

LEAGUES

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Big changes potentially on tap for area football teams

The Wallowa football team could potentially join Joseph at the six-man ranks next year, while Enterprise may move into a new nine-man division.

Those are some of the early returns from the OSAA's Football Ad Hoc Committee, which met Monday, Dec. 20 to begin the discussions of what the football districts will look like beginning next year.

With the OSAA reclassification completed, the next step for the state's high school athletic governing body is to determine the football districts, which often have a very different look given the numbers — and successes — of many football programs. A lot of schools don't generate enough players to be competitive at their designated classifications and end up playing down to a level more suitable for them.

The Ad Hoc Committee, in its December meeting, discussed the possibility of realigning 2A and 1A — which currently is 11-man football for 2A and both eight- and six-man for 1A. The OSAA would keep three options for the two classifications, but is considering dropping 11-man at the ranks altogether. Instead, there would be two divisions for nine-man football — a large-school and small-school division (aptly named Division 1 and Division 2) and a six-man division for those smallest 1A schools.

There would be no change for Joseph, which has been playing six-man football since the OSAA added it to the equation



Ronald Bond/Wallowa County Chieftain, File

The Joseph volleyball team shares a laugh after a point in a match this season. Changes to OSAA districts will include 2A schools Union and Pilot Rock joining Joseph and Wallowa in the Old Oregon League beginning next season.

four years ago.

For Wallowa, a drop to six-man would be a move away from the ranks it has known for more than two decades, and where it reached the state semifinals just three years ago.

Enterprise would move into the lower third of the large-school Division 1 tier — schools which have an average daily membership of ninth-11th-graders of 77-145. The division has schools most recently played 11-man at the 2A level or eight-man at the 1A ranks, which is where Enterprise has been since 2018.

OSAA, in explaining the thought behind nine-man football, said there has been a drop in teams playing eight-man football, with many electing to play six-man. Indeed, in 2018, the first

year six-man football was offered since the late 1950s, there were 15 six-man teams and 40 eight-man squads. In 2021, the number of six-man squads grew to 22 (and increased on the west side of the state from six to 14) while the number of eight-man teams fell to 28.

OSAA also said there is an increase in support for nine-man football, and noted that it allows more flexibility for a school when trying to schedule out-of-classification opponents.

“Currently 11-player and eight-player schools are reluctant to schedule each other because of the differences in game types,” OSAA wrote in its update from the Dec. 20 meeting. “Transitioning from 11 to nine and nine to 11-player has become common

amongst all classifications. Bridging this gap will allow varsity teams to match up with a similar opponent in non-league play regardless of division or game type.”

OSAA went on to say that nine-man already has been quite popular at the “sub-varsity” level in Oregon for roughly a decade, noting that “in many ways the nine-player game already has developed a sub-culture of competition with Oregon.”

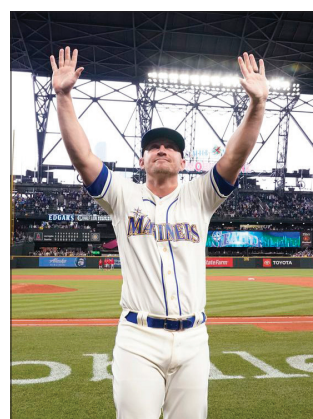
The OSAA is seeking feedback as it continues to discuss the prospect of nine-man football, and as it decides what districts throughout the state will look like when it comes to the gridiron. Suggestions and proposals can be sent to assistant executive director Brad Garrett at bradg@osaa.org.

SEAGER

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Selected in third round of the 2009 draft out of the University of North Carolina and projected to be a utility/bench player, Seager made his MLB debut on July 7, 2011. He took control of the third base job in 2012 and became an All-Star and Gold Glove winner in 2014. He signed a 7-year, \$100 million extension before the 2014 season.

In 10-1/2 big league seasons with the Mariners, Seager played in 1,480 games and posting a .251/.321/.442 slash line with 309 doubles, 14 triples, 242 homers and 807



Elaine Thompson/The Associated Press, File

Seattle third baseman Kyle Seager waves to fans after a game against the Los Angeles Angels Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Seattle.

RBI. He had nine seasons of at least 20 homers, tying Ken Griffey Jr. for the most in franchise history.

LOCAL STANDINGS

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Oregon Tech	5-0	8-5
LC State	4-1	11-2
College of Idaho	4-1	10-3
Multnomah	4-1	8-4
Warner Pacific	4-1	8-5
Northwest	2-3	5-5
Southern Oregon	2-3	5-8
Bushnell	2-3	4-8
Eastern Oregon	1-4	7-6
Corban	1-4	6-7
Evergreen	1-4	1-8
Walla Walla	0-5	1-11

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CASCADE COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Southern Oregon	5-0	12-1
LC State	4-1	10-1
Northwest	4-1	10-2
Warner Pacific	4-1	6-4
Eastern Oregon	4-1	7-6
Bushnell	3-2	6-7
College of Idaho	2-3	8-5
Multnomah	2-3	2-10
Oregon Tech	1-4	8-4
Evergreen	1-4	2-6
Walla Walla	0-5	1-11
Corban	0-5	1-11

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Baker	0-0	6-3
La Grande	0-0	5-1
McLoughlin	0-0	1-5
Ontario	0-0	0-5

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	0-0	7-2

Union	0-0	6-5
Weston-McEwen	0-0	5-4
Stanfield	0-0	4-6
Pilot Rock	0-0	3-8
Grant Union	0-0	1-7
Enterprise	0-0	1-8

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Powder Valley	0-0	8-1
Nixyaawii	0-0	6-2
Pine Eagle	0-0	3-4
Cove	0-0	2-5
Joseph	0-0	2-6
Wallowa	0-0	2-7
Imbler	0-0	2-8
Griswold	0-0	1-8
Elgin	0-0	0-5

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Baker	0-0	6-2
McLoughlin	0-0	4-3
La Grande	0-0	3-3
Ontario	0-0	0-6

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Union	0-0	9-2
Stanfield	0-0	9-2
Weston-McEwen	0-0	6-5
Enterprise	0-0	5-5
Heppner	0-0	4-4
Grant Union	0-0	3-5
Pilot Rock	0-0	3-8

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Nixyaawii	0-0	7-2
Wallowa	0-0	5-4
Joseph	0-0	3-5
Griswold	0-0	3-5
Powder Valley	0-0	3-6
Elgin	0-0	3-7
Imbler	0-0	2-8
Pine Eagle	0-0	1-6
Cove	0-0	1-6

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