

BUCKAROO BOYS

Coach: Nels Nelson, 32nd year
Postseason story: Pendleton's Brayden Pulver won the Columbia River Conference district tournament to lead the Buckaroos to a district win; Pendleton finished sixth at the Class 5A state golf tournament.

Key Returners: Brayden Pulver, soph.; Reilly Hegarty jr.; Nathan Som, soph.; Dillon George, sr.



Bucks young, deep

A return trip to state has been made more difficult with the state redistributing its qualification format.

Instead of competing in the four-team Columbia River Conference for two spots, the Buckaroos have been placed into a 17-school splicing that will enter five teams and 10 individuals. Included in the new region will be defending state champion Bend, third-place Summit and fifth-place Marist.

"It's not to our advantage because we're lumped in with the central Oregon schools," longtime Buckaroo golf coach Nels Nelson said. "And districts will be at Eagle Ridge Golf Course, which is in their backyard. ... It's not a real neutral course."

Pendleton returns the necessary players to make a run, however. Last year, freshman Brayden Pulver climbed his way up the team's hierarchy to win districts and become the club's clear No. 1 golfer. As a sophomore, he'll lead four varsity returners, including senior Dillon George who fared best at state with a 30th place finish.

Junior Reilly Hegarty and sophomore Nathan Som are also back. Hegarty, the son of Wildhorse golf professional Mike Hegarty, tore up the summer circuit, making deep runs into several Oregon amateur tournaments.

"We have a good core and are experienced and also some good younger players," Nelson said.

Among the varsity newcomers vying for the spot Tiyapo Farrow vacated with a transfer to Nixyaawii are senior Dakota Post, sophomore Kyle Curtis and freshmen Jared Geier and Trevor

2015 Schedule

Fri., March 20	at The Dalles CC	10 a.m.
Fri., April 3	at Eagle Ridge GC	9 a.m.
Mon., April 6	at Wildhorse Resort	Noon
Thu., April 16	at Pendleton CC	Noon
Fri., April 17	at La Grande CC	1 p.m.
Mon., April 20	At Tetharow	10 a.m.
Fri., April 24	at Meadow Lakes GC	11 a.m.
Wed., April 29	at Indian Creek GC	9 a.m.
Mon., May 4	at Emerald Valley GC	8:30 a.m.
Tue., May 5	at Big River GC	9:30 a.m.
Mon., May 11	Districts (at Eagle Ridge GC)	TBA
Tue., May 12	Districts (at Eagle Ridge GC)	TBA

Pendleton reloads for another state run

Four of five golfers from last year's historic season are back seeking an even better outcome this spring.

The Buckaroos took fourth place in last season's state tournament, claiming the school's first ever state trophy. Leading the way again are sisters Haley and Shelby Greb, who finished fifth and 12th at last year's championship tournament. Also back are sisters Whitney and Brittney Bahrns, who rounded out last year's state participants.

The Greb sisters will have to round into golf shape quickly. As members of the Buckaroo basketball team, the pair had less than a week of golf prep before opening with at tournament at The Dalles Country Club on Tuesday. Haley edged out her older sister Shelby on a playoff hole to win the tournament.

"It was, 'Here we go kids,'" longtime coach Teri Prouse said. "They said, 'Wait, our first tournament is when?'"

Things get more harried for the team's fifth spot. A handful of beginner golfers will battle for the final spot. None of the three had ever golfed a full 18 holes before last week's tournament.

The Class 5A districts have reformatted. Pendleton and the rest of the CRC will join a 17-team district that includes four of last year's top six teams, including powerhouses Summit and Bend, which took first and second. Only five of the season teams will qualify and the best 10 individuals.

BUCKAROO GIRLS

Coach: Teri Prouse, 20th year
Postseason story: The Buckaroos took the district championship; the team took fourth place at the state tournament and Haley Greb finished fifth overall

Key Returners: Haley Greb, soph.; Shelby Greb, jr.; Whitney Bahrns, sr.; Brittney Bahrns, soph.

Coachspeak: "We know where we are and we know where we want to go."



2015 Schedule

Tue., March 17	at The Dalles CC	10 a.m.
Fri., April 3	at Eagle Ridge GC (Redmond)	1:30 p.m.
Mon., April 6	at Wildhorse GC (Pendleton)	Noon
Thu., April 9	at Pendleton CC	Noon
Mon., April 13	at Broken Top GC (Bend)	10:30 a.m.
Tue., April 21	at Big River GC (Umatilla)	9:30 a.m.
Wed., April 29	at Trysting Tree (Corvallis)	TBD
Thu., May 7	Districts at Eagle Ridge GC (Redmond)	TBD
Fri., May 8	Districts at Eagle Ridge GC (Redmond)	TBD

Mac-Hi boys continue push

MILTON-FREEWATER — Last spring Andrew Kain's freshman campaign ended differently than any Pioneer golfer's had the previous three years.

Kain became the first Mac-Hi boys golfer to reach the Class 4A state tournament since Matt Hair did in 2010. Kain finished 15th place and shot a ??.

This season fourth-year coach Barry Wofford hopes to up the ante and send an entire team to the state tournament in Redmond — a feat that Wofford has yet to accomplish at the school.

To strengthen that push, the Pioneers bring back three other varsity competitors from last year's team: seniors Rain Wheeler and Sterling Sandberg and sophomore Riley Chester. Sandberg and Chester will be pulling double duty as members of the Mac-Hi baseball team as well.

Accomplishing the team goal will require all four returners to cut five to strokes off of their average, Wofford said.

"I think they're all capable of doing it," he said.

PIONEER GOLF

Coach: Barry Wofford, 4th year

Postseason story: Andrew Kain broke a three-year stretch without a state participant last season; Kain finished 15th place

Key Returners: Andrew Kain, soph.; Rain Wheeler, sr.; Sterling Sandberg, sr.; Riley Chester, soph.



The fifth scoring spot remains open and will be filled by a golfer without varsity experience.

Making state qualification easier is the condensing of the district. Third-place state finisher Ridgeview has bumped up to Class 5A, while Crook County has swapped 4A districts. That leaves four teams and two team bids.

"It's going to be easier without those two, but I'm not worried about that. I'm worrying about everyone getting better," Wofford said.

2015 Schedule

Wed., March 18	Milton-Freewater GC	2:30 p.m.
Wed., March 25	at Wine Valley GC (Walla Walla)	2:30 p.m.
Tue., March 31	at Veteran's GC (Walla Walla)	2:30 p.m.
Thu., April 2	at Walla Walla CC	2:30 p.m.
Fri., April 3	Milton-Freewater GC	Noon
Mon., April 6	at Wildhorse GC (Pendleton)	Noon
Thu., April 16	at Pendleton CC	Noon
Fri., April 17	at La Grande CC	1 p.m.
Wed., April 22	at Wine Valley GC (Walla Walla)	2:30 p.m.
Mon., April 27	at Quail Ridge GC (Baker)	1 p.m.
Tue., May 5	at Big River GC (Umatilla)	10 a.m.
Thu., May 7	at Veteran's GC (Walla Walla)	12:30 p.m.
Mon., May 11	Districts at Ontario GC	TBD
Tue., May 12	District at Ontario GC	TBD

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