we lost, got second.”

The meet also gave the smaller schools another chance to check out the district competition, and Weston-McEwen senior Hayden Scott gave everything he had keeping pace with Union’s top runners. His knees buckled in exhaustion as he crossed the finish line in third.

“I don’t like to make excuses for myself. Today was probably not one of my best performances,” said Scott, who was also feeling the effects of an oncoming cold. “I knew the first mile was going to be fast from the start, I just wanted to make sure today that I took it to the second mile. ... I definitely was feeling it on my third mile, I definitely have some work to do.”

Scott said his non-athletic endeavors, which included

earning his pilots license over the summer and a month spent in Leavenworth, Washington getting EMT certified, have cut into his training regime.

“I tried to do as much running as I could, I just didn’t have enough time to put in a good 45-50 mile base like I’ve been doing in the past,” he said. “So I’m kind of paying for it a little bit, but I’m going to do as much as I can between districts and state and see if I can come out on top.”

Heppner sophomore Hunter Nichols will be looking to earn his school’s first state berth in the sport, and medaled on Thursday running for the second-year program.

“It was really wet, really wet. A lot of puddles, but it was a good race,” he said. “There were a couple kids that I just wanted to see what they were doing and it was a good race for that.”

The Pendleton and Hermiston teams won’t run another true cross country race until their district meet in Hood River on Oct. 26, although the Bulldogs will participate in the Central Oregon Relays on Oct. 19 at the Bend Pine Nursery.

Up next for the small schools is either the Baker Invite, Helix Stubblebuster Run or the Mikaela Reser Memorial Invitational in Condon on Friday, Oct. 21.

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Varsity and JV boys runners burst off the line Thursday at the start of the Kyle Burnside Memorial Wildhorse Invite at the Wildhorse Golf Course.



Isabelle Tingelstad, of Enterprise, leads a pack of runners Thursday at the Kyle Burnside Memorial Wildhorse Invite at the Wildhorse Golf Course.

Athlete of the Week

Twenty questions with Andrew James

East Oregonian

EO: When did you start playing football?
Andrew James: First grade in flag football.

What positions did you play when you started in tackle football?
Quarterback

Favorite part of playing football at Hermiston?
Walking to the field with my teammates before the game, it’s a great feeling.

Do you play any other sports?
Basketball and baseball.

Favorite sport to play?
Football

Favorite sport to watch?
Basketball

Favorite college football team?
Washington Huskies

Favorite professional team?
Seattle Seahawks

Favorite athlete to watch?
Russell Wilson

Favorite movie?
Neighbors

Favorite TV show?
Anything on ESPN.

Favorite subject in school?
Math

Any idea on what you might want to do for a career?
No clue yet.

Favorite food?
Mexican

Favorite restaurant?
La Palma in Hermiston.

What’s your go-to pregame food?
Whatever we have for the team meal.

Pregame music playlist?
Whatever (teammate) Dayshawn (Neal) plays.

If you could pick any place in the world to live, where would you choose?
California.

Favorite place to visit in Oregon?
Portland

Why do you wear No. 8?
My sister wore it and I just liked it.

BOXING: Action starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday

Continued from 1B

Portland or Boise, or wherever, and we’re kind of in the middle of everybody so it seemed like an obvious fit,” Brooks said.

As of now, the event is scheduled to have 23 fights with competitor ages ranging from 9-27 years old. Three local kids are set to box on Saturday, with Pendleton eighth grader Randy Davis, 14-year-old Joshua Brooks, and 17-year-old Mike Brooks. Davis will be

fighting as a novice in his eighth career fight, while both Joshua and Mike Brooks will be fighting in the open class.

The action on Saturday will also feature dozens of fighters from around the Pacific Northwest, with people traveling from as far away as Spokane, Seattle, Boise and Nampa, Idaho, as well as Oregon cities such as Portland and South Medford. Teams from the Tri-Cities in Washington will also be

making the trip, with Righteous & Chose Boxing Club out of Kennewick supplying the boxing ring for the event.

“With the those teams traveling as far as they are, we hope to match some guys up against different style of fighters than they’ve seen,” Brooks said.

One of the main event participants will be 21-year-old Omar Murillo from Wildcat Boxing Gym in Salem. Murillo is a native of Boardman, graduating from

Riverside High School only a few years ago, and Blanc said Murillo is excited to get back to his Eastern Oregon roots.

The action on Saturday kicks off at 2 p.m. with tickets available for purchase at the door. Entry for adults is \$10, for kids is \$5, and ages six-and-under are free.

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DECOUD: Battled concussions during 2015 season

Continued from 1B

“He has grown and grown and grown. He’s a JC guy you wish you had for another year,” Beavers coach Gary Andersen said. “To see his face in the locker room was special. He went against a very talented player. There was some give and take, but I thought Treston was solid all day long.”

Decoud’s breakout senior season and the recognition that has come with it cap a winding road to the Pac-12 from Decoud’s native Louisiana.

As a child, circumstances often left him with no stable place to live. But he excelled at football at Lakeshore High School near New Orleans, garnering attention and offers from such schools as Texas Tech and Southern

Miss.

He couldn’t make grades, however, so he wound up at Division II Chadron State in Nebraska. He redshirted his freshman year but began to emerge his sophomore year.

That’s when tragedy struck. His mother, Chandrika, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Decoud transferred to Nicholls State back in Louisiana to be there for her.

But after spring football with the Colonels, the NCAA refused to grant him immediate eligibility. Afraid his football career was passing him by, Decoud transferred to Northwest Mississippi Community College.

He got Oregon State’s attention with six interceptions, and joined the Beavers last year.

“When you come to Corvallis, there’s school and football, so I’m able to focus,” he said. “Coming from a JUCO that’s what I wanted to do, I wanted to get a degree and I wanted to play football.”

But his junior season would bring a new challenge. In a game against Colorado on Oct. 24, Decoud went down after colliding with fellow cornerback Dwayne Williams.

He was unconscious for more than five minutes. An ambulance took him from the field and to the hospital.

Even though he returned to the locker room before the game ended, it was clear to him things weren’t right. The next day he showed up dressed and ready for practice — and it was the Beavers’ day off.

But once again, he picked himself up and went back at it. He missed two games because of the concussion before finishing out the season.

“I think God put me through all these trials and tribulations for a reason, and I’m thankful for that, because it made me a stronger man, made me a better person,” he said.

Decoud proclaims proudly that his mom is now cancer free.

“I’ve faced the worst adversity the world can give you, and that’s the possibility of losing your parents,” he said. “I think if you can overcome that, you can overcome anything. I just gotta keep working and put my mind to it.”

The Beavers host No. 21 Utah on Saturday.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ANDREW JAMES

Sophomore Hermiston Football QB

Andrew completed 16-20 passes for 256 yards and a career-best six touchdowns in Hermiston’s 54-0 win over Ridgeview.

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