

## PIONEER SOFTBALL

**Coach:** Nicole Christian (7th year)

**2014 season:** 23-3, 12-0 (Greater Oregon League)

**Postseason Story:** Following a perfect Greater Oregon League season, the second-seeded Pioneers ran through the Class 4A state softball to win the school's first state title, a 7-0 victory over Henley.

**Key Returners:** Colette Robert, sr., P; Makayla Kelly, sr., 1B; Stefanie Copeland, sr., SS; Mallory Copeland, soph., C; Abby Biggs, jr., 3B.



### 2015 Schedule

|                |                              |           |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Sat., March 21 | at Richland Tournament (2)   | 10 a.m.   |
| Mon., March 23 | at Canby Tournament (2)      | TBA       |
| Tue., March 24 | at Canby Tournament (2)      | TBA       |
| Sat., March 28 | vs. Mac-Hi (2)               | TBA       |
| Sat., April 4  | at Yamhill-Carlton/Banks (2) | TBA       |
| Tue., April 7  | vs. Pendleton                | 4 p.m.    |
| Sat., April 11 | at La Grande* (2)            | 11 a.m.   |
| Tue., April 14 | at Pendleton                 | 4 p.m.    |
| Fri., April 17 | at Baker* (2)                | 3 p.m.    |
| Sat., April 25 | at Ontario* (2)              | Noon      |
| Wed., April 29 | at Walla Walla               | 6 p.m.    |
| Sat., May 2    | vs. La Grande* (2)           | Noon      |
| Thu., May 7    | vs. Baker* (2)               | 3 p.m.    |
| Tue., May 12   | vs. DeSales (WA)             | 4:30 p.m. |
| Sat., May 16   | vs. Ontario* (2)             | Noon      |

## BULLDOG SOFTBALL

**Coach:** Kylee Nichols (3rd year)

**2014 Season:** 6-18, 2-10 CRC (Columbia River Conference)

**Postseason Story:** The Bulldogs did not reach the postseason

**Key Returners:** Kylie Hinkley, jr.; Ashley Moser, sr.; Jamie Hinkley, jr.; Abi Drotzmann, sr.; Kynzee Padilla, soph.; Elizabeth Weems, jr. Mckenzie Juul, sr.



## Dawgs look for bounceback

HERMISTON — The 2014 campaign didn't quite go the way the Hermiston softball team would have liked.

The Bulldogs lost their last nine contests en route to a disappointing fourth-place finish. But 2015 promises to be a better year with a number of returning contributors and a few impact freshmen, too.

"The girls (were) really eager to get started this year," third-year coach Kylee Nichols said. "In the offseason, they did a lot of work on their own working out and that showed (Tuesday in a 12-7 loss). Just as

far as the beginning of the year goes, they have a lot of things that they are eager to accomplish and wipe it clean from last year."

Nichols has an interesting mix of athleticism and experience. The top of her order is full of experienced softball players who know the game and love the game, girls like Ashley Moser, Abi Drotzmann and Mikayla Kopacz. As teams work their way through the order to the bottom, they find themselves facing good athletes, but girls who might not have the softball knowledge their teammates possess.

### 2015 Schedule

|                |                     |           |                |                   |           |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Tue., March 17 | at Ridgeview        | 4:30 p.m. | Sat., April 18 | at The Dalles (2) | Noon      |
| Fri., March 20 | vs. Post Falls (ID) | 3 p.m.    | Tue., April 21 | vs. The Dalles    | 4 p.m.    |
| Mon., March 23 | Tournament          | TBA       | Tue., April 28 | at Hood River (2) | Noon      |
| Mon., March 24 | Tournament          | TBA       | Fri., May 1    | vs. Pendleton (2) | 3 p.m.    |
| Tue., March 31 | at Summit           | 4 p.m.    | Tue., May 5    | at Pendleton      | 4 p.m.    |
| Fri., April 3  | vs. Reynolds (2)    | 3 p.m.    | Fri., May 8    | vs. The Dalles    | 4 p.m.    |
| Tue., April 7  | at Madison          | 3 p.m.    | Tue., May 12   | vs. Hood River    | 4:30 p.m. |
| Fri., April 10 | vs. Lakeridge (2)   | 3 p.m.    | Fri., May 15   | at Pendleton      | 4 p.m.    |
| Thu., April 16 | vs. Southridge(WA)  | 4 p.m.    |                |                   |           |

# No rebuild needed for Mac-Hi

## Entire championship roster returns for another run at title glory

MILTON-FREEWATER — Not much should impede the reigning champs' quest for a repeat title this spring.

No one graduated from last year's banner season, meaning this year's team could be even more potent than a year ago.

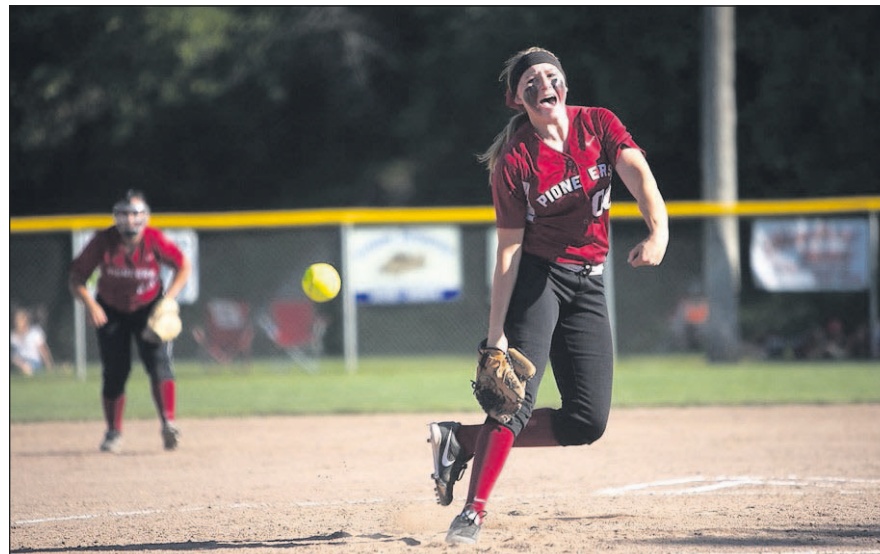
Heading the way will be defending Class 4A State Pitcher of the Year Colette Robert. Robert mowed her way through last year's state playoff bracket, culminating with a dominant shutout performance over Henley in the state title game.

"It'll be nice to have the best pitcher in the state to lead us," said Mac-Hi coach Nicole Christian.

Five other returners earned All-State honors last spring. Jenny Field (OF) was a first-team selection, while Mallory Copeland (C), Shannon Carter (2B), Stefanie Copeland (SS) and Brooke Kralman (OF) were second-team choices.

"The big thing for me is that I don't want them to get complacent," Christian said. "They're all coming back, they won a state championship together."

Sophomores Sydney Richwine and Mika Fortune return from injuries that ended their freshmen campaigns and are expected to



EO file photo  
**Mac-Hi's Colette Robert heads the Pioneers in their quest to repeat as Class 4A champs. Robert was the state's Pitcher of the Year last season.**

push last year's starting core for time. Fellow sophomore Kaitilin Fleshranico has stepped up her game and will be a contributor in the outfield.

This season is a far cry from last year, when the Pioneers replaced nine seniors and flew under the radar to the school's first state title. Now, Mac-Hi will wear the target on its back.

"Everybody knows that we're returning everybody. So, we've got to step it up a another level," Christian said.

The Pioneers will look to challenge themselves early and often. This year's non-league schedule features a mix of bigger programs in and out of the state as well as Banks, which defeated Mac-Hi in the Class 4A state title game in 2013.



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