

STANDINGS

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

| Team | League | Overall |
|------------------|--------|---------|
| Oregon Tech | 12-1 | 15-6 |
| College of Idaho | 12-2 | 18-4 |
| Corban | 9-5 | 14-8 |
| LC State | 8-5 | 15-6 |
| Southern Oregon | 8-5 | 11-10 |
| Eastern Oregon | 7-7 | 13-9 |
| Northwest | 6-7 | 9-9 |
| Warner Pacific | 6-8 | 10-12 |
| Bushnell | 5-9 | 7-14 |
| Multnomah | 4-10 | 8-14 |
| Evergreen | 3-10 | 3-14 |
| Walla Walla | 1-12 | 2-18 |

| | | |
|---------------|-----|------|
| Weston-McEwen | 2-3 | 8-7 |
| Grant Union | 2-5 | 3-13 |
| Pilot Rock | 1-4 | 4-12 |
| Enterprise | 0-6 | 2-14 |

1A Old Oregon League

| Team | League | Overall |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| Nixyaawii | 4-1 | 13-4 |
| Cove | 4-2 | 6-7 |
| Powder Valley | 3-0 | 13-1 |
| Joseph | 2-1 | 4-7 |
| Pine Eagle | 2-2 | 5-7 |
| Imbler | 2-2 | 4-11 |
| Wallowa | 2-3 | 4-11 |
| Griswold | 0-3 | 1-12 |
| Elgin | 0-5 | 0-10 |

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cascade Collegiate Conference

| Team | League | Overall |
|------------------|--------|---------|
| Eastern Oregon | 12-2 | 15-7 |
| LC State | 10-3 | 16-3 |
| Southern Oregon | 10-3 | 17-4 |
| Bushnell | 10-4 | 13-9 |
| Oregon Tech | 8-5 | 15-5 |
| College of Idaho | 7-7 | 13-9 |
| Warner Pacific | 7-7 | 9-10 |
| Northwest | 6-7 | 12-8 |
| Evergreen | 4-9 | 5-11 |
| Multnomah | 4-10 | 4-17 |
| Corban | 3-11 | 4-17 |
| Walla Walla | 0-13 | 1-19 |

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

4A Greater Oregon League

| Team | League | Overall |
|------------|--------|---------|
| Baker | 2-0 | 12-4 |
| La Grande | 2-0 | 9-6 |
| McLoughlin | 1-2 | 6-6 |
| Ontario | 0-3 | 0-11 |

2A Blue Mountain Conference

| Team | League | Overall |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| Stanfield | 5-1 | 15-3 |
| Union | 5-1 | 14-3 |
| Enterprise | 4-1 | 9-7 |
| Grant Union | 4-3 | 7-9 |
| Weston-McEwen | 1-4 | 8-9 |
| Heppner | 1-4 | 6-9 |
| Pilot Rock | 0-5 | 4-13 |

1A Old Oregon League

| Team | League | Overall |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| Nixyaawii | 5-0 | 13-3 |
| Joseph | 3-1 | 6-6 |
| Powder Valley | 3-1 | 6-8 |
| Wallowa | 3-2 | 9-6 |
| Imbler | 3-2 | 5-11 |
| Elgin | 2-4 | 5-11 |
| Griswold | 1-2 | 5-8 |
| Cove | 1-5 | 2-11 |
| Pine Eagle | 0-4 | 1-11 |



The Observer, File

Grace Neer (22) drives for a layup against Umatilla at La Grande High School on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021. La Grande bested Umatilla 52-28.

NEER

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a La Grande softball team this spring that is coming off a strong run in the 4A playoffs. In the spring of 2021, Neer batted .543 across 39 plate appearances — she totaled 20 RBIs and 21 runs for the Tigers, while drawing four walks. On the mound, Neer pitched 23.1 innings and accumulated a perfect 5-0 record on six appearances. She posted a .900 ERA, struck out 40 batters and allowed just three earned runs on the year.

The Tigers went 10-0 in the regular season before

being defeated in the second round by Henley. “I’m really hoping we’ll get further at state this year. That’s really what’s going to push me,” she said. “That’s going to push me to do what I can to get everyone else on the team to that level.”

Neer is also hoping to help younger players at La Grande see their potential, just like upperclassmen did for her when. As a part of the 2019 La Grande softball team that won a 4A state championship, Neer still credits playing alongside players like Allie Brock and Jayce Seavert for motivating her to excel. “They broadened my

eyes on the potential of La Grande athletes,” Neer said. “Those two years were really exciting, getting to win a state championship. It pushed me a lot to reach my goals and want to play college softball.”

Neer noted that the goal in her final season is to win the Greater Oregon League and make it far in the state playoffs. Before she begins her college career with the Yotes, Neer will be a crucial piece for the Tigers on the mound and in the field.

“We want to just make an impact this year and keep making a name for La Grande,” Neer said.

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page A9

committee, as it was looking at implementing the setup for larger 1A schools and all 2A schools, a move that would have, in effect, nixed eight-man football altogether.

But a survey of 1A schools found they overwhelmingly supported sticking with eight-man as opposed to nine-man. In the Jan. 5 meeting of the ad hoc committee, it appeared that nine-man talk had been shelved altogether.

Instead, the committee cited support among 2A schools of adjusting to nine-man in its reasoning for bringing it back to the table.

“The group reviewed correspondence and testimony from members of the 2A classifica-

tion indicating that a majority of schools surveyed supported moving to the 9-player game for the next time block,” the committee wrote in its update.

A regional effect

The change, if implemented, would have an impact in the region. The Blue Mountain Conference, as it is set to stand in the fall, includes Enterprise, Grant Union, Irrigon, Heppner, Riverside, Stanfield, Umatilla and Weston-McEwen. Enterprise, though, has been an eight-man team the last four years, and still has the option to play down. EHS head coach Rusty Eschler said the school likely will wait on a decision until a final plan is set by the OSAA.

At the nine-man level, there would be flexibility for schools to play some 11-man contests

— Grant said Heppner already is slated to play Warrenton and Kennedy this fall, and that those will be 11-man games — or, if needed, drop a player off to play an eight-man team.

“I fully believe there are going to be some nine-man schools that are going to play some neighboring eight-man schools,” Grant said, noting for example that Columbia Basin schools who are at nine-man could, in theory, play eight-man schools in the Grande Ronde Valley. “They are appropriate regional matchups.”

And while there may be some pushback, Grant said the move will hopefully help the sport throughout the state in the long run.

“The idea is not about our school and about our classification, it’s about what can we do to improve the number of kids

playing,” he said. “Here we go. We’re going to give it a shot, and I’m going to explain to people in my football crazy town that we’re going to put two fewer kids on the field. I’m not crazy about it, but I know it’s for the greater good.”

Six-man title supported

Additionally, the committee said it is fully supporting making six-man football a sanctioned sport that could play for an official OSAA title, an option that was not in place during the pilot program for six-man. That would allow Joseph, which played in the first two de-facto title games and won one, to again be able to compete for a championship.

The committee also made a decision to change its stance on playoff eligibility for teams that do play down. The committee elected to drop its position from

the prior meeting and allow teams playing down eligibility for the postseason.

“Ultimately the group shifted their stance in this area to recommend that schools meeting the criteria and choosing to play down would be eligible for OSAA playoffs, but that these schools would be reviewed on an annual basis by the Football Ad Hoc Committee,” the update from the OSAA said.

The committee is also considering adding a week to the beginning of the season or to the end, making the season 10 weeks for nine games to be played. It says the consideration would help with odd-numbered leagues, help officials whose ranks are stretched thin and help with transportation issues, among others.

The next ad hoc committee meeting is slated for Wednesday, Feb. 2.

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