

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Echo places three on BSL volleyball first team

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

ECHO — The Echo Cougars stormed through the Big Sky League with an 11-0 record and did not lose a set. It only stands to reason they would garner three first-team selections to the all-league team.

Senior Faith McCarty was named the Player of the Year by the league coaches, while sophomore Nevaeh Thew and senior Charlei Harwood were named to the first team.

Also on the first team is lone/Arlington junior Madison Orem.

Echo, which will play at St. Paul in the



Harwood



McCarty



Thew



Orem

1A state quarterfinals on Tuesday, Nov. 2, has a 22-4 overall record. The Cougars won the BSL district title with a sweep of South Wasco County to earn a bye in the first round of state.

Echo swept Umpqua Valley Christian in the second round of state Oct. 30 to run its

win streak to 10 matches.

McCarty led the Cougars with 147 kills and also had 117 assists, 152 digs and 38 service aces.

Harwood had 74 kills, 48 aces, 43 digs, 14 blocks and five assists for the Cougars, while Thew had 169 assists, 78 kills, 108 digs, 49 aces and nine blocks.

Orem served at 94% and handed out 504 assists for the Cardinals, who finished the season with an 11-10 record. They lost in the first of the 1A state tournament to Powder Valley.

### BIG SKY LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL

**Player of the Year** — Faith McCarty, sr., Echo

**First team** — Nevaeh Thew, so., Echo; Megan Aamodt, sr., Condon; Natalie Martin, jr., Sherman County; Charlei Harwood, sr., Echo; Madison Orem, jr., lone/Arlington; Allie Marker, sr., Sherman County.

**Second team** — Lily Wallis, jr., Echo; Isabella Mastriona, sr., lone/Arlington; Kyrsten Smith, sr., Condon; Adriana Gonzalez, sr., Bickleton; Morgan Coe-Hand, fr., Spray/Mitchell; Callie Denney, jr., Spray/Mitchell.

**Honorable mention** — Cali Johnson, sr., Sherman County; Halee Holman, jr., Echo; Grade Ogden, sr., lone/Arlington.

## TIME FOR FAMILY

Pendleton volleyball coach Amanda Lapp steps down after eight years with team

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Amanda Lapp has been playing or coaching volleyball since she was 10 years old. It was understandable she would get a little choked up talking about stepping down as the head coach at Pendleton High School.

Lapp spent 10 years with the Bucks, two as an assistant to Jodi Primus, and the past eight as head coach.

“Volleyball has been a way of life for me,” Lapp said. “I don’t know a life without it.”

Lapp had a 76-77 record with the Bucks, who won a Columbia River Conference title her first year in 2014. They went to the state playoffs four times, but never made it past the first round.

“It’s tough,” Lapp said. “My entire staff has decided to step away. It will be interesting as to who comes in, what they do and continue that Pendleton legacy.”

The decision to step away from coaching came down to family. Lapp and her husband Nick have an 18-month-old son, Carter, and her time with her son was limited during the past two volleyball seasons.

“It’s only a been a week, but he sure loves it,” Lapp said of her son having her home. “I usually try to facetime him before my match starts. On a long game day, I see him for about 15 minutes in the morning. We made it work.”

Behind her full-time job as a business manager for three schools — Ukiah, Pilot Rock and North Powder — through the Intermountain Education Service District and coaching, it left little time for her family, vacations with her extended family, and Oregon State football.

“It has been more difficult than I thought it would be,” Lapp said. “I laid there and thought about it at night, but my kid needs me more. I am always here for those (volleyball) kids. I put in my days, but they just kept getting longer and longer. It was time for me to be a mom. I love the fall sports. I am a ride-or-die Oregon Stater. I will enjoy going to Oregon State games and enjoying the simple life.”

### An early start

Lapp played volleyball year around from the time she was 10 until she was 17.

She played at Gresham High School, but out of season she played in the Columbia Empire Volleyball Association.

“I was a one sporter,” Lapp said. “Down there, you are part of



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pendleton High School volleyball coach Amanda Lapp is stepping down after eight years.

the CEVA community. We played tournaments in Colorado, Arizona, Reno and California. I was also part of the Nike Northwest Volleyball program.”

Lapp went to Oregon State University, and while she did not play for the Beavers, she played for fun.

“I went to have a good time and I played intramurals,” Lapp said. “I coached seventh and eighth graders at the Boys and Girls Club. That’s how I got into coaching. When I moved out here, I got in contact with Jodi Primus and I was the JV coach in 2012-13. When she stepped away, I stepped up and took her position.”

### 8 years’ worth of changes

When Lapp first started coaching at Pendleton, the Bucks were in the Columbia River Conference with Hermiston, Hood River Valley and The Dalles.

“We played each other three times a season,” Lapp said. “No long hauls, but just long enough.”

When Hermiston jumped to the Mid-Columbia Conference in Washington in 2018, the league got revamped to the Intermountain Conference with Crook County, Hood River, Redmond, Ridgeview and The Dalles.

“We went to the state playoffs a

few times, but we never made it to the big dance,” Lapp said.

Lapp was pregnant during the 2019 season, and got to share that experience with her team.

“I was pregnant with Carter in fall 2019 and that team got to follow that with me,” she said. “That was a neat phase and journey in life I got to share with those girls.”

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced volleyball into the spring of 2021. Players had to wear masks at practice and games, fans were limited and there was no postseason. “That was not fun,” Lapp said.

### Packing away the memories

Lapp coached her final match on Oct. 25, a 3-0 home win over Baker.

“It’s still a pretty raw and emotional decision I made,” Lapp said. “I will miss it a lot. There are kids who are still in the program, who I’ve coached for years, but it would always be that way. Sauren (Garton) is a senior, and I have had her since she was a third-grader. You never forget the players. Darian Lindsey was on the 2014 team. I had Aspen Garton, and now Sauren. I had Mori Yoshioka, and now Nora. Every year I put these banners together with the pictures the girls take, and team photos. They hang in my office.

So many things go into each team. Those pictures bring back a lot of memories.”

Lapp always washed the team’s jerseys, and as she was packing away the JV 2 jerseys, she came across one that had had a story to it.

“Those were the first varsity ones we had,” she said. “No. 6, which was Aspen Garton’s, had two holes in the back. I remember her diving to the floor and it made those holes. If only the uniforms could talk.”

As Lapp talked about her teams and players, she realized the 2017 team should be about done with college, and some already have families.

“I have had such an awesome group of athletes come through this program,” she said. “It’s kind of fun to see where life has taken them as I follow them through that. Coaching doesn’t stop when they graduate.”

As word spread that she hung up her whistle, Lapp said people have reached out to her.

“It has been interesting, tough and emotional,” she said. “I don’t know Pendleton without Pendleton volleyball. I don’t think I will be away forever, but I am looking forward to vacations with my whole family and being able to watch our kids grow up together. It’s a good blessing to have.”

### ON THE SLATE

#### Tuesday, Nov. 2

**Prep volleyball**  
1A state volleyball: Echo at St. Paul, TBD

**Prep girls soccer**  
Thurston at Pendleton, 4 p.m.  
Echo/Stanford at Oregon Episcopal, 4 p.m.  
Yamhill-Carlton at Riverside, 5 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Nov. 3

**Prep boys soccer**  
4A state playoffs: Cottage Grove at McLoughlin, 2 p.m.  
3A/2A/1A state playoffs: Sutherlin at Riverside, TBD  
**College men’s wrestling**  
Eastern Oregon vs. Wyoming Community College, American Falls, Idaho, TBA  
**College men’s soccer**  
NWAC playoffs: Everett at Blue Mountain, 1 p.m.

#### Thursday, Nov. 4

**Prep volleyball**  
District 8 playoffs: Hermiston at Mount Spokane, 6 p.m.

#### Friday, Nov. 5

**Prep football**  
5A state playoffs: Dallas at Pendleton, 7 p.m.  
1A state playoffs: lone/Arlington at St. Paul, 7 p.m.  
MCC-GSL crossover game: RidgeLine at Hermiston, 7 p.m.  
**College volleyball**  
Blue Mountain at Wenatchee Valley, 6 p.m.  
Eastern Oregon at Northwest, 7 p.m.  
**College cross-country**  
Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships, TBA  
**College men’s basketball**  
Eastern Oregon at Whitman, 7 p.m.  
**College women’s basketball**  
Whitman at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, Nov. 6

**Prep football**  
2A state playoffs: Weston McEwen at Toledo, 1 p.m.  
2A state playoffs: Regis at Heppner, 4 p.m.  
**Prep cross-country**  
3A/2A/1A State Championships, Lane Community College, TBD  
Pendleton at 5A State Championships, Lane Community College, TBD  
Hermiston at 3A State Championships, Pasco, 1 p.m.  
**College football**  
Eastern Oregon at College of Idaho, noon  
**College volleyball**  
Eastern Oregon at Evergreen State, 5 p.m.

### SPORTS SHORT

## Gonzaga rolls to win over Eastern Oregon

East Oregonian

SPOKANE — The Eastern Oregon University men’s basketball team played its first exhibition game of the season on Sunday, Oct. 31, in a match-up against No. 1-ranked Gonzaga University.

The Zags walked away with a 115-62 win in front of a full house of 6,000 at a McCahey Athletic Center, Spokane.

Gonzaga led 55-27 at the half, then outscored EOU 60-35 in the second half.

The Zags jumped out to a 10-0

lead before the Mountaineers’ Preston Chandler found the net with a 3-pointer. The lead quickly went to 20-7 before EOU cut the deficit to 27-15. That would be as close as Eastern would get the rest of the way.

The Zags forced 25 turnovers and turned those into a 38-3 advantage in points off turnovers. Gonzaga also had 11 blocked shots.

Julian Strawther led the Zags in scoring with 18 points — all in the first half. He nailed all three 3-pointers for the Zags on five attempts, and went 5 of 6 from the free-throw line. He also had nine rebounds.

Chet Holmgren put up 17 points and had eight rebounds for Gonzaga, while Kaden Perry added 12 points.

Manny N’tula led EOU with 15 points. Brandon Porter added nine points, and Xavier Lovelace had seven rebounds.

The Mountaineers suffered injuries to all-time leading scorer Max McCullough (knee), who left the game early in the first half, and to Paul Pennington (arm). The EOU men’s basketball team is back in action Nov. 5 when it heads to Walla Walla to battle Whitman College. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.



Eastern Oregon University Athletics/Contributed Photo

Eastern Oregon University sophomore Xavier Lovelace jumps with the ball during an exhibition match Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, against Gonzaga University in Spokane. The No. 1 Zags defeated EOU 115-62.