

SOCCER

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a ranking system. The other three coaches, including Ontario (which won the GOL) ranked our boys high. As individual players, there were a lot of ours who garnered quite a bit of respect."

In all, six Tigers were named first team and seven received all-league accolades, with senior Aaron Corsini pulling in the distinction of league player of the year.

It's an award that may shock the average soccer fan consider-

ing Corsini had just two goals and one assist. But Wright said while scoring and assisting goals is part of what coaches look at, the others in the GOL saw Corsini as having a greater impact.

"A large part of it is also the defensive work plus the link-up play (to set up goals)," Wright said. "Aaron was a pretty good link between our defenders and our forwards. Quite a few defensive stops happened in the midfield with Aaron, and quite a few of the attacks came through Aaron."

Corsini said he felt the relation-

ship he had develops with captains from other teams may have aided him in garnering the award.

"I thought it was pretty cool (to win)," he said. "It felt good I was recognized as a good teammate."

He also agreed with his coach's assessment of him as a link-up and a defender.

"I think I'm pretty good at reading where the ball is going to go and being where I need to be so I can intercept passes, (and) I'd say I'm a good passer," he said.

The Tigers' top goal scorers were among those who gained first-team

recognition. Senior Adam Endress led La Grande with 13 goals and was second with eight assists, while sophomore Callum Ebel had 11 goals and a team-high nine assists.

"Callum and Adam really link up very well," Wright said of the duo, which often fed each other for their respective goals.

Freshman Lucas Young (one goal, three assists) was also on the first team along with junior defender Ty Rivas.

"(Lucas is) somebody who is in the right place at the right time, someone who understands defen-

sive plays and strategies," Wright said.

Senior Christian Waugaman was named a first-team goalkeeper, and junior James Thurman rounded out the award by earning second team after notching three goals and two assists.

Wright was also selected coach of the year. While La Grande did miss out on the GOL title, the Tigers did own a 1-0-1 record against league-champion Ontario.

"I was happy for him. It was really good to hear he got coach of the year," Corsini said.

GOL

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and super excited to get eight of my 11 players recognized."

Seavert, who shared the POY award with Baker's Jayme Ramos, stepped up as a vital all-around player for the Tigers. Primarily a back row player her first two seasons, Seavert became important on La Grande's attack this fall.

"She's a great volleyball player. She's a game changer for us," Becker-Bisenius said. "She makes a lot of things happen for our team."

In six GOL matches, Seavert led the team with 95 digs, was second on the team with 50 kills, and tied for second with 12 aces. Her league play was highlighted with an 18-kill, 33-dig match against Baker in the regular season home finale.

Seavert said all the Tigers "worked hard for the awards they received. They definitely earned them."

Joining her on first team was senior Claire Hardy, who led La Grande with 59 kills while playing in just four league matches while adding 17 digs. Presley Justice, who filled in for Hardy late in the season due to an injury to the senior, tallied 33 kills and 43 digs, including 29 kills

and 32 digs in the final two matches.

"I was impressed with those coaches putting Presley on first-team all-league," Becker-Bisenius said.

Setters Kenzie Williams and Jacie Howton rounded out the first-team recipients. Williams had 84 assists, 50 digs, 24 kills and 12 aces, and Howton posted 89 assists and 43 digs.

Felicity Houston made second team as a libero with 93 digs and added a team-best 16 aces. Allie Brock added 15 kills, seven aces and 22 digs, and Jaiden Hafer had 14 kills and a team-best six blocks.

Becker-Bisenius attributed the COY award to her players and assistant coaches Teresa Dowdy, Cindy Williams and Allie Godfrey, but Seavert gave her coach a lot of credit.

"Becker worked hard to earn COY. She pretty much had an entirely new team to teach and coach," Seavert said.

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WALLOWA

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other team's) center and up front dominating the line of scrimmage," the coach said, "(causing) errant snaps (and getting) penetration. He does a good job up front."

Brockamp said St. Paul has a balanced attack on offense, and in order to hold down the Buckaroos' attack, which is averaging 65 points per game, the Cougars will need to be disciplined.

"Each position has to do their job and be a disciplined defense. Hopefully (we) avoid the big plays, keep the safeties over the top, (and the) ends and linebackers own the leverage."

On offense, the Cougars will need to win the battle in the trenches and get the run-game established with the trio of Austin Brockamp, Gus Ramsden and Zeb Ramsden. Coach Brockamp said the team can still implement some play-action and run-pass option, but the Cougars haven't needed to lately because of the ground attack.

"It's going to come down to the physicality of the football game — being sound up front, being physical, winning at the line of scrimmage and then adding in the play-action off of that. I think we can actually win the line of scrimmage."

Brockamp feels it will need to be a lower-scoring affair — similar to the 22-12 contest Wallowa played against Dufur three weeks ago.

It is worth noting a year ago, St. Paul went into the 2A semifinals undefeated and as the favorite to win state before getting upset by Santiam, which had lost to the Buckaroos earlier in the season. Santiam then went on to take the title.

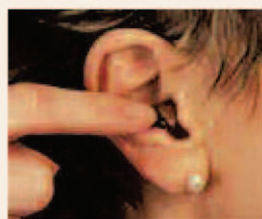
If Wallowa could pull off the same feat, it would reach the championship game for the first time since 1993.

The semifinal game kickoffs at noon Saturday in Hermiston.

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