

# Kemp starts off coaching tenure with victory

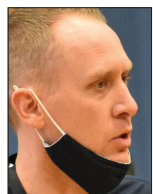
By **DAVIS CARBAUGH**  
*The Observer*

HELENA, Mont. — Starting off a head coaching tenure can have its ups and downs, but coming away with a victory in the first game of the year is a nice way to begin.

For Chris Kemp, his first game as a head basketball coach at the collegiate level resulted in a 92-82 victory for Eastern Oregon over Montana Tech on Saturday, Oct.

23. After four years as an assistant with the program, Kemp is hoping this is a sign of future triumph for the Mountaineers.

“It just feels good to get the massive monkey off our back and get that first one,” Kemp said. “We have never won in the state of Montana since I have been here and



Kemp

I have been telling the guys for two months that everything is different this year and this is step one.”

Kemp has a deep group this year, which was evident in Saturday's victory when nine different Mountaineers hit the floor. Eastern trailed at halftime and battled back and forth with the Orediggers, but a late run midway through the second propelled the team to victory.

“The guys just battled and stayed together for 40 minutes,” Kemp

said. “It wasn't always pretty, but they responded to every run and had different guys step up at different times.”

Kemp leaned heavily on redshirt-senior Max McCullough, who will be the team's main source of offense this season. McCullough scored 38 points, shooting 8-14 from three-point range and 10-16 from the field.

The Mountaineers dropped the second game of the tournament

77-74 against Carroll on Oct. 24. McCullough led the way with 26 points, and new transfer Xavier Lovelace added a team-high 10 rebounds.

While Eastern is .500 on the year to start off, Kemp emphasized before the season that the non-conference schedule would be very difficult this year. As opposed to coming back to La Grande empty-handed, the first-year coach now has a major first win under his belt.

## Hall:

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### Starting over

Hall grew up in Parksville, British Columbia, and first began lifting in high school.

“My track coach did strength training with us,” Hall said. “One day, he said ‘hey, you’ve been doing this a while, let’s go to a competition.’ I enjoyed it. I can’t remember how many competitions I went to. I do remember that I won a provincial title for my weight class in Olympic lifting.”

While in high school, Hall got involved in rowing, a sport that took her to college.

“I’ve always been the person who has said, ‘I’ll try that.’” Hall said. “There was an announcement, wanting to know if you wanted to join the rowing team. I had the strength, I was fast and had the right body type. My senior year, I was getting flown all over the county to different schools. Tennessee offered me a scholarship.”

At Tennessee, Hall did the workouts with her teammates, but not much more.

“I was on a rowing scholarship,” she said. “That consumed my life for four years.”

While at Tennessee, she helped power the Open 4+ crew to a silver medal at the Aramark Sprints in the spring of 2006.

Hall rowed for the Volunteers for four years. She was at Tennessee when the legendary Pat Summitt was coach of the Lady Vols basketball team.

“I was there at a pretty good time,” Hall said. “Athletes got in free to games in every sport. I went to a lot of games.”



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Katie Hall squats 350 pounds during a workout Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, at 1910 Crossfit in Pendleton.**

It wasn't until two years ago that Hall, now married and a mother of two, decided to hit the weights once again.

“I started going to 1910 Crossfit (in Pendleton),” Hall said. “I decided to see what I could do. My first meet back was February 2021 in Eugene.”

It was her first competition in 18 years.

“Sometimes, I think I missed it,”

she said. “I’m definitely stronger now than I was in college. Sometimes I wonder if it would have made a difference if I would have kept with it.”

Hall, and her husband Jason live out in Juniper Canyon just outside of Helix.

It’s a long and unusual trek from British Columbia to Tennessee to Helix.

“When I moved to Tennessee, my mom moved to Yakima and later remarried,” Hall said. “When I moved home from Tennessee, I went to Yakima. My husband is from Pilot Rock. Right about the time we got married, I started working in Helix. I’ve been at Pendleton for about four years now. My husband works in Weston, so this is a good middle point.”

## Eggers:

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Kersey became a four-year starter and a small-college All-American but received little notice from NBA scouts. He was chosen with the 46th pick and taken in the second round of the 1984 draft by the Portland Trail Blazers.

Kersey, one of the game's greatest dunkers and high-energy players through his long career, played 11 of his 17 NBA seasons in Portland. He was a starter and key cog on a Portland team that reached the NBA Finals in both 1990 and '92, and as a veteran reserve won a championship ring with the San Antonio Spurs in '99.

Kersey's story is one of perseverance and also of making a deep commitment to community and civic contributions. After his retirement as a player, he served many years as an ambassador for the Blazers and was working as the club's director of alumni relations when he passed away.

“He wasn't a perfect guy, but he was humble and respectful,” Eggers said. “A real motivational story to never sell yourself short.”

Proceeds from the sales of the general edition of the book will go to the Jerome Kersey Foundation in Portland and the Jerome Kersey '84 men's basketball scholarship at Longwood University, in Farmville, Virginia.



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During the past couple years, we have managed to navigate our way through a multitude of challenges. There were times when we wanted to throw in the towel or have a good cry. Also, days if we were drinking persons, we would have gotten a magnum of wine with a straw. There were mask mandates & temporary closures. Then Spring inventory shipping delays and now RIDICULOUS price increases, IF we can get our orders. Name most anything and it seems there is a shortage of it lately. As a business owner I can tell you, rising prices and obtaining inventory struggles are REAL!

As for offering "Holiday specials, discounts or sales", we have neither the time nor energy to spend days repricing all our in-stock inventory. Nor will we insult our customers intelligence by raising prices so we can "mark it down" just to offer sales. But rather, we will hold our prices on in stock inventory and let that be our "Holiday Sale" for the remainder of the year.

We will NOT be holding an "open house" this year due to the looming covid restrictions. With the help of our small wonderful team, we will do our best to have everything ready for your shopping enjoyment by late Oct. in order to avoid over-crowding.

We will get through this with our loyal customers remembering to support and shop local.

May your days be filled with peace & simple pleasures this Holiday season.

Forever grateful  
Jeanne and George

**Nov 2 - Dec 4**

**We will once again be collecting non-perishable food items for the M-F Ministerial Food Drive. Thank you for your contributions!**