

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File  
Hermiston's Katelyn Heideman drives the ball up the court during the second half May 12, 2021, against the Hanford Falcons at Hermiston High School. The Hermiston senior recently has signed to play with the University of Providence in Butte, Montana.



## LIVING THE DREAM

Hermiston's Heideman signs to play basketball at University of Providence

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Playing college basketball has been a dream of Katelyn Heideman's since she was in the fifth grade.

The Hermiston senior recently had her dream come true, signing with the University of Providence in Butte, Montana.

"I am super excited about it," Heideman said. "They are a super competitive team, I love the coaches, they make sure you work hard, and I love that. When I committed there, it felt so right. I am super blessed to have the opportunity I have been given."

Heideman, who plans to major in business and management, said she fell in love with school and the program on her Sept. 24 visit.

"It was amazing," she said. "I loved the family atmosphere they have there. It's a little smaller of a campus, which I like. Butte Falls is so beautiful."

Argos coach William Himmelberg, who is in his 12th season, said he is excited to have Heideman, a 5-foot-5 guard, join his program.

"We are really excited that Katelyn chose the University of Providence," he said. "She comes from a strong high school team and a great AAU club team. I am excited about how well Katelyn can shoot the basketball. Her ability to shoot the 3 at a high percentage, and shoot it from deep range, will make her a big threat."

Hermiston reached the District 8 playoffs in 2020, with Heideman being a big part of the team's outside threat.

During the COVID-19



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Katelyn Heideman drives toward the basket during the second half June 15, 2021, against the Chiawana Riverhawks at Hermiston High School. Heideman next heads to play college ball with the University of Providence in Butte, Montana.

pandemic's shortened 2021 spring season, the Bulldogs were 4-3.

"We love how Katelyn competes and she has good quickness and has a great work ethic," Himmelberg said. "She is a good fit for our program, and it was evident on her visit she will have great chemistry with our current players."

Heideman already knows soon-to-be and current Providence players Camryn Cartwright and Delaney Pink. Both are from Chiawana High School.

"I train with Camryn and Delaney," Heideman said. "It will be fun to play with them."

Pink plays basketball and soccer for the Argos.

### One last season

Heideman will be a key player for new Hermiston coach Jay Ego.

Ego already is familiar with Heideman, who played on his Oregon Elite basketball team for two years in the Portland area.

For Heideman, Ego is her third high school basketball coach in four years. Ego

replaced Maloree Moss.

"I am super excited he is our coach," Heideman said. "He definitely knows how to coach girls and motivate them without a yell-in-your-face kind of way. He has a very high basketball IQ. As a team, we have gotten better."

Other key players returning for the Bulldogs are Bailey Young, Haylee Mercer, Alexis Ackerman, Morgan Brown and Adrianna Coleman.

"They are all great girls and some of my closest friends," Heideman said. "It's nice to play with them and get to know them as players. We all know what we can do and what we are capable of. I think we will be OK."

Heideman gets her love of basketball from her parents. Her dad, Aaron, played football and basketball at Lone High School, while her mom, Mary-Jane, played volleyball and basketball at Echo and Ione.

Heideman has stuck mainly to basketball, except for a stint on the track team as a freshman.

"Basketball is my thing," she said. "I play all year around. I just think basketball correlates to life. If you put your mind to it, you can achieve it. It teaches you a lot. I am competitive and I love how competitive it is."

Heideman, who has worked hard to improve her game, also has taken advantage of track coach Emilee Strot's weight training program for girls at the high school the past four years. She said it has been beneficial.

"When I first came in as a freshman, I was tiny," she said. "It helped me a lot with strength and speed."

## OSAA is going digital with playoff tickets

Tickets can be bought at the gate for early round games

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

WILSONVILLE — The Oregon School Activities Association is going digital with tickets to all postseason events.

Starting with fall playoffs — football, volleyball, soccer and cross-country — fans can go online and purchase their tickets in advance for events. They then will show their e-ticket at the gate when arriving for the event.

"Pre-sold digital tickets will take precedence over any potential walk up at the day of the event," OSAA Assistant Executive Director Kyle Stanfield wrote in a new release. "It's important that host facilities are prepared to take these tickets at the event."

Though the digital tickets are preferred, fans can pay at the door if the game is hosted at a high school. Once playoffs reach neutral sites (semifinals and finals), e-tickets will be the way to go.

In small communities where internet is limited or fans prefer to pay at the gate, Stanfield said the OSAA will work with those communities to offer both.

"Each school and location may have different restrictions and we want to honor those restrictions," Stanfield said. "We will be communicating consistently throughout October and November."

Having the option to pay at the gate will be good for some fans, according to Heppner Athletic Director and football coach Greg Grant, who also sees the appeal of digital tickets.

"If we do host a playoff game, it makes sense to buy the tickets online," Grant said. "We may have to have people available to help those who don't have the technology or the savvy to purchase them online."

According to the OSAA, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed every community and every level of life over the past 18 months. The consumer has shifted to using apps and digital services now more than ever.

By not having large ticketed events the last 18 months, the OSAA considers this the perfect time to reset and start a new way of thinking on how to enter contests.

The move to digital tickets also will reduce the number of people needed for an event. Venues no longer will need multiple ticket sellers, just a couple of ticket scanners. Finding people to work games has been difficult for some schools. This move helps reduce the number of people in the ticket booths while providing frictionless access to patrons.

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Heppner fans watch from the stands during the Mustangs' 12-7 win over the Kennedy Trojans in the 2019 Oregon School Activities Association Class 2A state title game at Kennison Field in Hermiston. The OSAA is going to sell tickets to postseason events online starting the fall of 2021.

## SPORTS SHORT

## EOU men's wrestling comes in at No. 5 in preseason poll

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — The Cascade Collegiate Conference released its 2021-22 preseason men's wrestling coaches' poll. Eastern Oregon found itself near the middle of the rankings in the 12-team conference.

The Mountaineers checked in at No. 5 with 98 points and were just three points away from being tied for fourth with Vanguard University. EOU also is the highest-ranked full-time member of the CCC in the preseason poll.

Taking the top spot in the poll is

Menlo College with 131 points and seven first-place votes. Slotted second is Embry-Riddle (Arizona) with 120 points and two first-place votes. Rounding out the top-three is Montana State-Northern with two first place votes and 114 points.

Eastern will have an experienced squad going into the 2021-22 campaign with all five National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national qualifiers returning from last season, including All-Americans Keegan Mulhill (174 pounds) and Noel Orozco (285), who are both seniors.

Also back are Luciano Fasulo (125), Kyle Knudtson (184), Marco Retano (197), and John Bittinger (165).

All six athletes will look to lead the Mountaineers this season after finishing the 2020-21 season ranked No. 18 in the NAIA.

The Mountaineers will look to make the most of what is expected to be a full regular season. They have 12 duals on deck and seven tournaments. Eastern will get things officially started Nov. 3 when they take on Western Wyoming Community College in American Falls, Idaho.



Eastern Oregon University Athletics/Contributed Photo

Eastern Oregon University senior Noel Orozco (right), an All-American at 285 pounds, returns for the Mountaineers this season. The Cascade Collegiate Conference's 2021-22 preseason poll has Eastern in the No. 5 spot.