

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

FOLLOW US ON  TWITTER @EOSPORTS |  FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

B1



Nixyaawii's new head volleyball coach, Jacinthia Stanley, center, celebrates with her team Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, following a 3-1 win over the Pilot Rock Rockets.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

SHARING HER LOVE OF THE GAME

Stanley finds her way back to Nixyaawii volleyball

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

MISSION — Growing up on the Navajo reservation in Kayenta, Arizona, Jacinthia Stanley did just about anything school and sports related to avoid working on the family farm, which included cattle, sheep and horses.

That led to her playing several sports in high school and college, and now it has brought her to coaching the volleyball team at Nixyaawii Community School on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Eastern Oregon.

"I love this game and I love playing with the girls," Stanley said. "I want them to build a sisterhood and become empowered. I want to teach the game I love. I'm blessed to have such a good team that is willing to play and grow together."

Stanley, 36, is not new to the Nixyaawii program. She was an assistant coach when the Golden Eagle co-opted with Pilot Rock a few years ago, and was an assistant for the 2014 team when the school finally was able to field a team of its own.

"I was part of the first volleyball team at Nixyaawii," Stanley said. "After the 2014 season, I had to go back to Arizona to help my family. By the time I came back, they had a new coach and I didn't have the time to dedicate to the game."

Stanley worked for Yellow Hawk Tribal Health Center at the time, and her free time was limited.

"I worked in mental health and suicide prevention," she said. "I was director of the program. When I got pregnant, I slowed down. It was time to turn off everything and focus on my health and our son."

Stanley, and her husband, Lindsey Watchman, have a son Jaylen, 2, and combined with Watchman's kids from a previous relationship, they have seven all together.

"I got an instant family," Stanley said. "My step-daughter Grace is on the team, and I had been working with her on our own time and that has helped build our relationship."

This spring, the Golden Eagles were looking for a coach, and Stanley felt it was time to get

back on the court.

"I decided to take a crack at it," she said. "I think the biggest thing is the mental game. Reminding the girls they (opponents) can get in their head and it can take the game away from you. They are really good about taking feedback and listening to what I have to say."

The Golden Eagles are off to a 2-0 start to the season with wins over Riverside and Pilot Rock. They host Powder Valley at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4.

Sports shaped her future

As much as sports and school kept her from farm chores, they also took her to college.

She ran track and cross-country at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. After two years at Haskell, she transferred to the University of Arizona, but that did not last long.

"I got to Arizona, then realized I wanted to go back to the tribal school setting," Stanley said.

Back to Haskell she went. This time, she walked onto the volleyball team, where she was

a libero. She was a setter in high school.

"I got my bachelors there," Stanley said of Haskell. "Then I went to University of Oregon and got my master's degree in education."

She met her husband in the master's program at UO and moved to the Pendleton area in 2011.

Though she and her husband are from different tribal cultures, Stanley said she enjoys learning.

"I gravitate toward tribal communities," she said. "When I was in Eugene, I looked for tribal settings. Coming here and becoming part of my husband's community has been nice. It's had its challenges."

In addition to coaching volleyball, Stanley also started a small business around the time her son was born. Her online boutique — Salty Black Sheep Creations (saltybsc.com) — sells jewelry and accessories. The creations are her own.

"It was kind of a blessing during COVID," she said. "I recently hit 10,000 followers on Instagram."

ON THE SLATE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 4

Prep volleyball
Weston-McEwen at East vs. West Tournament at Heppner, 9 a.m.
Pendleton at McKay Tournament, 7 a.m.
Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 10 a.m.
Powder Valley at Griswold, 1 p.m.
Lone/Arlington at Prairie City/Burnt River, TBD
Irrigon at Stanfield, 9 a.m.
Elgin at Stanfield, 10:30 a.m.
Joseph at Stanfield, noon
Elgin vs. Irrigon, at Stanfield, 12:45 p.m.
Wallowa at Echo, 9 a.m.
Union at Echo, 10:30 a.m.
Prescott at Echo, noon
Prep girls soccer
Hanford at Hermiston, noon
Prep cross-country
Heppner, Umatilla at The Ultimook Race, Tillamook, 11:30 a.m.
College football
Montana Western at EOU, 4 p.m.
College volleyball
Corban at EOU, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 7

Prep volleyball
Hermiston at Hanford, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at McLoughlin, 5:30 p.m.
Lone/Arlington at Dufur, 6 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Hermiston at Kennewick, 7 p.m.
Umatilla at Trout Lake, 4 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
McLoughlin at Irrigon, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8

College volleyball
Blue Mountain at WWCC, 6 p.m.
College men's soccer
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4:15 p.m.
College women's soccer
Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Baker at Riverside, 5 p.m.
Ontario at Pendleton, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9

Prep football
Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.
Prep volleyball
Pendleton at Baker, 6:30 p.m.
Pasco at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 5 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Wallowa, 6 p.m.
McLoughlin at Griswold, 4 p.m.
Lone/Arlington at Griswold, TBD
Riverside at Umatilla, 5 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Pasco at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
McLoughlin at Stanfield/Echo, 5 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
Prescott at Riverside, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10

Prep football
Wilsonville at Pendleton (at PHS), 7 p.m.
Hermiston at Sunnyside, 7 p.m.
La Grande at McLoughlin, 7 p.m.
Lone/Arlington at Imbler, 2 p.m.
Umatilla at Irrigon, 7 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Echo, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Nestucca, 7 p.m.
Stanfield at Culver, 7 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Catlin Gabel at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
Irrigon at Trout Lake, 5 p.m.
Prep cross-country
Hermiston, Griswold, Weston-McEwen, Umatilla at Runners Soul XC Fest, Umatilla, 5 p.m.
Pendleton, Heppner, McLoughlin, Nixyaawii, Stanfield/Echo, Pilot Rock, Riverside at Catherine Creek Scamper, TBD
Prep volleyball
Umatilla, Irrigon, McLoughlin at Baker Tournament, TBD
Echo at Lyle/Wishram, 5 p.m.
College volleyball
Blue Mountain vs. Central Wyoming at STARR Invite, 1 p.m.
Blue Mountain vs. Salt Lake CC at Starr Invite, 3 p.m.
Walla Walla at EOU, 2 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

EOU's Plut named World Lacrosse Coaching Development Trainer

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University women's lacrosse coach Monica Plut has been selected to become a World Lacrosse Coaching Development Trainer after being nominated by Panama Lacrosse.

As a nominee for Panama Lacrosse, Plut went through the full World Lacrosse coaching development training curriculum alongside coaches from 18 other countries.

Of all the nominees, only two were chosen to present at the Pan-American Lacrosse Association Sixes Cup at their headquarters in Auburndale, Florida. The training will take place over Labor Day weekend.

Plut, who is entering her second season at Eastern, was selected to present along with Oscar Morales from Colombia Lacrosse. The two coaches were selected among a panel of countries around the world.

At the PALA Sixes Cup,

Plut and Morales will deliver the World Lacrosse Coaching Development clinic that will specifically teach coaches about the new World Lacrosse Sixes Discipline, which World Lacrosse aims to implement for when the sport of lacrosse makes its potential debut in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

"I am honored to continue to grow the game and be a coaching development trainer at not only the national level, but also the international level now," Plut said. "I look

forward to working with other coaches and trainers and continuing to learn from all the wonderful people in the lacrosse community. It is an exciting time for our sport, as well as the new, fast paced, high energy discipline of World Lacrosse Sixes to help get lacrosse into the 2028 Olympics."

In August, Plut was named Panama Lacrosse's U20 head coach and works directly with the organization that hopes to compete in the 2028 Summer Olympics.



Eastern Oregon University Athletics/Contributed Photo
Eastern Oregon University women's lacrosse coach Monica Plut has been selected to become a World Lacrosse Coaching Development Trainer.