

# Hottman:

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with him because he is so advanced. I feel like I coach him at the college level. He is really intelligent when it comes to the discus and technique.”

Not only does Hottman put in the work in the discus and shot put rings, but also in the weight room.

“We are in the weight room at 6:30 in the morning four days a week,” Hottman said.

And he has taken advantage of every rep. He holds the school record in the clean at 320 pounds. He benches 315 and squats 500. He also holds the school record for max total (clean, bench, squat) at 1,135 pounds.

Strot, who teaches weight training, appreciates the work Hottman puts in.

“He is incredibly strong,” she said. “He has worked really hard to get that strong.”

The culture in the weight room has changed for the boys, and I think it has to do with Caden. He gets in there and goes to work and he does everything right. He has great technique.”

## A solid foundation

Hottman first started competing in track in the seventh grade. He was prodded by his dad Gavin to at least give the sport a try.

Gavin Hottman was a state champion in the shot put (51-4 1/2) and discus (155) for Kalama High School in 1995.

He competed for Eastern Oregon University, where he is ranked fifth on the Mountaineers’ all-time list for the discus throw with a mark of 158-3, set in 1997.

By the time Hottman was in the eighth grade, he had the top marks in Oregon for middle school throwers, which ignited the flame for track.

Baseball was Hottman’s first love since he was a little boy, and he played through

his freshman year before he decided that track and field was his future.

“It’s cool for Caden that he has the support from his family,” Strot said. “They have made it a family sport. They get to travel together. They have even put in a throwing place at home.”

Hottman also got a few offers to play football, but he passed.

“I had some interest from schools for football — NAIA and Division II — but I knew track was what I wanted to do,” he said. “I love playing football, but track, I love everything about it. I love training for track just as much as I like competing in it. I feel I would have a better future in track than football.”

## A very bright future

Not only does Hottman put in the time at school to get better, but he attends meets all over the country, and works out at the Iron Wood Throws Center in Rathdrum, Idaho.

“I go at least once a month,” Hottman said of Ironwood. “It’s the biggest influence I have. I was there two weeks ago.”

Hottman will compete in two indoor meets in March in New York City. There, he will compete in the weight throw, which is a college indoor event. His best mark in the event is 68-11, which ranks him 12th in the nation among high school throwers.

The Bulldogs open Mid-Columbia Conference action March 31 at Richland High School.

“It will be a fun season,” Hottman said. “If I don’t come prepared, I won’t be in first place at the end of the day. I’m competing against myself.”

If everything goes as planned, Hottman hopes to throw at the state meet in May.

“My goal since I was a sophomore was to win a state title,” he said.

After two years of waiting, it’s time.

# EOU:

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sive lineman position, as well as second-team at offensive line.

Camp said his mentality is to recruit “Eastern Oregon kind of guys,” and there is an emphasis at Eastern on recruiting locally.

“I want to make sure we keep Eastern Oregon talent here,” he said. “The kids we recruit locally really understand the values and work ethic involved in playing here.”

According to Camp, a handful of incoming players will meet immediate needs on both sides of the ball.

“We’re going to start the best 11 guys on offense, defense and special teams,” he said. “If a freshman earns a spot on the field, everything is open.”

Eastern added four linebackers, in addition to two running backs who also played linebacker. Colt Matteson, of Bishop Union, California, Lawson Talamentez, of Seaside, and Jason Sieveking, of Redmond, primarily played the outside linebacker position in high school. Andrew Domingos, of Hockinson, Washington, played primarily middle linebacker — the new Mountaineer recorded 159 tackles, 14 sacks, two blocked punts and a touchdown during his senior year at Hockinson High School.

The Mountaineers snagged two transfer receivers, who were getting limited reps at Western Oregon. Andre Martinez and Blake Davis, a Pendleton High School alum, will help add speed to Eastern’s receiving corps.

Eastern added three running backs, one of whom is a very familiar name in La Grande. Brody MacMillan, a running back and linebacker for the Tigers, signed to play for the Mountaineers. MacMillan was an anchor for La Grande, on the offense and defense, helping the Tigers build their offensive identity around a bruising running style.

“He’s a competitor,” Camp said of the reigning Greater Oregon League offensive player of the year. “I really think he’ll add good depth and has a passion to play.”

Camp said he suspects MacMillan will play running back, but there always is the possibility he could see time at the linebacker position.

Camp noted this year’s recruits and their families really bought into the program on their visits and workouts. The Mountaineers are poised to fill the spots of 12 redshirt-seniors who will be moving on from the program.

Eastern is coming off a 4-6 season in 2021. The Mountaineers have not released their 2022 schedule yet, but are slated to begin workouts in the summer.

# Wrestling:

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decision to Tyler Walker of University in the championship match.

At 126, Rodriguez had two pins and a decision to reach the finals. In the championship match, the

freshman lost by technical fall (16-0) to Kennly Mobley of North Central.

Vassey posted two pins and a decision to reach the finals against Jakob Connors of Mead. Connors pinned Vassey in the first round.

Also placing for the Bulldogs and earning a trip to state were Jeshaiah

Garza (126, fourth), Daniel Garza (132, third), Hunter Dyer (138, third), Zane Estes (160, fifth) and Jaxson Gribskov (182, third).

Gribskov had the most impressive day of anyone. He lost his first match, which was unexpected. He then went to work and won five loser-out matches in the consolation round to

finish third.

“I was kidding with Jaxon at another tournament when he lost his first match and I told him he had to be the ultimate road warrior and finish third,” Larson said. “Never did I think he would lose his first match, but that goes to his mindset. We were happy he came back and got third.”

## ON THE SLATE

**TUESDAY, FEB. 15**  
**Prep girls basketball**  
MCC/GSL District 8 Tournament: Ferris at Hermiston, 5 p.m.  
OOL District playoffs: Griswold at Elgin, 5:30 p.m.  
Crook County at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

**Prep boys basketball**  
EOL District playoffs: Burns at Umatilla, 5 p.m.  
OOL District playoffs: Griswold at Imbler, 5 p.m.  
Pendleton at Crook County, 6:30 p.m.  
MCC/GSL District 8 Tournament: University at Hermiston, 7 p.m.  
BMC playoff game: Pilot Rock vs. Grant Union, Baker High School, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16**

**Prep boys basketball**  
Big Sky League District playoffs: Echo/Dufur at Lone/Arlington, 6 p.m.

**College men’s basketball**  
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

**College women’s basketball**  
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 18**  
**Prep girls basketball**  
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Stanfield vs. Enterprise, Pendleton Convention Center, 2:45 p.m.

The Dalles at Pendleton, 5:30 p.m.  
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Heppner vs. Grant Union, Pendleton Convention Center, 7:45 p.m.

**Prep boys basketball**  
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Stanfield vs. Union, Pendleton Convention Center, 1 p.m.

Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Weston-McEwen vs. Pilot Rock/Grant Union, Pendleton Convention Center, 6 p.m.

The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.

**Prep boys and girls wrestling**  
Hermiston at Mat Classic XXXIII, Tacoma, 10 a.m.

**College men’s basketball**  
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 7:30 p.m.

**College women’s basketball**  
Eastern Oregon at Multnomah, 5:30 p.m.

**College men’s wrestling**  
Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate

Conference Championships, Havre, Montana, TBA

**SATURDAY, FEB. 19**  
**Prep girls basketball**  
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Union vs. Stanfield/Enterprise, Pendleton Convention Center, 7:45 p.m.

**Prep boys basketball**  
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Heppner vs. Stanfield/Union, Pendleton Convention Center, 6 p.m.

**Prep boys and girls wrestling**  
Hermiston at Mat Classic XXXIII, Tacoma, 10 a.m.

**Prep boys wrestling**  
Irrigon, Riverside at 3A Special District 1 Tournament, Nyssa, TBD

Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stanfield at Special District 4 Championships, Adrian, 10 a.m.

**College men’s basketball**  
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.  
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 5 p.m.

**College women’s basketball**  
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.  
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 3 p.m.

**College baseball**  
Eastern Oregon at Western Oregon (2), noon

**College men’s wrestling**  
Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships, Havre, Montana, TBA

**College women’s lacrosse**  
Willamette at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**  
**College baseball**  
Eastern Oregon at Western Oregon (2), noon

**College softball**  
Eastern Oregon at Lewis & Clark College (2), noon

**College women’s lacrosse**  
Linfield at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEB. 21**  
**College men’s basketball**  
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 7:30 p.m.

**College women’s basketball**  
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 5:30 p.m.

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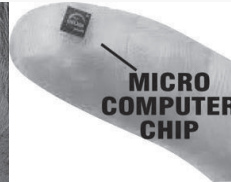
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