

# SOCCER,

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and cold plunge therapy pools and an adjacent hotel and golf resort for parents' visitation.

"You get treated like you're a professional player there," Salazar said.

Salazar will finish his high school education with Arizona State University's prep academy and then start taking college courses in year two.

Every graduate from the Barcelona academy has received either a college scholarship or signed a professional contract. Graduates also get the opportunity to train and tryout with FC Barcelona.

"Whether it's playing at a good college or signing a pro contract, I don't care. I will play anywhere," Salazar said.

Salazar first tried out for the academy last summer. While he didn't make the

team, coaches encouraged him to make a few tweaks to his game, then come back to try out again the following summer.

In the 2019 season, Salazar led McNary in scoring with five goals and six assists in the Celtics run to the postseason. In July, Salazar attended a three-day tryout in Arizona and discovered that he made the Barcelona team a couple weeks later.

"Last year, they told me that I needed to be quicker with the ball, so that's what I worked on all season," Salazar said.

Although he has been a forward for the majority of his

career, Salazar plans to move to defender for the next two years.

"I suggested to Alex to play as right back defender because of his vision, technique, endurance and speed, which at this level that's the position that I believe is going to make him shine," Camarena said.

Salazar arrived at the academy last week and is currently going through his first week of practice.

"I'm just excited to go to work every single day and ball out. I have such a heart and passion for this game. I know that I can do this and I am ready to show everyone,"

— Alex Salazar

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# OSAA,

continued from Page A10

OSAA had to re-arrange their plans — nearly every district in the state has already committed to online learning to start the fall.

"We knew when we made the initial announcement that some districts would be doing distance learning. But at this point, virtually every school in the state will be in a distance learning model, and that presented too many challenges," OSAA executive director Peter Weber said.

Weber also said that it is unlikely any sports will take place without students returning to some form of in-person school.

The executive board has had continuous conversations with representatives from Washington and California, seeking guidance on how to best proceed with the 2020-21 season. While they took some elements

from each state's plan, one of the priorities that the OSAA had that differed from Washington and California was to still hold three separate athletic seasons.

"We wanted to minimize overlap and still have three distinct seasons and keep the seasonal sports together," Weber said.

Each sport will have an abbreviated, seven week regular season, which will be followed by a "culminating week." Weber and the OSAA board are still working out the logistics of what a culminating week will look like in each sport.

For football, one possibility for a culminating week would be to have a bowl game system instead of the state playoffs.

"We just don't know yet. It's going to be something we're going to have to work on," Weber said. "If we were to do a bowl game system, it could be based on where teams are regionally. There are a lot of different aspects to it."

Weber says that the OSAA

wants to provide teams and individuals a chance to compete for a state championship this season, but the current plans for that are murky.

"Our goal is to hold state championships in every sport. We just don't know if we will be able to do that," Weber said.

"Having 2,500 kids at a state track meet would be difficult to do."

The use of power rankings is still up in the air and guidance on spectators will come from the state at a later date.

As far as scheduling is concerned, athletic directors around the state will have to revamp schedules that were already set months in advance — which could be difficult for Salem-Keizer teams

"Alex is a really good player, my expectation is for him to work extra hard every day to improve in all areas in the game, technical, tactical, physical and mental, and to challenge himself in every practice and game. Alex is going to learn a lot more having pro coaches and high-quality players around him practicing and playing daily. If you are a player practicing and playing with good players naturally your level will increase. Also, he is going to see the sacrifice players need to make to try to achieve a goal to the next level, he is going to mature faster and he is ready and excited for this opportunity," Camarena added.

Salazar's tuition costs \$75,000 over the next two years. Although he received a \$21,000 scholarship, he is still looking to raise an additional \$53,000. Salazar has set up a GoFundMe page for anyone interested in donating (<http://gf.me/u/yj-d25w>).

that play in the Mountain Valley Conference with teams that are outside the region (Bend, Summit and Mountain View).

"We have to go back to the drawing board. I'm sure a lot of our games will have to be local," Gragg said. "Luckily, we have months to figure that out. But the priority is playing local games, that way we're not working with other counties that my be in a different situation with their restrictions."

Even with the alteration of the 2020-21 athletic season,

Weber says that the OSAA plans to return to the familiar format for 2021-22.

"Hopefully, we will be able to get back to that," Weber said.

"We wanted to minimize overlap and still have three distinct seasons and keep the seasonal sports together."

— Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director

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