

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021

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

B1

Volleyball teams dig pink for breast cancer awareness

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Teams from the NFL to local high schools do their part in raising awareness and funds to support organizations to help women get mammograms, cancer-related support, and for research.

The Pendleton Bucks held their Dig Pink night Thursday, Oct. 7 against Redmond.

“Quite a few of the players have been affected by it somehow,” Pendleton coach Amanda Lapp said. “They have all been taught by Kathryn Youngman (Spanish teacher) at the high school.

They have seen her go through it.”

Youngman has battled cancer three times, and each time she has fought her way through the treatments and back to her students.

Pendleton senior middle Ashtyn Brown has lost her grandmother to breast cancer, making the night special for her.

“I wish we could have done something big, but we had balloons, streamers, and a sign that said Dig Pink on it,” Lapp said. “They had their pink uniforms. We had a lot of fans tonight. We had a good time with it. It’s nice they can be a part of something that is bigger than them or this match.”

Pendleton also had a spirit day Oct.

7, where classes got points for those wearing pink.

Echo had its annual pink game on Oct. 5 when they played Lone/Arlington. The Cardinals even joined the fun by wearing pink uniforms.

All of the gate receipts, and part of the 50/50 raffle money will be donated to a local breast cancer association.

“It’s a tradition, and a good one,” Echo coach Des Thew said. “It makes people feel good in a time when there isn’t much good out there. We had a pretty decent crowd here. The gal who won the 50/50 gave \$81 dollars of it back.”

See Pink, Page B2



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Pendleton players have a jubilant moment after winning a point during a game with Redmond on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, at home on Warberg Court.

EVERY MILE COUNTS



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston cross-country runners Megan Joyce, left, Elizabeth Newman Garcia, Alexia Serna, Jackie Garcia-Sandoval, Madeline Franke and Ashley Treadwell pose for a portrait Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, at Kennison Field in Hermiston.

The Hermiston girls put in work to be one of the best

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The hard work is done when no one is watching.

The Hermiston girls cross-country team put in the miles over the summer, ranging from a minimum of 200 miles, to senior Alexia Serna, who wore out a couple of pairs of shoes in logging 330 miles.

“We have a group of girls who have been training since June,” Hermiston coach Troy Blackburn said. “Our top 10 girls put in more than 200 miles each this summer.”

The results are proof that their hard work is paying off.

The Bulldogs have finished in the top two in the team standings in four of their meets, including wins at the Runner Soul XC Fest, and the first Mid-Columbia Conference meet in Walla Walla.

They were second to Kennewick at the Hanford Jamboree and at the Oxford Clas-

sic, where they were second to 6A Summit, which has won 12 consecutive state titles.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Bulldogs will line up with some of the top 3A and 4A teams in Washington at the 52nd annual Max Jensen Richland Invitational.

“This will give us an idea of what district will be like,” Blackburn said. “We will be able to gauge where we are and what we need to improve on. Us and Kennewick are the top two schools in our conference. Kennewick has a good team, but we have put in the work. We can beat them.”

The Bulldogs have been led this season by sophomore Megan Joyce, who has placed in the top seven in all five races run this fall. Her personal best time is 19 minutes, 22.14 seconds, set at the Oregon City XC Invitational on Sept. 18.

“Megan has had a breakout year,” Blackburn said. “It’s good to have a front runner. She is a competitor. She will run tough every time. She has run sub-20 in all but one race this year.”

Kennewick’s Macy Marquardt has the top time in the state for 3A runners this season with a time of 17:06.90. Among

the MCC 3A schools, Joyce ranks second behind Marquardt.

Joyce admitted she has surprised herself with her performances this fall.

“I had to take off July because of a hip injury,” Joyce said before she and her teammates set off for a 6-mile run Oct. 6. “I still ran about 300 miles. I thought that I wouldn’t be No. 1. I was No. 3 all last year. I didn’t expect to go to No. 1.”

While Joyce has enjoyed her success, she’s more focused on her times and her team.

“I’m very much competitive with the other girls in the MCC,” she said. “It’s a privilege to run with them. Saturday, we are running Div. I, and all the teams are equal to us or above us. It will be a brawl with who we are going up against. I’m proud of our girls for what we have achieved and for what we’ve been through.”

The Bulldogs have had their share of injuries this season, with injuries limiting Hailey Melville and Cydney Sanchez to just a couple of meets.

See Bulldogs, Page B2

ON THE SLATE

Saturday, Oct. 9

College football

Rocky Mountain College at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

Prep volleyball

Heppner at Union, noon

Heppner vs. Enterprise (at Union), 2 p.m.

Pendleton at The Dalles Tournament, 9 a.m.

Weston-McEwen at Grant Union, noon

Weston-McEwen vs. Stanfield at Grant Union, 1:30 p.m.

Echo at Mitchell/Spray, 5 p.m.

Griswold at Pine Eagle, 11 a.m.

Prep cross-country

Hermiston, Pendleton, Weston-McEwen at Max Jensen Classic, Richland, 11 a.m.

Prep boys soccer

Riverside at Sisters, 2 p.m.

Prep girls soccer

Richland at Hermiston, noon

College men’s soccer

Blue Mountain at WWCC, 2:15 p.m.

Eastern Oregon at Providence, 12 p.m.

College women’s soccer

Blue Mountain at WWCC, noon

Eastern Oregon at Providence, 2:30 p.m.

College volleyball

Eastern Oregon at Bushnell, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 12

Prep volleyball

Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 5 p.m.

Pendleton at The Dalles, 6:30 p.m.

Kennewick at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.

La Grande at McLoughlin, 6:30 p.m.

River View at Riverside, 6 p.m.

Imbler at Nixyaawii, 5 p.m.

Bickleton at Echo, 5 p.m.

Lone/Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 5 p.m.

Prep girls soccer

Kamiakin at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Portland Christian at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.

Prep slowpitch softball

Grandview at Hermiston (2), 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13

Prep cross-country

Hermiston at MCC meet in Kennewick, 3 p.m.

College volleyball

WWCC at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.

College men’s soccer

Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 4:15 p.m.

College women’s soccer

Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 14

Prep football

Hermiston at Kennewick, 7 p.m.

Stanfield at Umatilla, 7 p.m.

Imbler at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.

Prep volleyball

Heppner at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.

Pendleton at Crook County, 6:30 p.m.

Hermiston at Chiawana, 7 p.m.

Union at Weston-McEwen, 5 p.m.

McLoughlin at Ontario, 5:30 p.m.

Enterprise at Stanfield, 5 p.m.

Echo at Sherman, 5 p.m.

Condon at Lone/Arlington, 5 p.m. (Dig Pink)

Prep slowpitch softball

Hermiston at Davis (2), 4 p.m.

Prep girls soccer

Pendleton at Redmond, 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

EOU women open season at Simpson Classic

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University and women’s basketball coach Anji Weissenfluh released the team’s 2021-22 schedule.

The unofficial start to the Mountaineers’ season will tip-off on Saturday, Oct. 9, with the team’s annual Alumni Game, set for 5 p.m. at Quinn Coliseum. Of the 32 games for the Mountaineers, only one will be denoted as a scrimmage, which is Oct. 12 against Lower Columbia College at home.

Including the scrimmage, Eastern will play 13 games at home this season and 11 of them will be Cascade Collegiate Confer-

ence contests. Overall, the Mountaineers will play 10 non-conference games, with the majority of the opposition being from California and Montana.

EOU officially tips off the season Oct. 22-23 at the Simpson University Basketball Classic in Redding, California. EOU will face University of California, Merced on Oct. 22, before playing host Simpson on Oct. 23. The Mountaineers will have a quick turnaround from the Simpson Classic as they will remain in California to take on William Jessup University on Oct. 25.

The first official home game for the Mountaineers is set for Nov. 5 against Whitman College. Following the home opener, EOU will be

back on the road for the LC State Women’s Basketball Tournament Nov. 12-13. Eastern will play a pair of Montana schools in Rocky Mountain College (Nov. 12) and Montana Tech (Nov. 13).

Toward the end of November, the Mountaineers will play four games in Caldwell, Idaho. The first game will be a neutral site match-up against Montana Western on Nov. 20. EOU will then play in its CCC opener Nov. 23 at College of Idaho.

Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26-27, the Mountaineers will play in the Best Western Caldwell Inn and Suites Classic hosted by C of I. Their first opponent will be Simpson on Nov. 26, followed by Rocky Mountain on Nov. 27.



Samantha Flett/Eastern Oregon University Athletics

Beverly Slater, center, and the rest of the Eastern Oregon University women’s basketball team will open their season Oct. 22-23, 2021, at the Simpson University Basketball Classic in Redding, California.