

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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EOU VOLLEYBALL

Mountaineers volleyball named the CCC team of the week

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The No. 8-ranked Eastern Oregon University women's volleyball team earned Under Armour Team of the Week honors for March 29 through April 4, the Cascade Collegiate Conference announced on Sunday, April 4.

The Mountaineers garnered the honor for the second time this season following an undefeated finish in regular season play.

Eastern was tabbed the team of the week after taking down Lewis-Clark State last weekend at Quinn Coliseum in La Grande. The Mountaineers won in four sets on Friday, April 2, 21-25, 25-20, 25-13, 25-19, and followed it up with a three-set sweep, 25-15, 25-17, 25-13, on Saturday, April 3. The two wins for Eastern helped it finish regular season play at 15-0 overall and 14-0 in CCC action.

The undefeated season for EOU is the first in program history. The Mountaineers also claimed their sixth league title. In addition to a perfect regular season, record highlights of the season thus far include senior Kiley McMurtrey becoming the Mountaineers all-time career leader in digs and service aces, head coach Kaki McLean Morehead surpassing 300 career wins, seven different players earning league player of the week honors, and Cambree Scott becoming the first-ever Mountaineer to earn national player of the week accolades.

Eastern Oregon will enter the Cascade Conference Tournament as the No. 1 seed and will host No. 4-seed Bushnell on Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. inside Quinn Coliseum in one of the tournament semifinal games. In the 4 p.m. game, No. 2 Corban will battle No. 3 Oregon Tech.



McLean Morehead



McMurtrey



Scott

OSU, Tinkle agree on contract through 2026-27 season

By NICK DASCHEL
The Oregonian

CORVALLIS — Wayne Tinkle was rewarded Monday, April 5, following a breakout men's basketball season when the Oregon State coach and school agreed on a three-year contract extension.

Tinkle, 55, now has a six-year contract at Oregon State, a deal that expires following the end of the 2026-27 season. Tinkle had two years remaining on a contract he signed in 2019, plus a contractually obligated additional year after the Beavers qualified for this year's NCAA Tournament.

Financial details of the contract are not immediately known, although it is expected the buyout was increased. Tinkle currently has a \$750,000 buyout if he leaves for another job during the next 12 months.



Amanda Loman/Associated Press, File

Oregon State head coach Wayne Tinkle calls instructions to players during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Oregon in Corvallis on March 7, 2021.

Tinkle, hired prior to the 2014-15 season after an eight-year run

at Montana, is slated to make \$2.2 million in 2021-22, and \$2.3 million

in 2022-23.

Oregon State just completed its most successful season in nearly four decades. The Beavers won 20 games for the first time since the 2011-12 season, won their first-ever Pac-12 tournament title, and reached the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight for the first time since 1982.

Oregon State beat Tennessee, Oklahoma State and Loyola University Chicago in the NCAAs before falling to Houston 67-61 in Midwest Regional finals. Tinkle was slated to make \$450,000 in contract bonuses for the NCAA success, but OSU coaches gave up their bonuses this school year due to pandemic budgetary cuts.

During his seven-year OSU run, Tinkle's teams have finished .500 or better six times. Under Tinkle, the Beavers earned an NCAA tourney berth in 2016.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Heppner's Sydney Wilson signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at Walla Walla Community College on Friday, April 2, 2021.

A PERFECT FIT

Heppner's Sydney Wilson signs to play volleyball at WWCC

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — Heppner volleyball and basketball coaches are used to hearing, "She hasn't graduated yet?"

Opposing coaches are referring to Sydney Wilson, who for four years has terrorized the Blue Mountain Conference and dominated at the state level.

"She has been a rock," said Mustangs volleyball coach Mindy Wilson, who also is Sydney's mom. "I have been able

to put her wherever and build around her. It's bittersweet to see her graduate — I'm excited to see her move on, but I will miss her."

Wilson won't be going far. She signed a letter of intent on Friday, April 2, to play volleyball at Walla Walla Community College.

"We are excited to have her," WWCC coach Chelsie Speer said. "I love getting the small-school kids to coach. They are gritty, hard-working kids."

Wilson impressed Speer when she attended a tryout with the Warriors a few weeks ago.

"I felt like she fit in right away," Speer said. "That is something you look for. She was coachable when we gave feedback. It's great to have that in kids."

Wilson had her sights set on college basketball a few months ago, but many teams didn't have any openings because of COVID-19. Sophomores (at two-year schools) and seniors were given an opportunity to return for another year, and many chose to do so.

Just because basketball wasn't an option this year, doesn't mean Wilson settled by choosing volleyball.

"I love them both, so either is great," she said. "I'm very excited. It will be super fun to be able to continue to play after high school."

Though this is a shortened season, Wilson has excelled on the court with her teammates. The Mustangs are 5-0 in BMC

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SPORTS SHORT

Pinch-pounder: Black Keys drummer fills in at Indians opener

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Patrick Carney wasn't nervous before his first live drumming gig in more than a year, just honored.

A lifelong Indians fan and one half of The Black Keys, the Grammy Award-winning rock duo from Akron, Ohio, Carney filled in on Monday, April 5, at Cleveland's home opener for drummer John Adams, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Adams missed his first home opener since 1973, ending a run that has featured him sitting high in the left-field bleachers and pounding a steady beat whenever

the Indians are hitting.

Carney was thrilled to be able to sit in for Adams.

"I'm stoked to be here for John," Carney said about two hours before the Indians hosted the Kansas City Royals at Progressive Field. "It's the best seat in the house and I wish John could be here, obviously. When I heard he wasn't healthy enough to make it, I thought it was (a) good way to pay some respect to him and show him some love."

Before he could begin banging away, Carney was bestowed drumming duties by Adams during a video presentation in the first inning.

Carney said he attended his

first Indians game in Cleveland when he was "5 or 6" and that one of his close friends who accompanied him to that game decades ago was attending the opener.

Like so many musical acts, The Black Keys haven't been on a stage since just before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down normal life.

"This is my first show since last January," Carney said. "Crazy. This is gonna be fun."

Carney said he's looking forward to concerts resuming and that The Black Keys and he and Dan Auerbach could have an announcement next week on their upcoming plans.



Tony Dejak/Associated Press

Black Keys drummer and lifelong Cleveland Indians fan Patrick Carney pounds on the drum in the first inning of a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians on Monday, April 5, 2021, in Cleveland.