

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

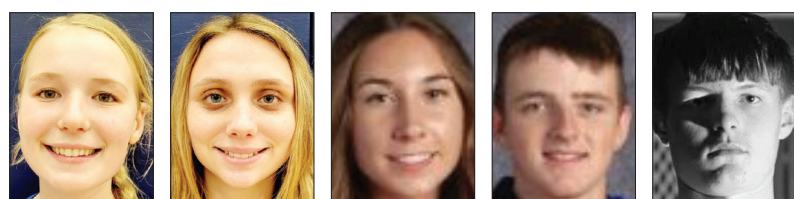
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

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## McCarty, Eynetich headline Big Sky League team

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian



McCarty Thew Heideman Eynetich Davis

ECHO — In her final season of high school basketball, Echo senior Faith McCarty left a lasting impression.

McCarty averaged 17.5 points a game to go along with eight rebounds, seven assists and five steals, and was named to the Big Sky League first team.

Also named to the first team were Echo sophomore Nevaeh Thew and Ione/Arlington senior Hailey Heideman.

The league coaches selected just a first team and honorable mention team, which included freshman Najiah Knight and sophomore Grace Claughton of Ione/Arlington.

McCarty continued her stellar play at the 1A state tournament, averaging 15.7 points, 2.7 assists

and 2.3 steals a game. She was named to the all-tournament second team.

Echo (19-6) finished sixth at state, winning first state trophy since placing second in 1995.

Thew averaged 12 points, six rebounds, five steals and three assists a game.

Heideman, who led the Cardinals in scoring, averaged 8.2 points, 8.5 rebounds, 3.9 steals and 1.4 assists a game for the Cardinals, who finished the season 16-6.

Ione/Arlington junior Carson

Eynetich was named to the boys first team, as was Echo's Dax Davis.

Eynetich led the Cardinals in scoring with 19.1 points. He also chipped in 3.3 rebounds, 5.1 assists and 3.7 steals.

Ione/Arlington finished the season 20-2, but a loss to Nixyaawii in the second round of the state playoffs ended their season.

Ione/Arlington's Gary Walls, Bryce Rollins and Taylor Rollins were named to the honorable mention team, as was Echo's Dom Curiel.

### BIG SKY LEAGUE GIRLS

**Player of the Year:** Megan Aamodt, sr., Condon

**First Team:** Megan Aamodt, sr., Condon; Faith McCarty, sr., Echo; Nevaeh Thew, so., Echo; Hailey Heideman, sr., Ione/Arlington; Natalie Martin, jr., Sherman; Morgan Cole-Hand, fr., Spray.

**Honorable Mention:** Haylee Andrews, sr., Bickleton; Abby Fitzgerald, sr., Bickleton; Theresa Campbell, so., Condon; Abby Colby, sr., Condon; Najiah Knight, fr., Ione/Arlington; Grace Claughton, so., Ione/Arlington; Txell Parra, so., Spray; Allie Marker, sr., Sherman.

### BIG SKY LEAGUE BOYS

**Player of the Year:** Eduardo Barrera, sr., Condon

**First Team:** Eduardo Barrera, sr., Condon; Carson Eynetich, jr., Ione/Arlington; Dax Davis, jr., Echo; Nathan Clark, jr., Spray; Carter Boise, jr., Spray.

**Honorable Mention:** Gary Walls, sr., Ione/Arlington; Bryce Rollins, jr., Ione/Arlington; Taylor Rollins, sr., Ione/Arlington; Kole Martin, jr., Sherman; Mason Murdock, jr., Echo; Dom Curiel, so., Echo; Braden Carnine, sr., Condon; Gage Holm, jr., Condon.



Troy Blackburn/Contributed Photo

Hermiston senior Grant Anderson (597) will continue his cross-country and track endeavors at Corban University in Salem.

## ONE MILE AT A TIME

### Hermiston's Anderson to run for Corban University

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

**H**ERMISTON — Grant Anderson is a man who does his research. That includes prospective colleges.

The Hermiston senior chose Corban University in Salem as his next stop for academics and athletics.

"I looked at quite a bit of schools," he said. "Some big state schools and church schools. Corban just stuck out. It just felt right."

In addition to majoring in business, Anderson will run cross-country and track for Corban, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school that competes in the Cascade Collegiate Conference with

Eastern Oregon University, La Grande.

"They have an established cross country program and the track program is getting going again," Anderson said. "They have a pretty good business program. I got a pretty good academic scholarship, and they gave me a little to run there too."

Hermiston coach Troy Blackburn feels Corban is a good fit for Anderson.

"I think a smaller school will fit him nicely," Blackburn said. "It's a religious school, and that fits him, as well. He's a phenomenal student and he loves running. We are so excited for him. I'm excited for him to go and continue running."

As an added bonus, Anderson's childhood friend, Lance Stover, who attends Chiawana High School, also will be attending Corban. Stover will wrestle for the Warriors.

"It was just more of a coincidence," Anderson said. "It didn't influence my decision."

### The making of a runner

Anderson has been running since middle school, when he took up the sport to stay in shape.

"It's enjoyable to me," he said. "I get to talk to people during runs. It's a challenge, but an accomplishment. If you put in the work, you can be a good runner."

That has been a challenge for the Class of 2022. This is the first year they have had a complete varsity season for cross-country and track because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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DENNIS DAUBLE

THE NATURAL WORLD

## A basket of memories

Springtime in the Blue Mountains heralds the sound of passerine songbirds and snow-charged streams. While nature's blessings brighten the spirit, sunlit days eventually remind of need to catch up on chores conveniently ignored over the darkness of winter.

Entering a garage cluttered with fishing gear and wood-working projects, my eye catches on Grandpa Harry's ancient willow creel, aka fish box. I pull the creel down from the wall and lift its creaky lid. Bits of dried fern and the faint glitter of aged fish scales greet me. The syrupy sweet odor of fair-caught rainbow trout wafts from its interior like bacon grease plated on a cast iron skillet.

Fish boxes, as willow-weave creels were referred to in the "olden days," are designed to hold a limit of fresh-killed trout. Their open weave design allows for water to drain off when dipped in the stream and for evaporative cooling of the day's catch. A few decades ago, a basket-type creel was an important accessory for every serious angler. Nowadays they're as obsolete as horse-hair line. Not to mention that any self-respecting fly fisher who kills a fish in public waters stands a good chance of being ostracized by his peers.

A careful review of Hugh Chatham and Dan McClain's classic reference, "The Art of the Creel," provides insight on the origin of Grandpa's creel. Such features as a "side-hole," a single leather strap around the front and lid, reinforced back corners, and a 3-inch-wide leather flap hinge, suggest it's a "Hazeldell," product of the so-called king of the creel-leather business, George Lawrence Company of Portland, Oregon.

It would be difficult to prove the creel was made by G.L. Co. because it lacks a metal cartouche, engraving or similar stamp of authenticity. Assuming the creel is an early G.L., though, it would be a No. 3 or the smallest of four sizes originally offered, having a capacity of 20 pounds (their largest, No. 7, was introduced in 1929 with a 40-pound capacity). Since the horizontal weave or "weft" of Grandpa's creel is whole willow, not split, as were early versions built in the wickerwork or French weave style, it closely conforms to No. 14x in the wicker-weave series, first built by G.L. in 1941.

The heirloom creel represents the last of Grandpa's angling legacy after brother Dusty dumped a rubber raft on the Deschutes River and Grandpa's bamboo fly rod sunk to the bottom of Whitehorse Rapids. The rub of it though,

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## ON THE SLATE

### SATURDAY, APRIL 2

**Prep baseball**  
Union at Heppner (2), 11 a.m.  
Pilot Rock at Lyle (2), 11 a.m.  
Weston-McEwen at Sherman (2), 11 a.m.  
Grant Union at Stanfield/Echo (2), 11 a.m.

**Track and field**  
Pendleton at Clay Lewis Invite, Hanford, 10:30 a.m.

**College baseball**  
Big Bend at Blue Mountain (2), 1 p.m.  
**College softball**  
Big Bend at Blue Mountain (2), 2 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 4

**Prep softball**  
Echo/Stamfield at La Grande (2), 2 p.m.  
Walla Walla at Pendleton, 4 p.m.

**Prep tennis**  
Pendleton boys at Crook County, 3 p.m.  
Crook County girls at Pendleton, 3 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 5

**Prep baseball**  
Pendleton vs. Bend, at Hood River, 2 p.m.  
Enterprise at Heppner/Ione (2), 2 p.m.  
Riverside at Stanfield/Echo, 4 p.m.  
Union at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.  
Hermiston at Southridge, 4 p.m.  
Grant Union at Heppner, 4:30 p.m.  
La Grande JV at Irrigon, 7 p.m.

**Prep softball**  
Pilot Rock at Union (2), 3 p.m.  
La Grande JV at Irrigon, 4 p.m.  
Umatilla at Riverside, 4 p.m.  
McLoughlin at Pendleton, 4:30 p.m.

**Boys soccer**  
Walla Walla at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

**Prep tennis**  
Weston-McEwen at Umatilla, 3:30 p.m.  
Stanfield/Echo at Riverside, 4:30 p.m.

**Track and field**  
Heppner at Grant Union, 4 p.m.

**Prep golf**  
Pendleton girls at Prineville Country Club, 11 a.m.

**College softball**  
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain (2), 2 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

**Prep baseball**  
Baker/Powder Valley at McLoughlin (2), 2 p.m.

**Prep softball**  
Baker at McLoughlin (2), 2 p.m.

**Prep tennis**  
Redmond boys at Pendleton, 3 p.m.  
Pendleton girls at Redmond, 3 p.m.

**College baseball**  
Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain (2), 1 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7

**Prep softball**  
Umatilla at Pendleton JV, 4 p.m.

**Prep golf**  
Heppner Invitational, Willow Creek Country Club, 1 p.m.

**Prep tennis**  
Sherman at Irrigon 2 p.m.  
Riverside at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.  
Stanfield/Echo at Umatilla, 4:30 p.m.

**Prep lacrosse**  
Hermiston at Mount Is, 7 p.m.