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***Eastern Washington University Athletics***

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**Eagles go the distance, but fall in PK’s to the Vikings**

(EWU Soccer loses heartbreaker in the Big Sky Quarterfinals)

**MISSOULA, Mont. -** In their first conference tournament appearance since 2019, EWU soccer fought and clawed, but fell in PK’s to the Vikings in the Big Sky Quarterfinals.

It was a chilly morning, and an early match for the Eagles, as EWU would strike first in the 29th minute with a goal from senior Grace Terrill. After going into the half with a 1-0 lead, the Vikings fought back and recorded the equalizer in the 73rd minute of the match. A full 90 minutes wouldn’t be enough to find a result, as the match would go to two overtimes, and ultimately to a penalty kick shootout. Eastern Washington (9-6-4) would fall to Portland State (5-8-4), as the Vikings would pull out with the 7-6 shootout victory, and advanced to the Big Sky semifinals.

After finishing third in the Big Sky conference and having one of the biggest win improvements in the country, Eastern Washington soccer (9-6-4, 4-1-3) appeared in their 12th conference tournament appearance. The Eagles are now 6-10-1 all-time, and 2-4-0 all-time in the quarterfinals of the tournament. As a #3 seed, the Eagles move to 2-3 all-time in the tournament, and are now 1-2 all-time against #6 seeds.

The Eagles and the Vikings met in the conference tournament for the third time. Eastern is now 2-1 all-time against Portland State in the tournament. Earlier in the season, the two tied 1-1 in Cheney, and it took 110 minutes and a shootout to find an end result in this one.

**Match Summary:**

In the opening minute Kamryn Willoughby would be tested by the Vikings. Willoughby would record her first save within seconds, as Portland State would get an opportunity with a shot on goal immediately after the start of the match.

Eastern’s offense would start a bit slow, but Portland State’s would come out firing. The Vikings would record four shots in the first six minutes of the match. Possession would not be in favor of EWU, as the Vikings would control the pace of play early.

In the 10th minute, the Eagles would see their first shot with a left footer from Charity Freeman that would go just above the crossbar. After the shot from Freeman, Eastern looked to get settled in and take back the momentum.

In the 22nd minute, defender Iris Mattern would stop a great attack on the left side from the Vikings. Mattern would be able to win two one on one challenges, and force a goal kick. Riley Arribas would get into the box in the 25th minute for the first time in the match, but the shot would be blocked by a Viking defender.

The Eagles would use the momentum in the second part of the second half, and would strike first. It would be Grace Terrill in the 29th minute who recorded the goal. Delani Walker would give a back heel towards the goalie, and off of the deflection Terrill would record the header as the ball went to the back of the net and take the early 1-0 lead.

EWU would be outshot 9-6 in the first half, but Willoughby would record five saves for the Eagles. The Vikings would fail to record a corner in the half, but the Eagles would only record two of their own.

The second half would see seven shots in the first 20 minutes, but only three would be on goal. Freshman Bella Bunnage would check into the match, as Bunnage would be the second Eastern freshman to appear in the match. Dakota Harris would log seven minutes in the first half.

The Vikings would make a great move into the box, and record a shot, but it would be just wide of the left post in the 71st minute. Portland State would then in the 73rd minute record the equalizer with a left footer in the top right of the net.

Near chances by both teams would come in the last 15 minutes, but neither would be able to record the go-ahead goal. The Eagles would be outshot in both the first and second half. Willoughby would record three more saves in the second half to bring her total to eight in regulation.

Four Eagles would record two shots in regulations, as Eastern would have their first overtime match of the season. Two 10 minute periods for overtime rules in the conference tournament. The first team to score a goal in those 10 minute periods will win the match. If the match is still tied after the two 10 minute periods, then the match will be decided in penalty kicks.

Immediately out of the gate the Eagles would record two shots in the first minute of overtime. Herting and Moore would threaten, but would be unable to record the game-winner. A corner kick in the 94th minute would seem to give Eastern another chance. The Eagles would not be able to get a head on it, but Pattison would get a look a few seconds later. It would be off target however, so we would stay tied.

In the 96th minute the Vikings would get a corner of their own. The ball would go too far out of the box, and would fail to record a shot. After one 10 minute period of overtime action, neither team would score, as we would move to a second 10 minute overtime period tied 1-1.

In the second overtime, the Eagles would start hot again with a beautiful cross to Gillian Martin in the box. Martin would however get tangled up with Viking, and would be unable to get a clean look. The Vikings would then come back down with their own look with a booming left footer, but it would be wide left.

In the 105th minute, the Vikings would get two chances from a pair of corners, but the Eagle back line would stay strong and eliminate the threat. Pattison in the 106th minute would give a toe tap pass in the box, but Herting would be unable to give it a second touch for a shot on goal.

After 110 minutes of play we would head to penalty kicks. Both the Vikings and the Eagles would record their first four PK’s. On Eastern’s fifth, the Vikings goalkeeper would come off her line, as the eagles were able to sink the redo penalty kick. The Eagles would miss their seventh penalty kick, as the Vikings would sink their seventh and win the penalty kick shootout 7-6, and advance to the Semifinals of the Big Sky Tournament.

**Inside the box score:**

* In her 60th career start, Grace Terrill recorded her sixth career goal. Terrill finished her playing career appearing in 79 career matches, tied for sixth most in school history in matches played.
* Kamryn Willoughby recorded 10 saves, and matched the second most saves in a Big Sky tournament match. Willoughby finishes the season with 225 total saves.
* Isabelle Herting recorded two shots, playing 84 minutes, and had eight games thi season with at least two shots.
* In her 35th career match, Kendall Moore recorded four shots and played in all 110 minutes. Moore recorded the 3rd most shots in Eagle history in a Big Sky tournament match.
* Chloe Pattison recorded three shots with two shots on goal. Pattison finishes the season 5th all-time in shots on goal (31), and tied 9th all-time in Eagle single season history with 53 total shots. Pattison also moves to 9th all-time in Eagle career shots on goal (47).
* Riley Arribas recorded two shots, and finished with at least one shot in nine straight matches.
* Becca Gaido appeared in her 40th career match, played all 110 minutes, and finished the season in first with 1709 minutes played. Gaido played every single minute in the last 16 matches of the season, and only missed 13 minutes this season.
* EWU recorded 15 shots in the match, tied for the fifth most in school history in a Big Sky tournament match.
* Five Eagle players recorded at least two shots in the match.
* The Eagles only trailed at the half one time this season, and recorded at least one goal in 18 of the 19 matches this season.
* EWU Soccer finished with 136 shots on goal this season, tied for third all-time in a single season, and recorded 33 goals this season, the fifth most ever in a season in school history.

The Eagles were picked to finish eighth in the Big Sky conference coaches’ poll, after finishing ninth in the 2023 season. They finished 9-6-4 overall, and finished third in the Big Sky conference with a 4-1-3 conference record. They became the sixth Eagle soccer team to ever record nine wins in a season, and broke a program record for win improvement (+7).

Eastern earned six players on All-Conference teams, with Chloe Pattison named Co-Offensive MVP, and head coach Missy Strasburg named Big Sky Coach of the Year.

ABOUT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

*Eastern Washington University Athletics sponsors 14 intercollegiate sports, six for men and eight for women, both as learning opportunities for its most athletically talented students and as an enhancement to student and community life. Eastern is affiliated with Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and is a member of the Big Sky Conference, an association of 10 regional schools with comparable enrollments and academic goals.*

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**Regular season finale ends in style for the Eagles**

(Eastern ends regular season on three match winning streak)

**GREELEY, Colorado —** Eastern Washington soccer (9-5-4, 4-1-3) finished the season off with a three match winning streak in their season finale 2-1 victory over Northern Colorado (3-14-1, 1-5-1). A go-ahead goal from Kendall Moore would be the deciding factor in the windy road contest.

It was the 33rd overall meeting between the Eagles and the Bears. Eastern is now 6-12-5 all-time against Northern Colorado. Last season, Eastern fell to Northern Colorado 4-0 at home, and with the win, snapped a seven match winless streak against the Bears. Eastern is now 3-6-2 all-time on the road against Northern Colorado.

It was a very windy day on the pitch in Greeley, as the Eagles would face mother nature first and battle the wind in the first half. After falling and trailing early 1-0 in the 18th minute, Eastern would respond with a Gillian Martin goal in the 37th minute, and sit at 1-1 tie going into the second half.

The polls wer Eagles were picked to finish eighth in the Big Sky conference preseason poll. finishes with one loss in conference to tie the fewest losses in conference play since the 2017 season. Eastern finishes the regular season with nine wins, and it is the sixth time ever an Eagle team has earned nine wins in a season.

**Match Summary:**

In the first half, it would be the Bears with the early work on offense as an attacking plate would send a shot just outside the box and hit the crossbar, but would funnel outside of the box. The wind would affect things early, as both teams would attempt to keep the ball on the ground as much as possible.

In the eighth minute of the match, UNC would record the first corner kick of the match, but were unable to get a clean look. The first ten minutes would see the Bears in the attacking third and controlling possession. The Eagles would not record their first shot until the 12th minute. Delani Walker would get a good look from the top of the box, but it would be wide right in their first open look of the half.

The 18th minute would see another Walker shot, this time inside the box. It would be blocked by a Bear defender, as the Eagles would record their first corner of the match. Isabelle Herting would check into the match after missing the last five matches. It is Herting’s first time coming off the bench.

The Bears would strike first in the 27th minute off a deflected pass to give UNC a great look for a shot inside the box, and record a goal for the early 1-0 lead.

The Eagles would respond however nine minutes later. In the 37th minute, Herting would make a move at midfield to get past her defender, and serve a pass down field to Chloe Pattison. Pattison would then find a cutting Gillian Martin. From inside the box, Martin would serve up a shot, but would be saved by the Bears goalkeeper. Martin however would get another look at it, as the save would pop up into the air. Martin would record the goal to tie the match one a piece, and record her 11th career goal.

Eastern would head into halftime tied for the ninth time this season. The Bears would outshoot the Eagles 8-6, but Eastern recorded one more shot on goal (3-2) in the first half.

The start of the second half would be a quick look from outside the box from UNC, but goalkeeper Kamryn Willoughby would record the save to eliminate the early threat. The Bears would be on the attack again in the 51st minute with a shot inside the left side of the box, but it would again hit the top of the crossbar.

After a pair of good looks from the Bears, the Eagles would get their own. In the 54th minute, Kendall Moore would boom a left-footer just outside the box to the top corner, and record her fifth goal of the season to take the 2-1 lead. Riley Arribas would record the assist for her fifth of the season.

UNC would get another good look in the 68th minute, but would just go over the crossbar for their fourth shot of the half. On the opposite end of the field, Eastern would continue their offensive surge. A corner kick from Moore in the 70th minute would find an unmarked Dakota Harris for a header, but would fall just wide.

The 77th minute would see a crashing Riley Arribas launch a shot from outside the box, but would be just high. Later in that minute, the Bears looked to find the equalizer, but Lyric Baker would make a great tackle in the box, and force an Eastern goal kick to eliminate the threat yet again.

In the final 10 minutes, the Bears would have a couple near corner kicks, but the Eagles were able to retain possession as they were ruled goal kicks. It would be a very physical last five minutes, but the Eagles would be able to put the ball in the corner a couple of times to try and chew out the clock. In the closing minute, the Bears would get one look in the box, but it would be headed out by the Eagles and complete the 2-1 comeback victory.

Eastern was actually paced by the Bears, as both teams recorded 14 shots in the match. The Eagles would record more shots on goal (7-4), and corner kicks (5-1) in the match.The Eagles are 8-2-3 this season when recording more shots on goal, and now have 11 matches with at least 14 shots, and 13 matches with at least six shots on goal this season.

**Eagle Record Watch:**

* Gillian Martin now has 11 career goals, and is tied for 11th all-time in Eagle career goals
* Riley Arribas now has eight career assists, and is now tied for 8th all-time on the Eagle career list. This season, Arribas has recorded five assists, and is tied for the 6th most all-time for assists in a season.
* Eastern has scored 131 shots on goal this season, and has moved to fifth most in a single season.

**Inside the box score:**

* Kendall Moore recorded her fifth goal of the season. Moore has recorded at least one point in the last three matches and played a full 90 for the fourth time this season.
* Gillian Martin recorded her 11th career goal, and has recorded at least two shots in four matches this season
* Riley Arribas recorded her fifth assist of the season, and the seventh of her career. Arribas recorded one shot, and has at least one shot in eight straight matches.
* Delani Walker recorded a match and season high five shots, and two shots on goal. Walker has recorded at least two shots in 15 matches this season.
* Isabelle Herting returned to the pitch for the first time in five matches, and recorded one shot and one shot on goal off the bench.
* Becca Gaido leads the team in minutes played (1599) , playing a full 90 minutes in the last 15 matches (only has missed 13 minutes this season).
* Iris Mattern played a full 90 minutes for the 11th time this season. Mattern has played 65+ minutes in all 17 matches this season, and is second on the team with 1536 minutes played.
* Chloe Pattison
* Kamryn Willoughby

With the win, EWU has now recorded their best all-time win improvement from a previous season (+7). Eastern clinched the Big Sky conference tournament for the first time since 2019 under head coach Missy Strasburg last Sunday, and will wait to see who they play after the weekend matches.

EWU Soccer will head to Missoula, Montana for the Big Sky Championships and play Wednesday, November 6th. The time of the match is TBD, as seedings will be finalized for the championships after this weekend matches around the conference. All matches during the Big Sky Championships will be streaming on ESPN+.