

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS

Fall is for Football Tribal Member is Part of the Siletz to Newport "Connection"

by Brent Merrill

Most young athletes who are good enough at what they do to have earned a nickname get stuck with a reference to their youth – like kid or boy. Tribal youth Tristan Metcalf has gone beyond that – his nickname is T-man. Spend time with him and you will hear it – "T-man. T-man."

Young boys shout his name on the sidelines at Newport High School's football field. "Go T-man, go."

Young girls say it when he goes to lunch. "Hi T-man."

His Uncle Ozzie shouts it as he plays like a man among boys. "Go T."

Even the Tribal chairman refers to him by his nickname.

"We are very proud of Tristan (T-Man) for his accomplishments," said Delores Pigsley when asked about Tristan. "He has excelled in high school sports and no doubt he will be successful as he furthers his education."

Despite the fact that Tristan, a junior who is almost 6 feet tall and weighs 185 pounds, is a terrific three-sport high school athlete, it is his kindness that makes him a standout among his peers and his family.

"It is easy to tell you about Tristan," said Newport High School Football Coach Kurt Hargett. "He is a very nice young man. It is a pleasure to be around such a nice, polite young man. The Siletz connection has been very good for us."

Coach Hargett praises not only Metcalf for his accomplishments this season, but also fellow Tribal members Zak Bremner and Casee Case, who are a big part of the Newport program as well.

Bremner, a junior, starts at middle linebacker for the Cubs and Case, just a sophomore, starts on both offense and defense. Metcalf starts at running back and defensive back.

Hargett said Tristan has been getting interest from big-time football programs like the University of Oregon,



The Man – Siletz Tribal member Tristan Metcalf is a standout three-sport athlete at Newport High School. Metcalf is pictured here in a game against Siuslaw on Friday, Sept. 19 in Newport. Metcalf had 139 yards rushing on 10 carries, including an 85 yard touchdown run, all in the first half. Metcalf scored the first touchdown of the game on an 18 yard run.

Stanford University, the University of California and Northwestern.

"He is such a great kid," said Ozzie Turner (Tristan's uncle). "He is kind and respectful and he has the respect of his peers. I just can't say enough good things about him."

"I am very proud of Tristan," said Jenifer Metcalf (Tristan's mom). "He has the ability to be so gracious in everything he does. I learn so much from T."

Mom said Tristan got his nickname early in life.

"When he was born, his gramps called him T-man," said Jenifer. "It was funny because my dad could not re-

member his name for the life of him, so he called him T-man. My mom said the nickname would pass after a couple of weeks. Well, he is still called T-Man."

Jenifer said Tristan got a baseball tee, a basketball hoop and a football when he was 2. She said he had trouble hitting the baseball off the tee. So, she said his uncles and gramps pitched the ball to him. They soon discovered they had a natural on their hands when he started lifting his leg to step into the pitch and hit it.

"It was pretty amazing," said Jenifer. "He would continually play some type of sport."

Jenifer said Tristan got into feather dancing with his Aunt Laura (Bremner) at the age of 5. Jenifer said she gets great pride from watching Tristan and his sister, Keisha, perform feather dances.

"It was so awesome. Those two glided across the floor with the fire just right and danced. They were flawless. Throughout the years, I have watched this boy dance and he does it with grace and pride. He has become a beautiful man."

"My culture is really important to me and I really enjoy feather dancing," said Tristan over lunch. "My coach is really supportive of my involvement with the Tribe."

When you watch this young man play, his efforts seem smooth and natural. Whatever sport he tries, he seems to have a knack for it.

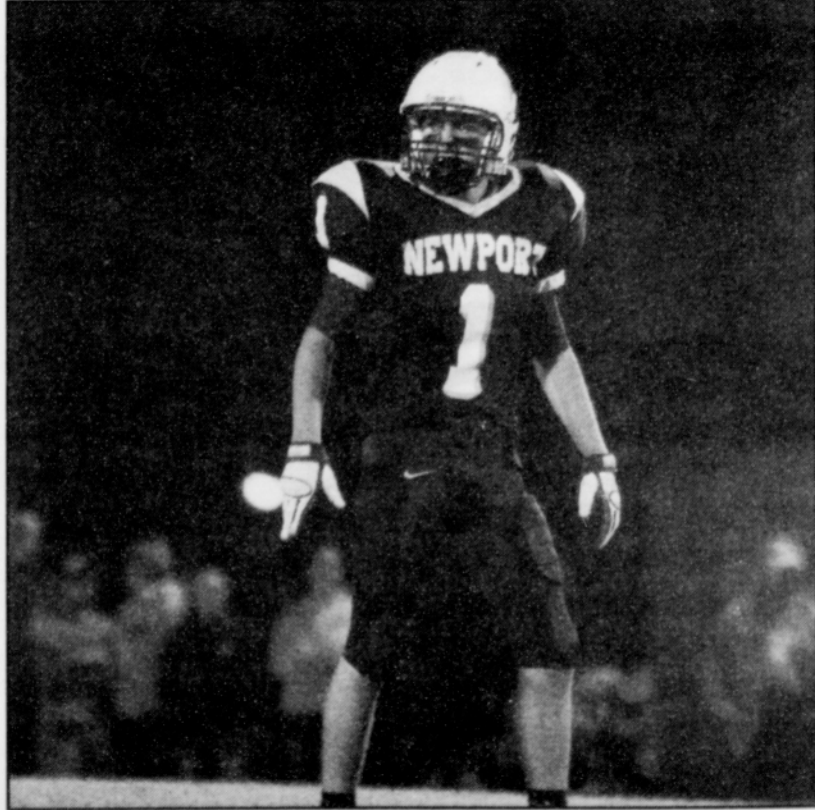
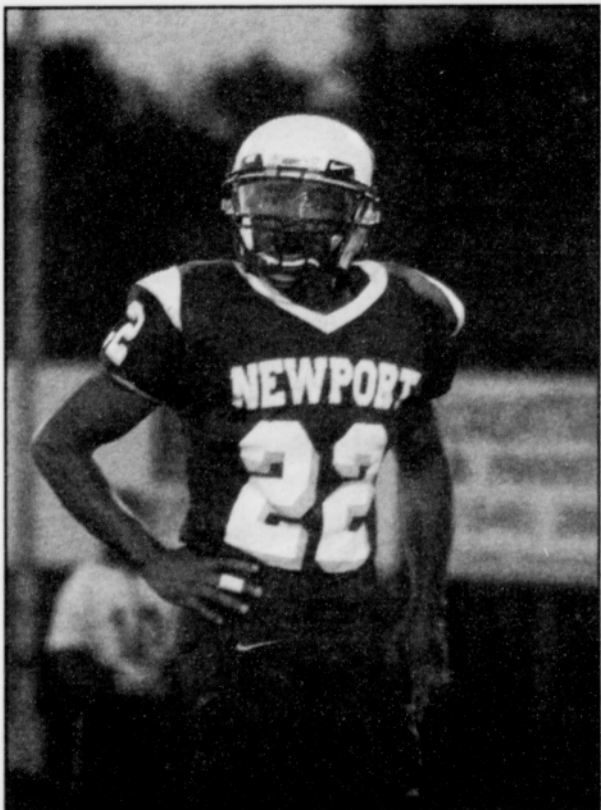
He transitions from Tribal basketball clinic to high school baseball player with ease. He had the game-winning hit for the Newport Cubs State 4A Championship baseball team this summer, but if you didn't already know that about him it would be tough to figure out because he wouldn't be the one to tell you.

"He plays with heart," said Jenifer, admitting bias in thinking that her son is exceptional. "He is remarkable, authentic, unique and very sincere. His spirit is phenomenal."

Jenifer tells a story of being at one of Tristan's football games in Philomath. She said he scored on an exceptional touchdown run and a dad in front of her turned and asked if that was her son. When she said yes, he looked at her and said, "He is a freak of nature."

Maybe he is a freak of nature. Maybe he is an exception to the rule. Maybe he is one of those "once in a generation" athletes. Maybe he is just a good kid, from a loving family. Maybe he is a role model – for us all.

"The Siletz connection has been very good for us." Kurt Hargett, Newport HS Football Coach



Tribal members Tristan Metcalf (far left), Casee Case (middle) and Zak Bremner (right) all play football for Newport High School.

Photos by
Brent Merrill

