

ON THE SLATE

April 23 results

COLLEGE BASEBALL

College of Idaho 13, Eastern Oregon 8
College of Idaho 8, Eastern Oregon 5

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon 4, Oregon Tech 3
Eastern Oregon 3, Oregon Tech 2

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande 5, Philomath 0
Union/Cove 7, Sherman/Arlington/
Condon 2
Sherman/Arlington/Condon 9, Union/
Cove 6

April 24 results

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Eastern Oregon 12, College of Idaho 5
Eastern Oregon 8, College of Idaho 5

Tuesday, April 26

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande at College Place, 3:30 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at Echo/
Stanfield (2), 2 p.m.

PREP TENNIS

Baker/Powder Valley at La Grande, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Cove at Pendleton Small Meet Invite,
2 p.m.

Thursday, April 28

PREP TENNIS

La Grande vs. Four Rivers, Treasure Valley
Community College, 2 p.m.

Friday, April 29

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon at Carroll College (2),
1 p.m.

PREP BASEBALL

La Grande at Ontario (2), 2 p.m.
Riverside at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa
(2), 1 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

La Grande at Ontario (2), 2 p.m.
Union/Cove at Grant Union/Prairie City
(2), 2 p.m.
Elgin/Imbler at Weston-McEwen (2),
2 p.m.
Riverside at Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa
(2), 1 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Elgin, Imbler at Don Walker Invite, 2 p.m.
Enterprise at Nike/Jesuit Twilight Relays,
Portland, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 30

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Corban at Eastern Oregon (2), noon

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Eastern Oregon at Carroll College (2),
10 a.m.

PREP BASEBALL

Union/Cove at Grant Union/Prairie City
(2), 11 a.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

La Grande at Legends Invite, Walla Walla,
Washington, 10:30 a.m.
Cove, Elgin, Imbler, La Grande, Union,
Enterprise, Joseph at Union Relays,
11 a.m.
Powder Valley at Saint Alphonsus
Invitational, noon



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin, File

Powder Valley's Cole Martin (17) runs into the end zone to score during the third quarter of the Class 1A state semifinal game against St. Paul at Caldera High School in Bend on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021.

Final proposal

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

WILSONVILLE — The final recommendation of the Oregon School Activities Association football ad hoc committee has been made — and little, if anything, has been changed from previous proposals.

The committee met Thursday, April 14, and released its final recommendation April 20. The OSAA executive board will vote on the proposal May 2.

The final proposal includes support for 1A six-man football — which has been a pilot program for the last four years — being able to play for an official OSAA state championship. Six-man, under the recommendation, will have an eight-team bracket, consisting of three teams from the nine-team Special District 1, and five teams from Special District 2, which has 14 teams in it.

Joseph Charter School has been among the most dominant during the six-man pilot, having won a de facto championship the first season and playing for a title in the second year. It, along with Echo, Huntington, Pine Eagle and Prairie City/Burnt River, are the six-man schools based in the northeastern corner of the state.

If the proposal is approved, eight-man football will also see changes at the playoffs, as the 26 schools slated to play at the larger 1A level will be placed into a 12-team bracket, a change from the 16-team format the schools have had for decades.

Four teams will automatically qualify from both SD1 and SD2, with four additional at-large slots being filled based on OSAA rankings.

Special District 2 has a large local flavor, as nine of the 14

If approved by OSAA executive board in May, high school football changes will go into effect this fall

schools — Cove, Elgin, Enterprise, Imbler, Lone/Arlington, Pilot Rock, Powder Valley, Union and Wallowa — are based in either Union, Wallowa, Umatilla or Morrow counties.

League shake-up

The alignment of the rest of the leagues in Northeastern Oregon will be vastly different as well. The 4A Greater Oregon League is on tap to having more than four teams — not counting the season that featured a 4A/3A hybrid — for the first time since 2005, the year before the state reclassification from four to six classes. The league is slated to include longtime affiliates La Grande and Baker, and will be joined by Pendleton, Crook County, Madras and The Dalles.

The six-team league will have three state playoff berths into the 16-team bracket.

The 3A Eastern Oregon League will feature five schools — McLoughlin, Nyssa, Vale, Burns and Ontario. Only two of those schools will be guaranteed berths to the 3A state playoffs.

The revamped 2A Blue Mountain Conference will include Grant Union, Heppner, Irrigon, Riverside, Stanfield, Umatilla and Weston-McEwen. The seven schools will battle for three playoff berths.

1A8-Special District 2, in addition to the nine aforementioned schools includes Adrian, Crane, Dufur, Lyle/Wishram/Klickitat and Sherman/Condon.

And 1A6-SD1 has Dayville/Monument, Harper, Wheeler County and South Wasco County, in addition to the above-named schools.

The committee has completely done away with an idea it floated of banning schools who play down a classification from the postseason, according to a report from The Oregonian. Regionally, that keeps Enterprise, Riverside and Umatilla, as schools playing down, eligible for the postseason.

The proposal, if approved by the board, will go into effect this fall for the 2022-26 time block.

SPORTS SHORT

State championship committee supports change in venues for wrestling

By NIK STRENG
The Oregonian

WILSONVILLE — The Oregon School Activities Association's state championship committee on Monday, April 18, made some changes to the wrestling's state championships.

The OSAA has held every classification's wrestling state championship simultaneously in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum since 2007. But due to an increase in numbers for wrestling, brought on by the implementation of girls wrestling in the 2018-19 school year, the OSAA is having to move the smaller schools to a different venue.

The state tournaments for the 6A and 5A classifications will remain

at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, but the 4A, 3A and 2A/1A tournaments would be moved to a different, to be determined, location.

The state championship committee also, again, supported splitting girls wrestling into two classifications: a 6A/5A classification and a 4A/3A/2A/1A classification. The girls state tournaments will run at the same location as the boys in the same classification.

Earlier in the 2021-22 school year, the state championship committee had said that it does not want to make too many changes coming out of the COVID-affected seasons. Many other state championships, like basketball and soccer are largely unchanged.



Kenna Collins/Contributed Photo, File

La Grande's Joshua Collins, left, throws Stayton's Eli Howard in the finals of the 138-pound weight class at the OSAA Class 4A state wrestling championship on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Cascade High School in Turner.

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