

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A11

## Oregon State wraps up spring practice

Fans watch football in Reser Stadium for first time since 2019

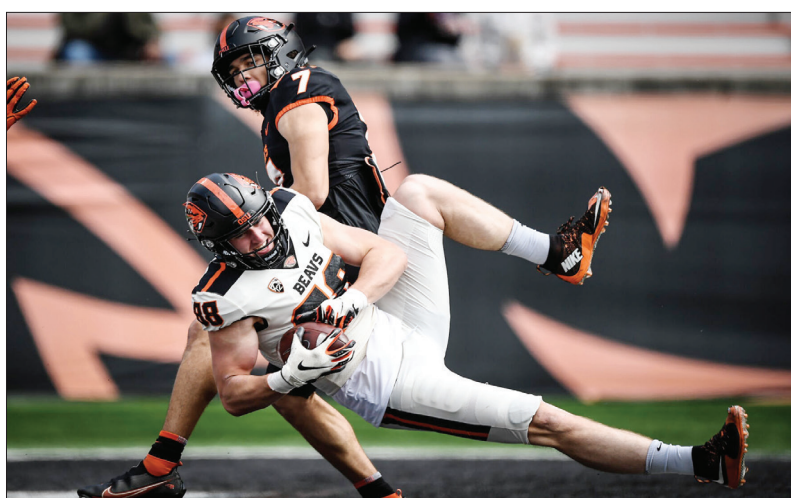
By NICK DASCHEL  
*The Oregonian*

CORVALLIS — A father and son threw the football to one another in Reser Stadium's parking lot.

Several long lines of people wearing Oregon State University athletic gear waited outside of Reser's East gates to open.

A group of students ran across 26th Street on the way to the stadium yelling "Ohhhhh-Essssss-You ... Oregon State fight, fight, fight!"

College football took another step on Saturday, May 8, toward becoming whole again at Oregon



Karl Maasdam/OSU Athletics

Oregon State tight end Luke Musgrave (88), a graduate of Bend High, catches a pass in front of defensive back Alton Julian (7), during the Beavers' spring scrimmage at Reser Stadium in Corvallis on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

State. For the first time since the pandemic struck 14 months ago, fans were allowed to watch Beaver

football do something in Reser Stadium. It wasn't close to a traditional

spring practice-ending scrimmage. Coach Jonathan Smith consistently referred to the 65-minute workout as a "showcase."

With more than a dozen players out due to COVID-19 protocol and others sidelined with minor injuries, the Beavers were limited as to what they could do.

The "showcase" highlights were five offensive series in the red zone, and defensive tackle Isaac Hodgins proposing to his girlfriend Taylor Lawson at midfield. Take your pick.

Oh, and fans. A few thousand, maybe 3,000, sat in Reser Stadium's seats for the first time since the 2019 football season. Combined with the band and cheerleaders, it gave the Beavers a taste of what they missed in 2020, and what to expect this fall.

"It felt so much better, even having those limited fans," said tight end Luke Musgrave, who caught the lone touchdown of the

day. "We were all really happy to have them out there. The energy was noticeably higher with those fans."

Smith said it became apparent by midweek they wouldn't be able to cut loose during the spring finale. Among the absentees were nearly half the receiving corps, including Zeria Beason and Silas Bolden, and quarterback Ben Gulbranson. With only five healthy receivers and two quarterbacks available, Smith decided to pare the 11-on-11 competition down to five red-zone series, and a couple of two-minute drills.

The 65-minute workout also included warmups, several one-on-one drills and special teams competition.

Fans may have learned little from what they saw, but it was meaningful to Smith.

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## Pendleton lifters set state records

Dan Logman sets Oregon masters bench press record with 485 pounds

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

RICHLAND, Wash. — A trio of Pendleton powerlifters set nine Oregon state records on Saturday, May 8, at the USPA PAC Cartel Kilos at Power Athletics Compound.

Dan Logman, competing in the Masters 308-pound class, set an Oregon masters bench press record in the United States Powerlifting Association with a lift of 485 pounds.

"I didn't do as well as I expected, but I still set a state record," Logman said. "On my second attempt at 501, I came up weird on my right side. They let me fight that last inch and a half, but I couldn't get my lockout. I almost had 501 again on my last attempt. We go out, compete and learn from it."

Logman's son, Christopher, a freshman at Pendleton High School, set four state records in the Teen 13-15, 275-pound class.

He benched 237 pounds, squatted 380 and deadlifted 342 on his second attempt. His combined total of 959 pounds also is a state record.

Donald "Eagle" Williams set four state records in the Masters 275-pound class.

He benched 308 pounds, just missing a PR on his next two attempts. He also squatted 446 and deadlifted 479.5 — 5 pounds more than the previous record. His total of 1,233.5 also is a state record.

## BACK ON THE COURT

Hermiston basketball teams return to the court May 12

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — The Hermiston girls basketball team lost just one player from last year's squad to graduation — point guard Jazlyn Romero.

Coach Maloree Moss was expecting to have a treasure trove of players to work with this spring, but a string of unforeseen circumstances has had that list go from one to six.

"Missing Jaz this year will be hard," Moss said. "She is a tough player to replace. We had a couple of girls who chose not to come out. We have good experience, but we have to figure out where our depth is. Our rotations will be different."

Hermiston opens Mid-Columbia Conference play on Wednesday, May 12, hosting Hanford at 7 p.m. Boys and girls will play at opposite venues because of COVID-19 protocols. With COVID restrictions in Umatilla County, each Hermiston player will get two tickets for family members. Visiting teams will not be allowed to have fans, but the games will be livestreamed.

All fans must wear masks and practice social distancing. Fans will be allowed into the facility 20 minutes prior to the game.

For games in the Tri-Cities, Washington, home rostered players will receive five tickets per game, while visiting players will receive two.

"It's kind of a bummer," Moss said of the restrictions. "I



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Katelyn Heideman (1) puts up a shot against the Chiawana Riverhawks at Hermiston High School on Jan. 28, 2020.

feel bad for the visiting teams because they don't get to watch their kids play. Makes me sick to my stomach. I'm hoping that will change soon."

Returning for the Bulldogs this year are Jayden Ray, last year's Mid-Columbia Conference Defensive Player of the Year, Kaylee Young, Bailey Young, Katelyn Heideman, Mia Hernandez, Morgan Brown and Madi Feigum, who will start the season on the injured list.

"I'm really excited to have the combination of Bailey and Morgan inside," Moss said. "Morgan is more of a finesse player, and Bailey is more of a brute. They both are tough defenders and rebounders. They likely will not play at the same time, but will play key roles for

us defensively and offensively." A good portion of the Bulldogs are coming off of their track season, but they have put in time on the court.

"They came to practice a couple of times, but we wanted them to be fresh for their district (track) meet," Moss said. "They did some shooting and knocked the rust off."

Moss will have to find a way to replace the experience of Kendall Dowdy, Sydney Seavert and Paige Palzinki, who missed last season with a knee injury. One player also moved, and Eseta Sepeni, who was a key junior varsity player last season, has decided to wrestle this year.

"A lot of these kids have had to grow up and sports are not a priority right now," Moss said.

"All the girls who chose to do other things, I support their decision. The kids who are there will work hard, and work hard for each other. It's a weird year. We play so many games so quickly, there isn't time for too many adjustments. We are going to do the best we can."

### Hermiston boys rebuilding after graduation losses

Graduation gutted the boys program two years ago, leaving the cupboard pretty bare last season for new coach Drew Preuninger.

The Bulldogs will be back in rebuilding mode this season as a handful of returning guys have

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## SPORTS SHORT

### Mountaineers part ways with men's basketball coach

*East Oregonian*

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University men's basketball coach Carlito Labarda Jr. are parting ways, according to an announcement by Director of Athletics Anji Weissenfluh.

In four seasons leading the Mountaineers, Labarda Jr. posted a 61-49 overall record and was 36-34 in Cascade Collegiate Conference play. His best finish came in his first season, when he led EOU to a 21-8 overall record.

"I would like to thank Carlito for his service to Eastern Oregon University and to the men's basketball program," Weissenfluh said. "Carlito has been a positive presence in the

La Grande community and an ambassador of EOU."

The coach expressed his gratitude for the time he spent in La Grande.

"I want to thank the La Grande community. I tried to give back all that I could. I think this experience was huge for me," he said.

While at the helm of Eastern Oregon, Labarda Jr. helped guide the Mountaineers to a 2020-21 season that saw multiple delays before finally being able to compete in late February for the spring season. His group was 8-12 overall and went 3-9 in CCC spring play.

"Maybe I didn't win enough. But I had the highest winning

percentage and highest team GPA out of all the mens sports in the last four years," he said. "I wasn't in the plans, which I accept, and I (will) move on."

Labarda Jr. was hired in June 2017 and was the 16th head coach in the program's history. Prior to taking over the Mountaineers, Labarda Jr. spent four previous seasons as an assistant coach at Carroll College where the Saints posted a 79-45 record during Labarda's four-year career in Helena, Montana.

"A national search for our next men's basketball coach will start immediately," Weissenfluh said.

Labarda Jr., who said he is "in a good place," began his coaching journey at Purdue University,

where he was the team's manager and student assistant coach from 1994 to 1999 under Purdue legend Gene Keady.

Labarda called the past season his best coaching job, even if it didn't elicit his best win-loss record on the court, citing the challenges of coaching during a pandemic and dealing with COVID-19 cases and injuries within the team.

"With protocol, keeping guys safe was higher on my priority list," he said. "Relationship was built to an all-time high to where I truly had a (strong) relationship with all 10 of my guys."

"They understand the business, (but) they were all shocked it happened so fast."



William McLaughlin/Eastern Oregon University has parted ways with men's basketball coach Carlito Labarda Jr., the school announced on Monday, May 10, 2021.