

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Pendleton grad is hurdling the opposition

Lane Maher posts mark in just second college meet

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

CALDWELL, Idaho — Lane Maher hadn't run a competitive race in nearly 18 months, so setting a school record in just his second college track meet came as a bit of a surprise for the College of Idaho freshman.

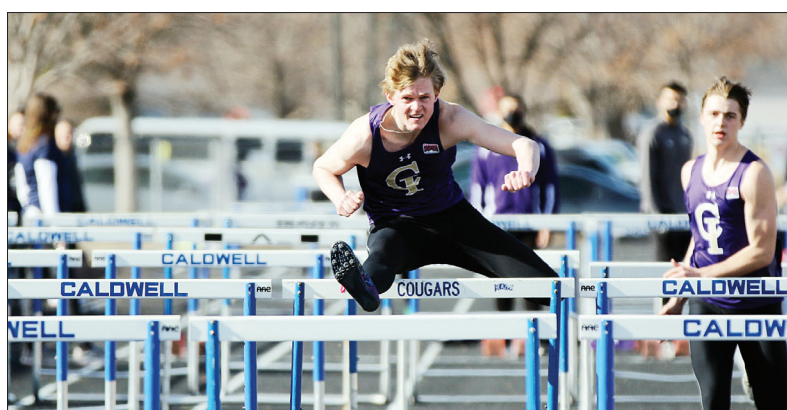
The 2020 Pendleton High School graduate turned in a time of 8.47

seconds in the 60-meter hurdles during the Polar Vortex Classic in Caldwell on Feb. 20-21, shattering the Yotes' school record of 8.51 seconds set by Michael Hurd on Feb. 4, 2012.

"It wasn't something I was expecting coming into the season because I hadn't run for so long," Maher said. "I was hoping to go under 9 (seconds)."

Maher tied the school record in his first indoor meet of the season — the College of Idaho Icebreaker on Feb. 5-6. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the indoor meets were run outside.

"After that first meet, our hurdle



Liz Safford/College of Idaho

Lane Maher, a 2020 Pendleton High School graduate, recently broke the College of Idaho record in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.47 seconds during the Polar Vortex Classic in Caldwell, Idaho.

coach (Hurd) told me I tied his school record," Maher said.

College of Idaho coach Austin Basterrechea said he knew Maher would bring something special to the program.

"We knew Lane was big time for us," Basterrechea said. "There is a reason we recruited him. He was one of the most under-recruited kids in the state (Oregon). You could see his potential as a junior. He is a stellar athlete."

College transition

Coming out on top is nothing

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Pendleton Little League eager for new season

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Play ball!

That's the memo from Pendleton Little League, which opened registration for baseball and softball signups earlier in February.

"COVID has changed a lot of stuff in our lives," PLL vice president Monte Ludington said. "We have to have something for the kids. As long as we have kids register, we will have a season."

The 2020 Little League season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Little League is open to players ages 7-12, but the Pendleton Little League organization will have just three levels this season — Majors, AAA and AA. T-ball and single-A ball will not be offered.

For those who do not qualify for AA, AAA or Majors but want to play, the Pendleton's Parks and Recreation Department will be offering T-ball.

PLL said it chose to work with the older players, which will help in ensuring compliance with COVID-19 regulations. The program has been monitoring health guidelines and legal requirements to be able to offer a season this spring.

Players will have to wear a mask at all times, and teams will practice social distancing in the dugout and on the field. There also will be restrictions as to how many people may enter the Pendleton Little League Park to attend practices or games.

PLL also is looking for donations to help with sanitizing wipes, disposable face masks and thermometers.

Registration and payments of \$65 per player can be made online at www.pendletonlittleleague.com. Registration runs through Wednesday, March 3.

For families needing assistance with registration fees, T-Mobile has grants available at www.littleleague.org/call-up-grant-program.

PLL has plans to start practices March 15, with the season opener April 6.

There will be a field cleanup and in-person registration (credit or debit card only) event from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Pendleton Little League Park.

NAIA INDOOR NATIONALS



Connor Bracken/Eastern Oregon University

Hunter Nichols, left, will compete in the 1,000 meters for Eastern Oregon University at the NAIA Indoor National Track & Field Championships on March 3-6, 2021, at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota.

NICHOLS HEADED TO INDOOR NATIONALS

Heppner grad will compete in the 1,000 meters for EOU

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

A GRANDE — Ben Welch said he saw something special in Hunter Nichols when he was recruiting the middle distance runner from Heppner High School.

"When I recruited him, I saw a small-school kid who I thought would be very good," said Welch, the longtime Eastern Oregon University track coach. "He was well coached, but far from over-coached."

Welch's instincts are paying off, as Nichols is headed to the NAIA Indoor National Track & Field Championships on March 3-6, 2021, at Mount Marty University in

Yankton, South Dakota. He will compete in the 1,000 meters.

"It will be good for me," Nichols said of the opportunity. "I haven't been in those kinds of high-quality races coming from Heppner. The competition is tight. The difference between 14th and eighth is 1 second."

Nichols and seven of his teammates are getting on a plane Monday morning, March 1, for South Dakota. It's a trip he almost didn't get to take.

Nichols met the provisional time of 2 minutes, 32 seconds at the Polar Vortex Classic in Caldwell, Idaho, on Feb. 20-21 with a time of 2:30.53, and was ranked 20th nationally. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, only the top 16 were advancing to nationals.

"After that race (in Caldwell), I was ranked 12th," Nichols said. "Then the results

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EOU pair qualifies for the nationals

East Oregonian

A GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University will have a pair of representatives when the Mountaineers compete at the 2021 Indoor National Championship for the heptathlon.

The NAIA released its list of 16 qualifiers for the multi-event on Monday, Feb. 22, including EOU's Tyler Davis and Sam Roddewig.

Both Davis and Roddewig find themselves on the final qualifiers list after putting together solid competitions early this season at the College of Idaho. Roddewig, a senior from Helena, Montana, was the heptathlon winner back on Feb. 6 at the C of I Icebreaker. He was fifth after Day 1, but mounted a comeback to win the event with a total of 4,647 points.



Davis



Roddewig

See EOU, Page B2

SPORTS SHORT

Gut-Behrami wins downhill and moves atop World Cup standings

Associated Press

MOENA, Italy — Coming off a performance that included two golds and three medals overall at the skiing world championships, Lara Gut-Behrami now has another title — overall World Cup leader.

The Swiss skier won a downhill on Friday, Feb. 26, when the regular circuit resumed, moving her ahead of Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova in the standings.

Gut-Behrami finished a slim 0.02 seconds ahead of Ramona Siebenhofer on the sun-drenched Val di Fassa course.

Recently crowned world champion Corinne Suter finished third, 0.26 behind, to gain precious points in her pursuit of downhill standings leader Sofia Goggia, who is out injured.

Vlhova finished ninth and now trails Gut-Behrami by 29 points in the overall standings, which she had led since November 2020.

Conditions on the San Pellegrino Pass, which was making its debut on the World Cup circuit, were spring-like as the temperature soared to nearly 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

It was Gut-Behrami's 31st career World Cup victory and fourth

straight speed win on the circuit. It was also her first downhill win this season, to go with her four World Cup victories in super-G.

At the worlds in nearby Cortina, Gut-Behrami — who lives in Italy — collected gold in super-G and giant slalom and bronze in downhill.

"I'm pleased that all of the work I've done is being reflected in my results," said Gut-Behrami, who blew her knee out after winning the overall title in 2016. "Times have not always been easy over the last few years but I worked together with my father and my team to rearrange things."



Alessandro Trovati/Associated Press

Switzerland's Lara Gut-Behrami speeds down the slope during an alpine ski, women's World Cup downhill in Val di Fassa, Italy, on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021.