

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022

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Soccer and sunshine

Hermiston's Seavert signs to play soccer at Ottawa University in Arizona

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — In what started out as a trip to an identification camp at Northern Arizona University, ended with an offer for Hermiston's Sydney Seavert to play soccer at Ottawa University.

The liberal arts university in Surprise, Arizona, may have a soccer program that is just four years old, but it's one of the top 10 programs in the nation at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics level.

"Her original plan was to go to NAU and their ID camp," Hermiston coach Freddy Guizar said of the Nov. 17-20 trip. "I said why don't we go to other schools, we have three days? What's it going to hurt? When we went to Ottawa, she was invited to practice the next morning. The school really enjoyed her, and she liked them. They wouldn't let us leave. It was pretty awesome."

Guizar said he was impressed with the program.

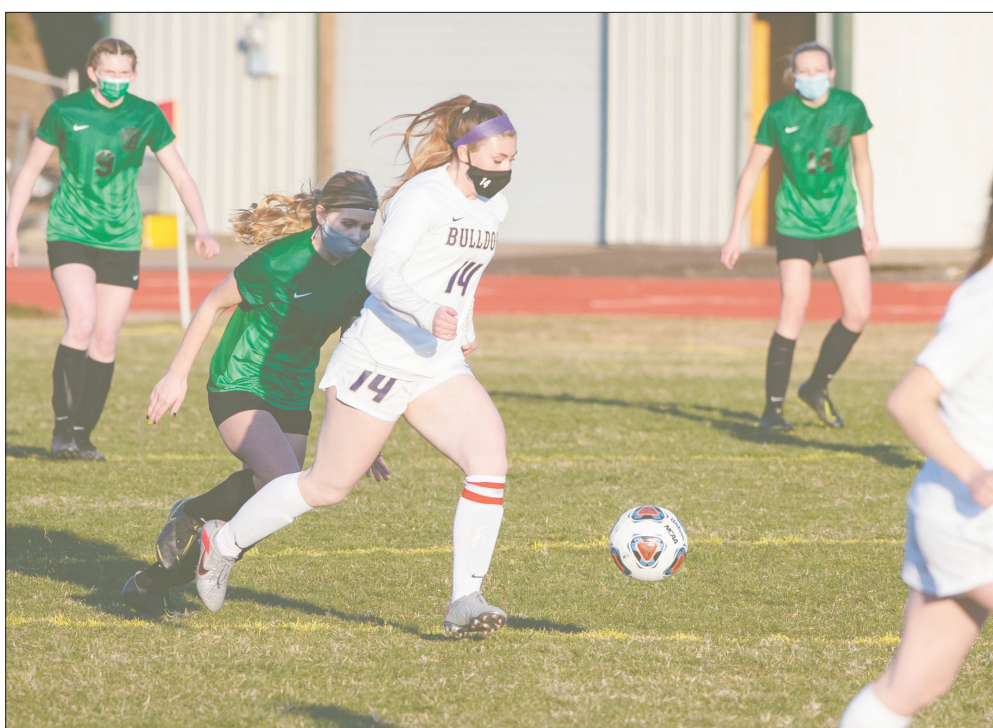
"It was an eye opener to me," he said. "She played with some girls who are 21 and she had multiple opportunities to score and she scored a goal on them."

For Seavert, the team camaraderie at Ottawa and the endless sunshine was a selling point.

"This is when people say, 'this is where your heart leads you,'" Seavert said. "They are putting money back into their school and soccer players. When I went to practice and scored a goal. I told them I could see myself playing with them. They said they could see me playing there."

The Wolves' practice time was early, but Seavert was up and ready at 4 a.m.

"It was 65 degrees and I went to practice in shorts and a T-shirt," Seavert said. "One of their coaches asked



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Sydney Seavert's (14) drives the ball up the field March 16, 2021, as Hermiston defeated Pendleton 2-0 at Pendleton High School. Seavert is continuing her soccer play at Ottawa University.

if I was cold. I told him what it was like back home. It was super warm, we got to see the sunrise. It was really pretty."

Seavert had breakfast with the team and felt a connection to the players and coaches.

"Just a day in the life of a soccer player," Seavert said. "Being there helped make my decision of where I want to go."

Seavert, who also visited Arizona Christian University and Mesa Community College, was offered a scholarship by Ottawa, and the rest is history.

A 5-foot-7 midfielder for the Bulldogs, Seavert said she would likely play a center attacking mid in college. The Wolves also plan on playing her as a freshman.

"I like pushing the ball up and assisting on goals," she said.

Seavert plans to get a bachelors of arts in exercise science.

"Hopefully I can be an occupational therapist," she said. "There are so many different ways I can go."

The only problem with playing in Arizona is that mom and dad won't be able to be at every game.

"My parents (Trampas and Amy) and I are going there for spring break," Seavert said. "They haven't

seen the campus. My dad is pretty sad about me leaving, he loves his baby girl. I told him I was just a plane ticket away. My grandpa (Bob) has already planned a whole route to come down and visit and watch me play."

A good starting point

Seavert never played club soccer, but playing for Hermiston, and playing in the Mid-Columbia Conference against some of the best teams and players in Washington, she said she is ready for what comes next.

"The MCC prepared me for this," she said. "There are so many good players in the league. It makes me honored and thankful to have played against them."

Seavert was named to the MCC second team her senior year. She finished with three goals and eight assists.

"Sydney is one of our standout players," Guizar said. "She didn't make it this far for no reason. They (Ottawa) said if she is this good, who else do you have? I was able to talk about my program and where we are going in the future. We have a good sophomore class that will be juniors next year. That pumps me up."

During the offseason,

Seavert can be found playing in the local men's indoor league on Sundays.

"She loves to learn, and she puts in the work," Guizar said.

Seavert said she is thankful for her coach for pushing her to explore her options.

"Freddy made the connections," she said. "It wasn't just for me, but for the younger generations. These connections could help the girls get out of Hermiston, and bring some attention to Hermiston soccer. He will have those contacts forever."

ON THE SLATE

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Prep wrestling
Pendleton at 5A state tournament, Ridgeview High School, 9 a.m.
McLoughlin at 4A state tournament, Cascade High School, 9 a.m.
Riverside, Irrigon at 3A state tournament, La Pine High School, 9 a.m.
Heppner/Lone, Echo at 2A state tournament, Culver High School, 9 a.m.

Prep boys basketball
1A state playoffs: Lone/Arlington at Nixyaawii, 4:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball
2A state playoffs: Stanfield at Vernonia, 1 p.m.
3A state playoffs: Hermiston vs. Everett, Everett CC, 2 p.m.
1A state playoffs: Lone/Arlington at Nixyaawii, 3 p.m.
1A state playoffs: Yoncalla at Echo, 5 p.m.

College men's basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.

College women's basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.

College baseball
Eastern Oregon at Lewis-Clark State (2), noon

College women's lacrosse
Eastern Oregon at Whitman, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

College women's wrestling
Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships, Great Falls, Montana, TBA

College baseball
Eastern Oregon at Lewis-Clark State (2), 11 a.m.
Clackamas at Blue Mountain (2), noon

College softball
Eastern Oregon vs. Marymount California, Rocklin, California (2), 10 a.m.

College women's lacrosse
Eastern Oregon vs. Whitworth, Walla Walla, 1 p.m. Thursday, March 3

College track and field
Eastern Oregon at NAIA Indoor Championships, Brookings, South Dakota, TBA

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

College track and field
Eastern Oregon at NAIA Indoor Championships, Brookings, South Dakota, TBA

College softball
Eastern Oregon at Bushnell (2), 1 p.m.
Clackamas at Blue Mountain (5), 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

College men's wrestling
Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Championships, Wichita, Kansas, TBA

College track and field
Eastern Oregon at NAIA Indoor Championships, Brookings, South Dakota, TBA

College baseball
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.
Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain (2), 11 a.m.

College softball
Eastern Oregon at Bushnell (2), 11 a.m.
Mt. Hood at Blue Mountain (2), noon

College women's lacrosse
Eastern Oregon at Corban, 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

College baseball
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (2), 11 a.m.

Sherman and Cimmiyotti are unanimous selections

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPNER — Blue Mountain Conference regular season and district champion Heppner had two players selected to the all-conference first team.

Seniors Kason Cimmiyotti and Joe Sherman were unanimous picks for the Mustangs, who are 20-3 on the season.

Other local athletes on the first team were junior Gator Goodrich from Stanfield, and senior Theo White from Weston-McEwen.

All of the first-team players were unanimous selections by the conference coaches, with the exception of Union's Bo Ledbetter.

Cimmiyotti, a 6-foot-3 forward, averaged 16 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 1.5 assists for the Mustangs.

Sherman, a 6-1 guard, had 13.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 13.5 assists and two steals a game. He is a two-year starter for the Mustangs.

Goodrich, who led the Tigers (17-10) to the BMC district title game, averaged



Sherman

Cimmiyotti

Goodrich

White

BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL

First team

Tee Ledbetter, so., Union; Gator Goodrich, jr., Stanfield; Kason Cimmiyotti, sr., Heppner; Theo White, sr., Weston-McEwen; Joe Sherman, sr., Heppner; Bo Ledbetter, jr., Union.

Second team

Rylen Bronson, fr., Pilot Rock; Hobs Hurty, jr., Stanfield; Parker Neault, sr., Grant Union; Jackson Decker, sr., Enterprise; Kyren Miller, jr., Weston-McEwen.

Honorable mention

Brock Hisler, sr., Heppner; Chase Koshinsky, fr., Union; Wyatt Stillman, sr., Pilot Rock; Cameron Reich, jr., Weston-McEwen; Sheldon Lenz, so., Grant Union; Pablo Arellano, so., Stanfield; Tucker Ashbeck, jr., Heppner.

14 points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals a game. In BMC play, he averaged 19 points, four rebounds and four assists an outing.

White averaged 17 points, 10.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists, three steals and two blocks a game. He shot 57% from

two-point range, 30% from 3-point range, and 76% from the free-throw line.

White started 79 of 80 games for the TigerScots from his freshman year through his senior year. The one game he did not play was due to an ankle injury.

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