

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021

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Hermiston's Hunter Dyer (top) pins Southridge's Zander Zackula on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, at Hermiston High School. Dyer has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the University of Providence in Great Falls, Montana.

ON THE SLATE

Saturday, Dec. 18

Prep girls wrestling
Hermiston at Best of the West, 9 a.m.

Prep boys wrestling
Pendleton at Liberty Tournament, 8 a.m.
Hermiston at Tri-State, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, TBD

Prep girls basketball
Griswold at Helix Tournament, TBD
Weston-McEwen vs. Warrenton, Heppner Tournament, 1 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Vernonia, 1 p.m.
Hermiston at Southridge, 3:15 p.m.
McLoughlin at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Irrigon vs. Heppner, Heppner Tournament, 4 p.m.
Spray/Mitchell/Wheeler at Echo, 4 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Sherman, 4 p.m.

Prep boys basketball
Griswold at Helix Tournament, TBD
Pilot Rock at Vernonia, 2:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Warrenton, Heppner Tournament, 2:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Southridge, 5 p.m.
Clarkston, Washington, at Pendleton, 5:30 p.m.
McLoughlin at Riverside, 5:30 p.m.
Irrigon vs. Heppner, Heppner Tournament, 5:30 p.m.
Spray/Mitchell/Wheeler at Echo, 5:30 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Sherman, 5:30 p.m.

College women's basketball
Blue Mountain vs. Bellevue at Umpqua, noon
EOU vs. Walla Walla, 6:30 p.m.

College men's basketball
EOU vs. Walla Walla, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20

Prep girls basketball
McLoughlin at Corbett, 3 p.m.
Riverside at White Swan (Washington), 4 p.m.
Enterprise at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.
Pendleton vs. Crater, Corvallis Tournament, 5:30 p.m.

Prep boys basketball
McLoughlin at Corbett, 4:30 p.m.
Riverside at White Swan (Washington), 5:30 p.m.
Enterprise at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Prep girls basketball
Pendleton at Corvallis Tournament, TBD
McLoughlin at Cascade Holiday Classic, TBD
Heppner at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Stanfield at South Wasco County, 6 p.m.

Prep boys basketball
McLoughlin at Seaside, 5 p.m.
Baker at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 7:15 p.m.
Heppner at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Pilot Rock, 7:30 p.m.
Stanfield at South Wasco County, 7:30 p.m.

College men's basketball
EOU vs. Linfield, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Prep girls basketball
Pendleton at Corvallis Tournament, TBD
McLoughlin at Cascade Holiday Classic, TBD
Horizon Christian at Griswold, 2 p.m.
White Swan (Washington) at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Union, 5 p.m.

Boys prep basketball
Horizon Christian at Griswold, 4 p.m.
White Swan (Washington) at Riverside, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Union, 6:30 p.m.
McLoughlin at The Dalles, 7 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling
Echo/Stanfield, Heppner/Ione, Irrigon, McLoughlin, Riverside/Arlington at Rollin Schimmel Memorial Tournament, Pendleton, TBD

Thursday, Dec. 23

Prep girls basketball
Weston-McEwen at Elgin, 1 p.m.

Boys prep basketball
Weston-McEwen at Elgin, 2:30 p.m.

GREAT ADVENTURES

Hermiston wrestler feels at home at University of Providence

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A mix of the great outdoors and a solid wrestling program was enough to convince Hunter Dyer that University of Providence in Great Falls, Montana, was the place for him.

The Hermiston senior recently signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the Argos.

"A couple of years ago, I went to Montana to meet my uncle, and I fell in love with the place," Dyer said. "I went back the next year, and I went in search of schools. I found Providence and I really liked it. When I have spare time, you can find me hunting and fishing. It's perfect for me."

Dyer also likes to ski, but he will have to wait until wrestling season is over before he can hit the slopes.

Argos coach Steve Komac said Dyer is a good fit for his program.

"There are several things we liked about him right away," Komac said. "First, the quality of young man we saw when we met him. He is a great example of a student athlete. When they can take care of the student and athlete part, that is beneficial. Getting to know him, his parents have raised a good kid. We really liked him. He has a great work ethic, comes from a good program and is well coached."

Dyer also felt a strong connection with Komac and the program.

"Me and Komac got to know each other and clicked right away," said Dyer, who plans to major in financial business administration. "He's a big outdoors guy like I am, and he's super easy going and laid back."

Komac said it will depend on how quickly Dyer adjusts to the college level as to whether the Argos will redshirt him or not.

"We have the ability to wrestle our freshmen in open invitationals," Komac said. "At the winter break, we will sit down and see where the season is going before we make a final deci-



Photos by Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston's Hunter Dyer (back) throws Southridge's Zander Zackula on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, at Hermiston High School.

sion on that. Our redshirts will get 15-20 matches, if that's what we end up doing with him."

Dyer is the second Hermiston athlete to sign with Providence. Girls basketball player Katelyn Heideman signed a few months ago.

"Me and Katelyn are really good friends," Dyer said. "That will make it fun. She said, 'If you are looking at colleges, look at this one.'"

The Argos compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Frontier Conference with Carroll College, College of Idaho, Eastern Oregon, Montana Tech, Montana Western, MSU-Northern, Rocky Mountain College and Southern Oregon.

College of Idaho, EOU and SOU are football members only.

A TOUGH DECISION

Dyer's first love in the world of sports was baseball. It wasn't until his junior year that he felt he could have an opportunity to wrestle at the college level.

"Coming into my freshman year, I liked baseball a whole lot, and I was decent at wrestling," Dyer said. "My junior and senior years, I developed more

of a love for wrestling, and things kind of fell into place."

Dyer, who wrestles at 138 and 145 pounds, placed fourth at state as a junior at 138 during the spring season.

He then put in the work during the summer to hone his skills.

"I went to tournaments in Idaho and Utah last summer to get some mat time," he said.

He also went to Europe with teammates Adrian Delgado and Zayne Helfer, and wrestled with Northwest Exchange.

"We wrestled in Austria, Switzerland, Poland and Germany for a couple of weeks," Dyer said. "Going over there was a whole new experience. It was all freestyle and Greco. We also got to do some sightseeing. We went to concentration camps in Germany, and Hitler's Eagle's Nest in the (Bavarian) Alps. That was really cool."

Dyer is back on the mats for the Bulldogs this winter, working to improve his skills before he heads to college.

"I'm just going to keep pushing forward and onto the next step," Dyer said. "A new step in life. Still school and wrestling, but it's new to me."

EOU's DeLong, Van Wyck earn NAIA All-American honors

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Two pillars of Eastern Oregon University football wrapped up their collegiate careers by earning top honors at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic level.

Senior defensive linemen Sage DeLong and Chase Van Wyck were both named NAIA All-Americans in the NAIA's official end-of-season release on Monday, Dec. 13. The two linemen were a nightmare for opposing offenses for what was a much-improved Mountaineers defensive unit this season. DeLong was named to the first team and Van Wyck earned honorable mention.

"What a great couple guys," head coach Tim Camp said. "They've had such an impact on what we've done and what we've been trying to do defensively."

DeLong was a menace on the defensive line this year, tallying 17.5 tackles for loss and 10 sacks on the year. Those splits ranked him 11th in the NAIA for tackles for loss and fifth

in the NAIA in sacks despite missing three games during the season. The Vale native also recorded six sacks in a matchup against Carroll on Oct. 30, which set a school record.

"It was evident during the course of the games that they could take over games and just do their jobs at a high level," Camp said.

DeLong wrapped up his career ranked as the program's second all-time player in sacks (26) and tackles for loss (51.5). This season marked the second time that DeLong has been named an All-American after earning honorable mention following the 2019-20 season.

"We got stronger on defense as the season went on," Camp said. "A lot of that had to do with the leadership of those two guys."

Van Wyck, a native of Napavine, Washington, earned his second career nomination to an All-American team. Van Wyck earned honorable mention after finishing the season with seven sacks, 16.5 tackles for loss and 54 total tackles.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Eastern Oregon's Sage DeLong pursues Rocky Mountain's DeNiro Killian Jr. in a game Oct. 9, 2021, at Community Stadium, La Grande. DeLong earned Frontier Conference co-defensive player of the year alongside teammate Chase Van Wyck.

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