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Hottman is headed to WSU

The Hermiston senior is an elite discus thrower

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston's Caden Hottman never has won a state track title. In fact, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he never has been to the 3A state track meet.

That apparently did not mean much to Washington State University, which signed Hottman to a letter of intent to throw for the Cougars.

"He's never been to state and signed a Division I scholarship," Hermiston track coach Emilee Strot said. "This class has been the most affected by COVID. Their sophomore year was taken away, last year we had a shortened season. Hopefully, we get a full season this year."

For Hottman, WSU was a place that felt like home.

"I was interested in a couple of schools, I went on a couple of visits and ended up choosing WSU," he said. "The biggest thing is the facilities are awesome there, and they have the major



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Caden Hottman prepares to throw the discus at the MCC track and field championship on May 6, 2021, at Fran Rich Stadium in Richland, Washington. Washington State University recently signed Hottman to a letter of intent to throw for the Cougars.

(business management) I want to go into. I had a lot of bigger offers, but WSU was the place I was going to feel the most comfortable at the next level."

Pullman also is close enough for mom and dad to watch his meets.

"My dad just wants what's best for me," Hottman said. "He's really excited now that I made my decision. My mom (Molly) is the most happy. She was a big advocate for WSU and it's proximity to home."

Hottman, who carries a

3.8 GPA, will receive a 25% scholarship his first year at Washington State. He also has an academic scholarship, which will cover out-of-state tuition.

Hottman burst onto the Mid-Columbia Conference track scene his junior year. In his third high school meet, he threw the discus 178 feet to break Tre Neal's school discus record of 169-2 set in 2016.

Hottman now holds the school record with a mark of 181-6.

"It has been my goal to

hit 200 (feet) in the discus by my senior year, and 220 in the hammer. I have thrown in six hammer meets. My PR is 189, which I threw at the Junior Olympics in July, in Jacksonville, Florida. I finished third in the hammer. I was third in the discus too, but I only threw 173."

The 6-foot-1, 220-pound Hottman also throws the shot put, but not with the same zeal he does the discus and hammer. His personal best is 50-7. He won the MCC district shot put and discus titles last spring.

"In one year, I did all of these things," Hottman said. "I knew the process and what I was getting into. I have been throwing since the seventh grade. I just want to get better everyday. Just doing the little things, and I knew the big things would happen. Hopefully this year will be better."

Strot said she and fellow throws coach David Faaeteete can't take much credit for Hottman's success. He came to the program with a good track background.

"I can't take any credit for him," Strot said. "He does so much on his own. I coach him at an extremely high level. He knows so much. It's a unique relationship I get to have

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston lineman Sam Cadenas (52) takes down North Central quarterback Carter Storm (10) on Nov. 8, 2019, at Kennison Field in Hermiston. Cadenas has signed to play football for Eastern Oregon University, La Grande.

Hermiston's Cadenas joins EOU football 2022 recruiting class

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University added depth to its linebacking corps and beefed up its lines with its 2022 recruiting class.

"I think we met some needs that will help us out immediately, as well as building our roster toward the future," Eastern head football coach Tim Camp said.

The class includes a mix of size and skill, with nine of the recruits primarily playing defensive positions. The group consists

of 12 offensive-based players, but most of the high school recruits have played on both sides of the ball in prep competition.

The EOU team adding four primary offensive linemen and two defensive linemen. Most of the linemen play both sides, so Eastern will have some flexibility in moving them around to fill gaps on the roster.

Hermiston's Sam Cadenas will help fill out the roster on the offensive or defensive lines. Cadenas was a first-team all-conference selection at the defen-

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Hermiston sends 11 to state wrestling tournament

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston's Sam Cadenas and Ben Larson won regional wrestling titles Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Region 4 Regional Tournament, and lead a contingent of 11 wrestlers to state.

The Bulldogs finished third among the 16 teams with 273.5 points. Mead won the team title with 345.5 points, with University second at 310.5.

Hermiston had six wrestlers in the finals, but came away with just two champions. The top five wrestlers in each weight class advance to Mat Classic XXXIII Feb. 18-19 at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma, Washington.

"We are excited to get after it," Hermiston coach Kyle Larson said. "We thought we might have a chance to maybe get 13 or 14 (to state), but that's how it shook out. I'm proud



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Hermiston's Sam Cadenas, top, drops Elijah Reems, of University, on his way to winning the 285-pound title Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, at the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Region 4 Regional Tournament at Hermiston High School.

of the 11 and the other 11 who didn't make it. We are excited to go to state and see how it shakes out."

The top-ranked Cadenas (32-3) won the 285-pound title and earned a trip to state, pinning Elijah Reems of University in 2:25.

In the semifinals, Cadenas earned a 7-2 decision over Hayden Wienclaw. In the first two rounds, Cadenas pinned both of his opponents in less than one minute.

"He will blow you up if you're not paying attention," Larson said of Cadenas. "His

semifinal match, he put his guy 15 feet out of the circle in a double leg. That is the explosion and strength he puts on the mat. He is exciting to watch. That's what fans want to see. He puts on a show."

Larson (33-5), who is ranked No. 1 at 160 pounds, won his regional title after Austin Justice of Mead injury defaulted.

Larson beat Jackson Hale of Mt. Spokane by major decision, 11-0, in the semifinals. He pinned his first two opponents.

Placing second for the Bulldogs were Carlos Cervantes at 106, Aiden Favorite at 120, Jaysen Rodriguez at 126 and Jesse Vassey at 220.

Cervantes, a freshman, won by pin, technical fall and a major decision before losing a 7-3 decision to Jacob Chapa of Southridge in the finals.

Favorite dropped a 7-3

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Pendleton crowns three district wrestling champs

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PRINEVILLE — Pendleton crowned three champions, and the Bucks finished fourth in the team standings Saturday, Feb. 11, at the 5A Special District 4 Tournament at Crook County High School.

Jack Lieuallen (138 pounds), Patrick Simpson (182) and Jacob Griffin (285) all won titles for the Bucks, who will send six wrestlers to the 5A state tournament Feb. 26 at Ridgeview High School.

Crook County won the team title with 474 points, followed by Redmond (406), Ridgeview (172.5) and Pendleton (144.5).

Lieuallen, a junior, opened the tournament with

a bye, then posted two quick pins to reach the finals.

The championship bout, he pinned Wyatt Wood of Crook County in 3:41.

Simpson also had a bye in the first round. He then won by technical fall and by pin to earn a shot at the title.

Simpson pinned Logan Willett of Redmond in 1:26 in the championship match.

Griffin won his title by pinning all three of his opponents on the day in the first round.

In the finals, Griffin pinned Ashton Fields of Redmond in 1:06.

Also punching their ticket to state were Owen Golter, who finished fourth at 126, Gabe Browning, who was third at 138, and Collin Primus, who was second at 160.

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