

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A9

Brown enters offseason as favorite to be Ducks' starting QB

By JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

OREGON QB POST-SPRING DEPTH CHART

Anthony Brown: 6-foot-2, 226 pounds, graduate senior
Jay Butterfield: 6-foot-6, 212 pounds, redshirt freshman
Ty Thompson: 6-foot-4, 215 pounds, true freshman
Robby Ashford: 6-foot-3, 225 pounds, redshirt freshman

EUGENE — Far and away the most significant change to Oregon's roster from 2020 to 2021, Tyler Shough's transfer to Texas Tech took what was an open door at quarterback and blew it off the hinges. Anthony Brown has all but closed it at this point, though.

The only quarterback with any game experience on the roster, Brown entered spring as the starter and left it as the starter, much as Shough did a year ago. The difference of course is the Ducks aren't linked to a graduate

transfer this offseason and the three freshmen battling for the backup spot, Jay Butterfield, Ty Thompson and Robby Ashford, have never taken a snap in a college game.

Mario Cristobal will wait until fall camp to formalize Brown as the starter, but it's hard to envision a realistic scenario in which he loses the job

before the season opener.

"We think Anthony is the one, he's the one that's leading, but we're not going to let that die," Cristobal said. "We're going to keep that engaged and rolling as we get into the summer. But that battle for the two spot has really tightened."

By all accounts, Brown got all the

first team reps during the spring. He certainly did during the first scrimmage and spring game, when he was 17-of-26 for 208 yards and a touchdown, and had a fumble.

Brown admitted the spring game wasn't his best performance, but given the absences from the starting secondary it's hard to make much of any of those numbers.

The competition won't be officially over for 90 or so days, and while outside expectations are obviously for Brown to be the starter, Cristobal isn't counting anyone out yet.

"Really proud of the way Anthony is running the offense," Cristobal

said. "You can't take anything away from that, but in this program there's no room for relax time. It's not going to make anybody better, handing off and saying 'Hey, you're good to go' is not going to enhance the competitive character of our football team. So we're going to turn it up and we're going to turn it up on everybody and we expect to get really good results from that."

The bottom line is it's Brown job to lose. He's experienced and skilled, but also hasn't played against the best of competition during his career, though that might not change much this fall when looking at Pac-12 secondaries.

PREP CROSS-COUNTRY

READY TO SOAR

Hermiston's Amanda Nygard signs to run for Eastern Washington

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Amanda Nygard is a homebody. The longest she has been away from home was for a week for a running camp a couple of years ago.

This fall, Nygard will have to make it longer than a week after signing to run cross-country and track at Eastern Washington University.

"It will be different," the Hermiston senior said. "I will miss my friends. I keep getting a little sad, but I'm excited too."

Nygard is no stranger to EWU. Her mom, Amy, went to school there, and the two went for a campus visit before COVID-19 hit last year.

She also knows a couple of people on the track team, including former Hermiston teammate Madi Wilson.

Nygard recently narrowed her choices to EWU and Gonzaga, but chose to run for the



Amanda Nygard, of Hermiston, takes off at the start of the 2019 Bulldog Fest cross-country run.

Eagles after a talk with EWU cross-country coach and distance coach Sam Read.

"Talking to both coaches, the Eastern coach cared about me as a person, and I liked how he ran things," said Nygard, who will

major in business administration. "The coach was a big deciding factor."

While Nygard excelled at both sports at

See Nygard, Page A10

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Two from EOU make Academic All-District

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — A pair of Eastern Oregon University student-athletes — Max McCullough and Taylor Stricklin — have been named Academic All-District honorees by the College Sports Information Directors of America, the organization announced recently.

For McCullough, a redshirt senior, this is his second CoSIDA Academic All-District award, after earning the award last season for his performance in the classroom.

Now in his fifth season at EOU, McCullough has already completed his undergraduate degree, having received his Bachelor of Science in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and management. He graduated with a 3.81 cumulative GPA, and currently holds a cumulative GPA of 3.94 while pursuing his Master of Business Administration.

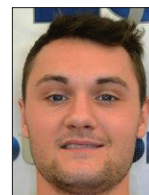
McCullough has played in 112 games in a Mountaineers uniform. In five total seasons at EOU, McCullough has been part of a squad that has gone 85-43. McCullough currently stands as the EOU career leader in points scored and is the only player in history to eclipse 2,000 career points, at 2,061. He has averaged 18.4 points per game in four years on a career shooting percentage of 45.2%.

For Stricklin, this is her first Academic All-District award.

The senior currently boasts a 3.99 GPA while majoring in health and human performance. She was named First Team Academic All-Conference for the spring season and was tabbed a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete for the 2019-20 academic year. On the hardwood, Stricklin has appeared in 51 total games for Eastern and been a starter in 46 of those contests.

In her two-year span at EOU, Stricklin has shot 39.8% from the floor overall and is a 34.2% 3-point shooter. She has averaged 9.1 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per contest in two years of play. The Mountaineers have gone 38-14 since Stricklin's arrival.

Both athletes are now eligible for Academic All-American status now. The 2021 CoSIDA Academic All-American Teams for men's and women's basketball will be announced on Tuesday, May 19.



McCullough



Stricklin

Hegarty wins NWC golf honor at Whitworth College

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

SPOKANE, Wash. — A Pendleton High School graduate was named the Northwest Conference Player of the Year for men's golf.

Whitworth College's Reilly Hegarty finished among the top five in five of the six events he played, including a third-place finish at the NWC Spring Classic (April 3-4) and a tie for fourth place at the NWC Fall Classic (March 27-28). He led the Pirates in scoring average (74.09) over 11 rounds of golf this spring.

Hegarty won the Northwest Conference Tournament (April 17-18) with a score of 145, which included a tournament best 66 in the second round.

Hegarty also was a second team All-Conference honoree in 2019.

Lane Maher

Maher (Pendleton) set the College of Idaho record in the 110 hurdles on April 30, with an NAIA qualifying time of 14.68 seconds at the Buc Scoring Invitational in Spokane, Washington. The time broke his own school record of 14.77 set on April 24 at the Raider Invitational in Ashland.

The previous record of 14.87 was set by Brooks Ney in 2016.

Maher, a freshman, also owns the College of Idaho record for the 60-meter indoor hurdles at 8.47.

Maher will run in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships on May 14-15 in La Grande.

Maher owns the 23rd best time in the nation at the NAIA level through May 8.

Bekah Roe

A shortstop for Warner Pacific, Roe (Pilot Rock) and four of her Knights teammates skipped graduation ceremonies to play in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Softball Championship on May 7-8 in Ashland.

The Knights opened with a 3-0 loss to Oregon Tech, beat Corban University 4-2, and ended the tournament with an 8-4 loss to College of Idaho.

In her final at-bat, Roe hit a two-run single against College of Idaho.

For the season, Roe had 16 hits, including four doubles, a home run and 10 RBIs.

Doc Porter

A graduate student at Central Washington University, Porter (Pendleton) finished second in the 400 with a time of 49.44 seconds at the 39th annual Ralph Varnacchia Meet on May 1

in Bellingham, Washington.

Porter also ran the anchor leg on the winning 4x400 relay team that clocked in at 3:24.62. Also on the team were Austin Albertin, Gunner Vallatini and Spencer Solvberg.

Porter will compete at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships on May 14-15 in Portland. He will run the 400, the 4x400 relay, and the 4x100 relay.

Porter's best time in the 400 meters at CWU is 49.02.

Jansen Edmiston

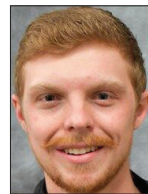
A fifth-year senior at Lewis-Clark State College, Edmiston (Hermiston) was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District team. She was voted to the six-person team out of a field of 35 candidates.

Edmiston has a 3.95 GPA with a double major in business administration and psychology, with a minor in Spanish. She is the fifth Warrior in program history to be named Academic All-District.

The 5-foot-9 guard also was voted a first-team All-Cascade Conference selection after averaging 10.2 points and 4.1 rebounds per game. She started all 20 games for the Warriors.



Maher



Porter



Roe



Edmiston

SPORTS SHORT

EWU QB Eric Barriere highlights AP FCS All-America team

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

CHENEY, Wash. — Eastern Washington quarterback Eric Barriere, Sacred Heart running back Julius Chestnut and VMI receiver Jakob Herres are among the Walter Payton Award finalists highlighting The Associated Press FCS All-America team released on Wednesday, May 12.

The Championship Subdivision's spring season, pushed back

nearly six months because of the pandemic, will conclude on Sunday, May 16, with the national title game between No. 2-seeded Sam Houston and top-seeded South Dakota State in Frisco, Texas.

The two biggest awards in Division I football's second tier will be handed out on Saturday, May 15. The Payton award goes to the player of the year and the Buck Buchanan Award honors the top defensive player in the FCS. The AP's All-America first team

includes five of the 16 Payton award finalists and 10 of the 18 Buchanan finalists.

Barriere passed for 2,448 yards and 19 touchdowns in seven games for Eastern Washington. The second-team quarterback was Cole Kelley from Southeastern Louisiana.

Chestnut led FCS in rushing at 171 yards per game. He was joined in the first team backfield by North Dakota's Otis Weah, who averaged 7.1 yards per carry.



Eastern Washington quarterback Eric Barriere passes against Washington in the first half of an NCAA college football game in Seattle on Aug. 31, 2019.

Elaine Thompson/Associated Press, File