



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File  
La Grande's Alex Rodriguez (4) pushes past Nyssa's Zach Kausler (33) and into the free-throw lane during the Tigers' 61-43 win on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021.

## OSAA

Continued from Page A7

"They can't be wearing their school uniform or refer to their school or section," said New York State Public High School Athletic Association spokesperson Chris Watson.

Pyne, whose Rams won the 2021 OSAA 6A football state championship, is no stranger to student-athletes who could profit from these types of deals. Rams junior tight end Riley Williams will likely be the top recruit

coming out of Oregon's class of 2022 and would be a top target for high school NIL sponsorships.

And he's not alone. Oregon will be sending many student-athletes to compete in NCAA competition next year, including four-star football recruits Darrius Clemons (Westview) and Trejon Williams (Jefferson, Portland).

Pyne added that moving NIL rights to the high school ranks would likely lead to it filtering down to the youth ranks, including AAU and club sports.

## 8-MAN

Continued from Page A7

football runners-up Powder Valley Badgers.

"Eight-man just feels right," he said. "I see 6-man as a good thing for schools that truly don't have the student body."

The Badgers would be bumped down to the 6-man league, which Cobb is against, although Powder Valley could potentially request to jump up to the higher division. The Badgers are coming off an 11-2 season of 8-man football. There is no current deadline for teams to opt up or down in divisions, but the deadline will be determined at the next OSAA meeting in January.

"I don't want to play

6-man," Cobb said. "We have 30 kids on the team. There's not a participation issue."

OSAA emphasized in the proposal that participation in football was a key issue. The proposal noted that a transition to 9-man would allow easier scheduling between 9-man and 11-man non-league opponents, while the junior varsity levels could likely avoid cancellations if the roster size is smaller.

"The decreases in average team size over the last 10 years have been significant," the statement read.

The preference of keeping 8-man football was also expressed by Elgin head coach Kirt McClure. The Huskies are slated in the 9-man divi-

sion, which could be a challenge for an Elgin team that had only 11 players on the roster. Even so, the Huskies went 4-4 in the regular season and earned a spot in the playoffs.

"I'm not really for it. It doesn't make sense to me," McClure said.

McClure expressed a similar sentiment as Cobb in that 8-man football has seen a bump in popularity in recent years. According to Cobb, many of the other 1A coaches he spoke with objected to the proposals. The 1A championship showdown between Powder Valley and Adrian on Nov. 27 drew a packed stadium at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium in Baker.

"Eight-man is growing, especially in our area," McClure said.

The proposals are still in the works but could be a looming issue for local coaches and supporters of 8-man football. The next OSAA Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee meeting is set for 9 a.m. on Jan. 5, 2022, at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. The meeting's purpose is to gather public input on the proposed changes to 2A and 1A football.

"High school sports are all about opportunities for young adults. Six-man football takes two to three kids off the field per team — just don't see how that is beneficial," Cobb said. "Creating opportunities for kids to compete, promoting the desire to improve as a team and individually is the concept of high school sports."

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

[www.LaGrandeObserver.com](http://www.LaGrandeObserver.com)

**dish** BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. (where available)

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE | \$69.99/mo. | America's Top 120 Package | 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card | Promo Code: DISH100 | 1-866-373-9175 | Offer ends 4/13/22

All offers require credit qualification. 24-month commitment with early termination fee and 4th Party. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Careers that make a difference  
Work with people with disabilities!

[www.ImpactOregon.careers](http://www.ImpactOregon.careers)

impact

## ON THE SLATE

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

**PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Wallowa vs. Condon, Echo High School, 2:30 p.m.  
Joseph at Lone/Arlington, 3:30 p.m.  
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.  
**2021 Baker Holiday Basketball X-Over, Baker High School**  
Union vs. Adrian, 12:30 p.m.  
Powder Valley vs. Burns 8 p.m.

**PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
La Grande vs. Henley, Sisters Holiday Shootout, Sisters High School, 3 p.m.  
Wallowa vs. Condon, Echo High School, 1 p.m.  
Joseph at Lone/Arlington, 2 p.m.  
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.  
**2021 Baker Holiday Basketball X-Over, Baker High School**  
Union vs. Adrian, 2 p.m.  
Powder Valley vs. Burns, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29

**PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Joseph at North Lake/Paisley, 2:30 p.m.  
**PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Joseph at North Lake/Paisley, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

**PREP BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Joseph at Dufur, 1:30 p.m.  
Sherman at Wallowa, 4 p.m.  
Stanfield at Enterprise, 4:30 p.m.  
Four Rivers at Cove, 5 p.m.  
Union at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.

**PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Joseph at Dufur, noon  
Sherman at Wallowa, 2:30 p.m.  
Stanfield at Enterprise, 3 p.m.  
Four Rivers at Cove, 3:30 p.m.  
Union at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

**COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Eastern Oregon at Corban, 7:30 p.m.  
**COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Eastern Oregon at Corban, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1

**COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Eastern Oregon at Bushnell, 5 p.m.  
**COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Eastern Oregon at Bushnell, 3 p.m.

# WANTED

Miracle-Ear Hearing Centers are looking for qualified people to test their latest product, **The Miracle-Ear Ready-Fit RISK FREE!**

Here's the catch: You must have difficulty hearing and understanding in background noise and your hearing must fall in the range of the hearing aid. People that are selected will evaluate Miracle-Ear's latest advanced digital hearing solution — the Miracle-Ear Ready-Fit. You will be able to walk in to our office and walk out knowing how much help there is for you. Candidates will be asked to evaluate our instruments for 30 days (risk free\*). At the end of the 30 days, if you are satisfied with the improvement in your hearing and wish to keep the instrument, you may do so at tremendous savings. But this is only for a limited time! Schedule your Appointment Now! Don't wait until it's too late!

**SOME FEDERAL WORKERS AND RETIREES MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR HEARING AIDS AT NO COST!**

**That's Right...No Co-Pay! No Exam Fee! No Adjustment Fee!**

BCBS federal insurance pays the total cost of 2 Miracle-Ear Audiotone Pro aids. Most federal government employees and retirees are eligible. You may even be covered if you have other non-federal insurance coverage. Special factory pricing is available for non-qualifiers. See store for details & accurate coverage.



Save on one of our smallest custom digital hearing aids!

**Now Buy One Get One Free!**

Miracle-Ear

HURRY! OFFER ENDS 12/31/2021

Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only. Limit one coupon per purchase. May not be combined with other offers and does not apply to prior sales. Cash value 1/20 cent. Cannot combine with any other offers.

Another Great Way to Save  
Make your appointment today!

**BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF**

Save on our full line of digital hearing solutions. Don't miss out on this amazing offer.

HURRY! OFFER ENDS 12/31/2021

Good only from participating Miracle-Ear representatives. One coupon per purchase. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apply to prior sales. Offer valid on ME-5, ME-4, ME-3, ME-2 Solutions. Cannot combine with any other offers. Cash value 1/20 cent.

**LIMITED TIME ONLY!! OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>!**

At select **Miracle-Ear** locations only!

**LA GRANDE**  
111 Elm Street  
La Grande, OR 97850  
541-605-2109

**BAKER CITY**  
2021 Washington Ave.  
Baker City, OR 97814  
541-239-3782

**ENTERPRISE**  
113-1/2 Front E. Main St.  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-239-3877

visit us online at: [www.miracle-ear.com](http://www.miracle-ear.com)

**Mention Code: 21DecWANTED**

Risk Free Offer- The aids must be returned within 30 days of delivery pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement and 100% of the purchase price will be refunded. \*\*Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. These are not medical exams or diagnoses. Blue Cross Shield, the Blue Cross, the Blue Shield, BCBS, and Federal Employee Program are a registered trademark of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its independent licensees are not affiliated with, nor do they endorse or sponsor, the contents of this advertisement. Trademarks referring to specific providers are used by Miracle ear for nominative purposes only, to truthfully identify the source of the services about which information is provided. Such trademarks are solely the property of their respective owners.

**eomedia** group  
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.  
[eomediagroup.com](http://eomediagroup.com)