

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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EOU brings home four All-Americans in track and field

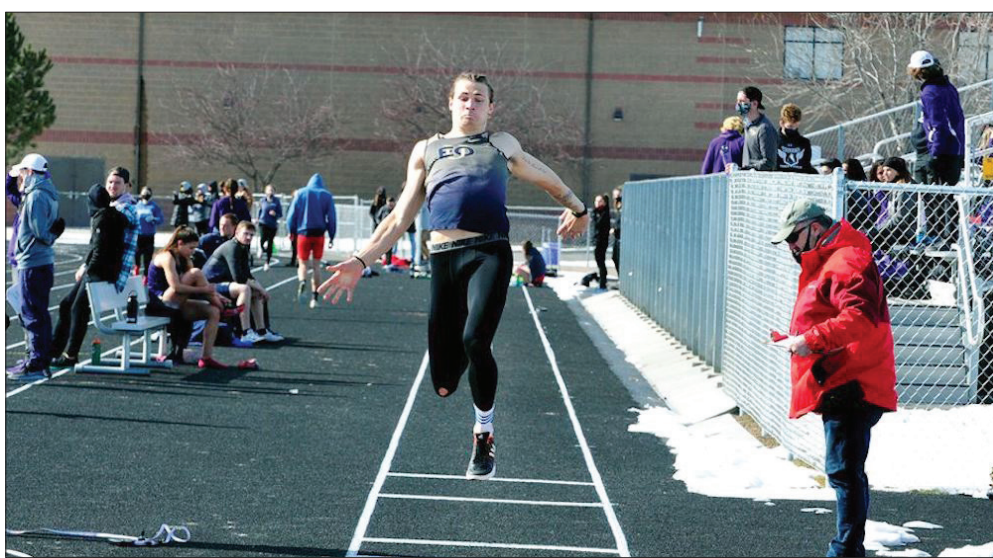
East Oregonian

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Eastern Oregon University's track and field team wrapped up the 2021-22 indoor season Saturday afternoon, March 5, with four athletes garnering All-American status.

The team competed March 3-5 in Brookings, South Dakota, at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Indoor National Championships.

TJ Davis and Sam Roddewig earned All-American status on March 4 in the heptathlon, according to EOU Athletics. Davis won the National Championship in the multi-events with 5,439 points scored. Roddewig was fifth overall with 4,820 points. For Davis, it is his second straight All-American honor in the heptathlon while Roddewig earned his first career indoor All-American award in the heptathlon.

And earning a podium finish and All-American titles on March 5, the final day of Indoor Nationals,



Connor Bracken/Eastern Oregon University

Eastern Oregon University's TJ Davis competes in the heptathlon on Friday, March 4, 2022, at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Indoor National Championships in Brookings, South Dakota. He was one of four EOU track and field athletes to earn All-American status at the season's crowning competition.

was Michelle Herbes in the 800-meter run and Maggie Ledbetter in the shot put.

With the four, EOU tallied 226 All-Americans and 29 National Champions under the direction of head coach Ben Welch. As a team, the EOU men finished 22nd with 14

points, while the EOU women were 28th with nine points.

In the first event of the day, the 60-meter hurdles, Davis dominated the field, EOU reported. He ran 8.24, getting past second place by .23 seconds. In the pole vault, Davis had a valiant effort as he

held on for a tie for fifth place. He cleared the bar at 13 feet 7½

inches to secure the top-five spot. In the final event, the 1,000-meter run, Davis left no doubt in winning the overall title as he placed second in the race. He ran a 2:41.42 and became the second ever

Heptathlon National Champion in EOU history.

Davis joins Robbie Haynie as the only other National Champion in the Heptathlon for Eastern. Haynie won the Heptathlon title back-to-back years in 2011 and 2012.

Roddewig surged from eighth after day one up to fifth with 4,820 points to earn his first career indoor All-American accolade. He finished in the top-five in his final two events to help finish in the top-five.

He got his biggest boost from his efforts in the pole vault. He cleared the bar at a height of 14-¾ to secure a third place finish, which was his best finish of any event. He wrapped up the day with a fourth place finish in the 1,000, running a 2:46.93 to secure his fifth place finish and All-American status.

Herbes qualified for finals the day prior, solidifying her status as an All-American, and had to run again to see where she placed. In her second go at the 800, Herbes ran a 2:15.87 and placed sixth overall. She

is now a three-time indoor All-American as an individual and has tallied six total for her indoor career. She was an individual All-American in the 1,000-meter run in 2020 and 2021. According to EOU Athletics, she has also been on two All-American relay squads in the 4x400 (2019 and 2020) and the 4x800 (2020).

Ledbetter finished third in the shot put with a throw of 45 feet 10½ inches in finals. In prelims, she hit 43-10¾ on her second throw to advance. In the finals, Ledbetter sealed her spot in the top-three on her first throw. For Ledbetter, this is her second career indoor All-American honor for the shot put. She was third in the same event back in 2020 with a career best throw of 47-4¼.

Davis entered the day as the event leader with 3,000 points. He kept his momentum from day one placing in the top-five in the final three events to walk away with 5,439 points and as the NAIA's best and top heptathlete. He edged second place by 55 points.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Pendleton's Muriel Hoisington (34) puts up a shot Feb. 18, 2022, during the Bucks 55-31 win over The Dalles at Pendleton High School. Hoisington was named to the Intermountain Conference first team.

2 Bucks named to IMC first team

Pendleton's Sams earns second-team honors for boys

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton seniors Muriel Hoisington and Chloe Taber were named to the Intermountain Conference first team, while senior Jaden Samp was selected to the honorable mention team by the conference coaches.

The Bucks, who played most of the season with senior Daisy Jenness on the injured list (knee), finished 6-4 in IMC play and 8-16 overall. They advanced to the first round of the 5A state playoffs, where they dropped a 47-36 game to Silverton.

Hoisington led Pendleton in scoring with 13 points per game, along with 4.3 rebounds, three assists and four steals.

Taber was right behind her with 11 points, five rebounds, two assists and one steal, while Samp added six points, three steals, 2.5 rebounds and 1.5 assists.

Player of the Year honors went to Ridgeview's Jenna



Hoisington



Taber



Samp



Sams

IMC GIRLS TEAM

Player of the year: Jenna Albrecht, sr., Ridgeview.

Coaches of the Year: Bob Boback, Crook County and Alicia Love, Ridgeview.

First Team: Muriel Hoisington, sr., Pendleton; Katelynn Weaver, jr., Crook County; Emma Bales, sr., Crook County; Chloe Taber, sr., Pendleton; Marina Castaneda, so., Hood River Valley.

Second Team: Grace Brooks, sr., Crook County; Faye Davis, sr., Ridgeview; Kyrh Daniels, jr., Ridgeview; Rilea Mills, sr., Redmond; Brynn Capps, so., Redmond.

Honorable Mention: Lauren Harding, jr., Ridgeview; Brooklyn Homan, jr., Ridgeview; Zoe LeBreton, so., The Dalles; Sydney Newby, fr., The Dalles; Jaden Samp, sr., Pendleton.

IMC BOYS TEAM

Player of the Year: Garrett Osborne, sr., Redmond.

Coach of the Year: Reagan Gilbertson, Redmond.

First Team: Evan Otten, jr., Redmond; Styles Deleon, jr., The Dalles; Emanuel Romero, sr., Hood River Valley; Jeremiah Schwartz, jr., Ridgeview; Eddie Freauff, so., Crook County.

Second Team: Tommy Ziegler, sr., Hood River Valley; Greyson Sams, sr., Pendleton; Yoshi Saito, sr., Redmond; Andre Niko, so., The Dalles; Henry Begay, so., The Dalles.

Honorable Mention: Nathan Wachs, jr., Redmond; Clayton Cook, sr., Hood River Valley; Logan Mathews, so., Crook County; Ryan Asplund, sr., Ridgeview; Ryles Buckley, sr., Hood River Valley.

opponent's best player. He has a high basketball IQ and is a tremendously hard worker and competitor. He was always the last guy to leave the gym."

Redmond senior Garrett Osborne was named IMC Player of the Year. The top-ranked Panthers opened state play March 9 against Ashland.

Steer wrestler Jesse Brown wins \$100,000

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Jesse Brown hasn't had a chance to calculate what the hourly wage would be based on the \$100,000 he earned for his most recent 3.76 seconds of work.

Suffice it to say it would be an ample sum.

(About \$95.7 million, which most people could get by on.)

Brown, a steer wrestler from Baker City, had the biggest payday of his professional career on Sunday, March 6.

Brown won the steer wrestling event at The American, a rodeo in Arlington, Texas, earning a \$100,000 check.

The American is a unique competition with a total payout of \$3 million, including \$100,000 for the winners in several events.

"What a day," Brown said in phone interview on Monday, March 7, from Weatherford, Texas, where he's taking a rest day before heading to Houston for another big rodeo March 10-11.

That one has a more modest purse, at \$50,000, but unlike The American, the results will count toward the season standings leading up to the Super Bowl of rodeo, the National Finals Rodeo in December in Las Vegas.

Brown, a 2011 Baker High School graduate, has competed in the past two National Finals Rodeo events. He entered the 2021 competition as the world's second-

ranked steer wrestler, and finished sixth for the season with winnings of \$165,061.

Brown, who competes for Resistol, a maker of cowboy hats, brought down his steer in 3.76 seconds at The American.

Brown said he's watched the event on TV since he started in rodeo several years ago.

He competed in the event for the first time in 2021.

"It's one of a handful of those rodeos that a guy wants to win in his career," Brown said.

The event began with 10 contestants in each event, and the top four times and scores advanced to the championship round. In the sudden-death format, the top time and score earned the \$100,000 payday.

Brown said the atmosphere in AT&T Stadium, where the Dallas Cowboys play their home football games, was electric.

"The stands were packed," he said. "It's a huge stadium, and I was pretty juiced up. There was pressure, but it felt awesome."

Brown, who played football at Washington State University before transferring to Montana State University and taking up rodeo full time, spends much of the year traveling around the country to compete in rodeos.

One of his favorites is Oregon's most famous — the Pendleton Round-Up.

In the 2019 Round-Up Brown set an event record by bringing down his steer in 3.7 seconds.

ON THE SLATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

College women's wrestling
Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Invite, Jamestown, North Dakota, TBA

College softball
Southwestern Oregon at Blue Mountain (2), noon
British Columbia at Eastern Oregon (2), 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
Boys soccer
Hermiston at Walla Walla, 12:30 p.m.

College women's wrestling
Eastern Oregon at NAIA National Invite, Jamestown, North Dakota, TBA

College softball
British Columbia at Eastern Oregon (2), 11 a.m.

College baseball
Eastern Oregon at Corban (2), 11 a.m.
Grays Harbor at Blue Mountain (2), 11 a.m.

College women's lacrosse
Eastern Oregon at Boise State Tournament, TBA

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
College baseball
Grays Harbor at Blue Mountain (2), 11 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14
Prep baseball
La Grande JV at Heppner (2), 2 p.m.