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OSAA weighing their options for the fall

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

After Gov. Kate Brown announced on April 8 that in-person classes would be cancelled for the remainder of the school year due to the coronavirus, the OSAA elected to officially cancel the spring sports season.

Now it's looking like the fall sports season could be in jeopardy as well.

On Thursday, May 7, Brown stated in a press conference that all large gatherings would not be allowed until at least October, meaning that major sporting events, like college football, would likely have to play games without fans.

However, because there wasn't a number specified on what is considered a large gathering, OSAA executive director Peter Weber feels like the organization is still waiting for guidance on what their next steps should be for the fall season.

"There weren't a lot of specifics in the announcement. We're still trying to find clarification on what this means going forward," Weber said. "There are a lot more questions than answers right now."

Despite the question marks, Weber acknowledged that anything is on the table right now.

"We are proceeding like there will be modifications to the fall sports season," Weber said.

Earlier in the spring, Weber formed multiple contingency groups made up of athletic directors and coaches around the state to help make decisions on where to go from here, as well as to come up with suggestions that would make a fall sports season more feasible.

"We're hoping to have regular contact with the contingency groups to come up with ideas and suggestions for next season. We want to be as prepared as we can be. We don't want to just make a last-minute shift on an issue," Weber said. "We're willing to look at anything if it makes sense."

One idea that is being considered is moving golf and tennis, which are normally spring sports, into the fall season.

During Brown's press conference, Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state health

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File

McNary defensive back Noah Lelack makes a tackle in a game from last season. At this point, it's unknown if there will be high school football being played in September.

MYB not ready to give up hope for potential season

File

Cash Martin prepares to throw an off-speed pitch to the plate in a McNary Youth Baseball game from last summer.

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There have been several youth baseball organizations across the state that have thrown in the towel on their chances to have a season this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

McNary Youth Baseball (MYB), however is still in wait-and-see mode.

The MYB baseball program, which is in its first year in the Clackamas County Junior Baseball Association (CCJBA), is still is hoping to facilitate some kind of abbreviated season, despite multiple programs in the league saying that they won't be participating in any kind of baseball activities this season.

"We still have a lot of people willing to stick it out and play the waiting game," MYB President Bo Lane said. "Once stuff begins to open back up again, we will continue to push forward."

Cleveland, Colton, Putnam, North Marion and Gladstone are just a handful of the programs in the league that have already decided to cancel their respective seasons.

Earlier this month, the MYB board sent out a survey to all parents in the program, asking if families would rather pull their child out of the program and get a refund, or if they want to wait for restrictions to lift and have a possible season take place.

According to Lane, 66 percent of the parents said that they wanted to wait, and 34 percent of parents said that they would want to pull their kids out of the program — although Lane said that only half the parents in the program participated in the survey.

Because of the results of the survey, the MYB board decided that they would accept refund requests for any family that got tired of playing the waiting game.

"We respect whatever parents decided. We know they have their child's best interest at heart and so do we," Lane said.

Based on those numbers, Lane says they will still be able to have a modified season if they get clearance.

"We may have to re-organize some of the teams, but there is still a lot of potential baseball to be played," Lane said. "But we take a lot of direction from our district, so if they pull the plug, then we will too."

Last month, Misty Gendharr, the president of CCJBA, said in a Facebook post that she believes that the organization will have a start

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Warner signs with Linfield

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Zoie Warner has excelled with the McNary volleyball program for the last three seasons. Now, she is taking her talents to the next level.

After receiving first-team all-league recognition during the 2019 season, Warner officially signed with Linfield University to continue her academic and athletic career.

Warner plans on majoring in nursing at Linfield.

"It's always been a goal of mine to play college volleyball, so I am really excited to get the opportunity to play at Linfield," Warner said. "It's a very close-knit community, so that was a big draw for me."

For Warner, one of the other appeals of playing at Linfield was that she would get to re-connect with a pair of her old teammates from McNary.

Warner played with Sophia Zielinski and Kara Thomas at McNary in 2017 and 2018. Zielinski and Thomas each signed with Linfield after their senior seasons and the three players look to be reunited on the court this fall.

"The three of us really clicked when we played together at McNary and I can't wait to play with Kara and Sophia in college," Warner said.

Warner was one of the most versatile players in the Mountain Valley Conference last season. Not only did she lead the Celtics with 201 kills, she also had 183 digs and was named McNary's top defensive player.

Whatever position Warner

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File

After receiving first-team all-league honors as a senior, McNary senior Zoie Warner will be continuing her career at Linfield.