

SHRINE

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Dixon was a key piece in a state title push by the Badgers this year, which came up just one score short in a narrow loss to Adrian. Powder Valley concluded the year 11-2 overall and finished the year ranked No. 2 in the 1A rankings.

“Reece had a tremendous year on both sides of the ball,” Powder Valley head coach Josh Cobb said. “He just makes things happen when he has the ball in his hands.”

Dixon is one of just two 1A players on the east roster, joining Adrian quarterback Conley Martin. Dixon and Martin squared off in the 1A state championship, with the Antelopes coming out on top 46-38 in a thrilling matchup.

“After playing in the state championship and coming up just short, it’s a nice chance to play one more time,” Dixon said.

Cobb and Dixon both noted that representatives from 1A schools earning spots on the Shrine game teams is a positive sign for small-school football. Dixon and Martin are two of nine athletes participating on both teams, as players and alternates.

“It says a lot about 1A football,” Cobb said. “Conley (Martin) and Reece have been battling for years, so it’s pretty cool to see them play on the same team. They are true competitors on and off the field.”

“I think it shows a lot about 1A football and that we can play against the bigger schools,” Dixon said.

MacMillan, a running back, was a key piece of both La Grande’s offensive and defensive efforts, helping the Tigers finish the year 7-2 overall. La Grande’s season came to a conclusion in the



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Powder Valley’s Reece Dixon (7) drops back for a pass during the second quarter of the Class 1A state semifinal game against St. Paul at Caldera High School in Bend on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021. Dixon was one of 11 first-team all-league nominations on Powder Valley’s roster.

SHRINE GAME ROSTER

East Roster

Coaches — Erik Davis, Pendleton; Steve Stebbins, South Umpqua; Kenzie Hansell, Weston-McEwen.

Team — Reece Dixon, Powder Valley; Conley Martin, Adrian; Gunner Yates, Coquille; Brock Hisler, Heppner; Gavin Patterson, Lakeview; Justin Hodge, Grant Union; Carter Burnette, Stanfield; Cooper Lang, Bandon; Theo White, Weston-McEwen; Tanner Steele, Vale; Thomas Mentis, Southerlin; Austin Waits, Cascade Christian; Camp Lacouture, Siuslaw; Teagan De Forest, La Pine; Stephen Machin, La Pine; Jackson Risinger, Santiam Christian; Kade Johnson, South Umpqua; Cole Jorgensen, La Grande; Jazeon Hammick, Gladstone; Gauge Bloomer, Baker; Tulson Higgins, Henley; Jake Behrman, Estacada; Nate Tramp, Mazama; Joey Comyford, North Valley; Trenton Hughes, Hood River Valley; Caden Lasater, Crater; Gabe Robles, Redmond; Gabe Browning, Pendleton; Brycen Thomas, Churchill; Ryan Asplund, Ridgeview.

4A state quarterfinals. MacMillan’s bruising rushing style earned him Greater Oregon League offensive player of the year honors, as well as taking home a first-team district defensive selection at linebacker. The senior also earned second-team all-state offensive honors and an honorable mention defensive selection.

“It was really cool to get recognized,” MacMillan said.

In 1952, a group of Shriners in Union and Umatilla counties formed the East-West game to recognize high school football players.

The contest was held in Pendleton at Round-Up Arena from 1952 through 1972, before moving to Baker City. The funds raised for the game go toward the Portland Shriners Hospital for Children.

This year’s game is set for Saturday, Aug. 6, at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium. The East holds a 34-31-3 advantage in the series and was victorious in last year’s matchup, running away with a 34-6 decision.

“To cap off a high school career playing in the Shrine Game is quite an honor,” Cobb said.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Makenna Shorts (1) leaps toward the basket to score for La Grande at La Grande High School on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021. La Grande bested Umatilla 52-28. At the end of the season, Shorts earned a selection to the Greater Oregon League first team alongside teammate Grace Neer.

STANDOUTS

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Shorts and senior Grace Neer both earned selections on the first team. Shorts tallied 175 points, 160 rebounds, 49 steals and 56 assists on the season. Neer recorded 146 points, 107 rebounds, 18 steals and 18 assists.

In her first high school season, freshman Kayle Collman earned a spot on the second team.

The Tigers finished the season 13-10 overall and 4-2 in league play. La Grande defeated Valley Catholic 58-35 in the 4A state play-in matchup to earn a spot in the first round of the state playoffs. The Tigers ultimately fell 58-48 to Cascade in the first round of the playoffs.



Alex Wittwer/EO Media Group, File

Devin Bell (5) dribbles down the court during the OSAA 4A State Championship playoff match between Banks and La Grande at La Grande High School on Friday, March 4, 2022. The La Grande Tigers fell to the Banks Braves 58-55 in the final seconds as the Braves sank a 3-point buzzer-beater. Bell, a senior, earned Greater Oregon League player of the year at the conclusion of the season.

GREATER OREGON LEAGUE BOYS TEAMS

Player of the year: Devin Bell, La Grande
Coach of the year: Mark Carollo, La Grande

1st team:

Isaiah Jones, Baker
Paul Hobson, Baker
Hudson Spike, Baker
Brady Hutchins, La Grande
Sam Tsiatsos, La Grande

2nd team:

Jaron Long, Baker
Jaxon Logsdon, Baker
Logan Williams, La Grande
Jace Schow, La Grande
Tyce Helmick, Ontario

GREATER OREGON LEAGUE GIRLS TEAM

Player of the year: Jozie Ramos, Baker
Coach of the year: Jason Ramos, Baker

1st team:

Rylee Elms, Baker
Macey Moore, Baker
Makenna Shorts, La Grande
Emma Leber, McLoughlin
Grace Neer, La Grande

2nd team:

Darby Rhoads, McLoughlin
Madi Perkins, McLoughlin
Brooklyn Jaca, Baker
Kayle Collman, La Grande
Kira Evans, Ontario

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