

HERMISTON: Unit ready to take on the top talent in new Special District 1

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back last season before an injury ended his season after five games.

That's still a well-seasoned group, and Ena said it feels like the unit is ahead of pace in his second year in the backfield.

"Last year it was my first year at safety and these guys (Rohrman and Gutierrez) were just barely coming up, so I feel a lot better this year," he said. "I feel like we can live up to (Faateete's expectations) because we have been doing good lately and we have been working hard together."

With Ena and Gutierrez (5-10, 165) giving the unit plenty of pop on the back end while Rohrman (6-0, 170) and Neal (6-1, 170) give the Bulldogs size and speed on the outside. (All of them also start on offense.) But it's not the unit's great measurables that gives it confidence going into the season.

"I think it's going to be solid. We've been working together all summer in camps, playing together in 7-on-7, we just click," Guti-



Hermiston safety Vaemu Ena catches the ball during a drill at football practice Wednesday at Kennison Field. Ena, a senior, was an all-state honorable mention selection last season and is one of three returning starters to the secondary.

ierrez said. "It's like a family. We feel each other on the field, so we've kind of got a feeling and we know and rely on each other. If they've got to be there they're going to be there, that's what type of bond we have."

The Bulldogs will face some pretty tough passers in Special District 1 this season. Summit returns 5A Player of the Year John

Bledsoe and Redmond brings back second-team All-Intermountain Conference senior Bunker Parrish. As a team the Bulldogs snagged 10 interceptions in 2015, but Rohrman said they're not going into this season with any type of benchmarks in mind.

"I don't think we have any specific goals," he said. "We just want to go out

there everyday and make things easier for the everybody around us, getting the ball back for the offense or whatever we have to do to help the team win."

They'll get their first chance to do that when Union (WA) comes to Kennison Field to open the season on Sept. 2 at 7 p.m.

It just so turns out, Union was one of those teams the Bulldogs clicked against at the Lakeview 7-on-7 camp.

"We got the look, but I feel like we locked them up a little bit," Neal said.

Rohrman said they expect Union to give them a new look come September, but it was good to at least see how they matched up physically.

While the unit has the potential to be one of the best in their league, none of the players expects it to come easily.

"We've just got to keep working hard, keep grinding together," Neal said. "We'll make mistakes and pick each other up."

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Seattle Mariners center fielder Leonys Martin slides to catch a fly ball hit by Los Angeles Angels' Cliff Pennington during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2016, in Anaheim, Calif.

MARINERS: Iwakuma stars in series finale

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in relief of Skaggs, who lost his second straight decision.

Cody Martin, called up one day earlier to fill a vacancy in the rotation, limited the Angels to two runs on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Mike Trout was up twice with runners on but struck out both times. With two on in the seventh, Arquimedes Caminero struck him out with three straight 100 mile-per-hour fastballs to end the inning.

The Angels' first two

runs came in the first inning with Escobar scoring on Albert Pujols' single and Kole Calhoun on a sacrifice fly by Marte. Pujols now has 93 RBI, tying him for second in the American League with David Ortiz.

UP NEXT

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma will close out the series looking for his ninth win in 10 starts.

Angels: RHP Matt Shoemaker is looking for his first win against Seattle this season. He's 3-4 with a 3.91 ERA against the Mariners.

T-WOLVES: Baty approaching 300 career win mark as head coach

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said sophomore middle blocker and the 2015 Baden Volleyball Player of the Year Kristin Williams during practice Tuesday. "We're starting just as everybody else and that helps take any pressure that there was off, for sure."

Williams, who led BMCC in blocks (71) and hitting percentage (.353) while adding 146 kills last season, said eighth-year coach Dave Baty's clean-slate approach to the season was difficult to wrap her head around at first.

"The mental approach is definitely the hardest part, and to teach the freshmen that it is 0-0 and every ball is a new ball is definitely something that they're going to have to come into," she said. "I know coming in last year I was more worried with, 'Oh we're down 0-5, but it's really 0-0.' It's definitely a good thing to base everything around."

And the numbers don't lie. The T-Wolves are 285-48 under Baty since he took over in 2009. He'll be looking to add to that total while gladly sharing it with this season's coaching staff. His daughter Jessica Humphreys returns in her role as co-head coach, and will be at the helm when Baty's duties as a captain with the Pendleton Fire

Department demand his attention, and the T-Wolves have added assistant Lindsay Barnes.

Baty said the two former college players (Humphreys at Portland and Barnes at Central Washington) will be absolutely crucial to the team's success this season.

"It's shocking, they keep the bar a little higher for (the players) than I do," he said. "They're both young enough that it's not in their distant memory, they were just there (playing)."

Blue Mountain gets its first opponent during a scrimmage against Columbia Basin on Friday at Mosby Court. Opening serve is at 3 p.m. and admission is free.

The T-Wolves open the season on Aug. 27 at the Fall Showcase in Springfield, but won't host their first match until Sept. 21 when they welcome Treasure Valley for a East Region match.

Here a few more things to consider as the T-Wolves gear up for 2016:

FAMILIAR FACES: Seven out of a possible eight players returned to the roster for a second season in Pendleton, which Baty said was actually a little shocking.

"Some of the seven that returned had four-year offers and said, 'No, it's not exactly what I'm

looking for,'" he said.

Along with Williams, the T-Wolves return their leading hitter and one of their best servers from last season in Miah Perez (195 kills, 21 aces), setter Kylee Chavez (261 assists, 162 digs, 20 aces) and net players Jordan Mix (114 kills, 34 blocks) and Kailey Buckner (90 kills, 37 blocks).

NO PRESSURE: One of the first things BMCC freshmen will notice is the championship banners that cover nearly every inch of the south wall at Mosby Court.

"It's kind of a lot of pressure but they don't make it seem like that here," said freshman setter Brooke Lomica of Grants Pass. "There's a lot of banners on the wall but that means nothing for this year. Yeah it seems like it's a lot of pressure to live up to, but you can't go about it like that."

OH, THE POSSIBILITIES: Versatility may just be the buzz word for this season's T-Wolves, a fact Baty struggles to contain his excitement over.

"We've only got 12 on the roster this year but we've got so many different things we can do," he said. "I've got three kids who can play middle, I've got five kids who can play right, I've got five kids who can play left — there's just a couple things we've got to

take care of and if we can take care of them we're going to be pretty OK."

DUCK AND COVER: That may be the best defensive strategy for some opponents this year.

"Everyone on the team can put the ball down and so we've got a ton of options," Lomica said. "It's really fun trying to out-think the other team and not just always going to Kristin and Miah since they're two of our bigger hitters — trying to mix it up and get the other team on their toes."

And it's not just the sophomores bringing the heat.

"We've got a lot of firepower, a lot of girls that can hit. All the freshmen can hit," Perez said. "I think we're definitely in a good spot, just for the start of the season. The freshmen are pretty good, they're working hard. They're definitely improving a lot every day... it's very obvious too."

TEAM FIRST: There's no room for stat grabbing and selfish play at BMCC. Two of the team's mottos are "I am second" and "Your success is my success."

"Everybody works really hard and everybody's really dedicated to each other, and everyone else's success," Lomica said. "We're trying to push that and make sure everyone is supporting each other,

and that's a really cool deal to come into.

"The relationships you build with your team are always a really cool thing about being on a team like that, so that's one of the things I'm really excited about."

Table with columns: Roster (Name, position, height, hometown), Returning sophomores, Freshmen. Lists names like Kristin Williams, Kailey Buckner, Anjoliyn Vreeland, etc.

2016 SCHEDULE table with columns: Date, Location, Time, Opponent. Lists games from Aug 27 to Nov 9.

OLYMPICS:

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and the current world-record holder, Keni Harrison, were back home after failing to crack the top three at the U.S. Olympic trials.

Also parading the stars and stripes were long-jumpers Tianna Bartoletta and Brittney Reese, who finished 1-2; steeplechaser Evan Jager, who won silver earlier in the day; and Tori Bowie, who added a 200-meter bronze to her silver in the 100.

"Who wouldn't be thankful for another medal?" Bowie said. "Now, I have two."

The evening's best entertainment came, as usual, from Bolt, who will go for his eighth Olympic gold medal Thursday.

His main goal during the opening rounds is to conserve energy, which is exactly what he was doing when he looked to his right, saw Canada's Andre de Grasse a few steps behind and put it on cruise control.

Only problem was, de Grasse, the bronze medalist in the 100, didn't back down. He sped up, caught up and, suddenly, the two were nose to nose, peering and smiling at each other down the stretch. Bolt leaned in to finish in 19.78 to win by a scant .02 seconds. He wagged his finger at the up-and-comer as they crossed the line.

"That was really unnecessary," Bolt said. "I don't know what he was trying to do. He's a young kid, he's great. He has a lot of talent. I'm looking forward to the competition in the final."

The competition won't include Justin Gatlin, who

SUMMER GAMES 2016 MEDAL TRACKER. Table with columns: Rank, Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze. Lists top 10 medal winners.

has given Bolt more run for his money than anyone over the past four years. In the evening's biggest stunner, Gatlin finished third in his heat and did not qualify for the final.

He said he rolled an ankle in the run-up to the Olympics and was happy just to make it here.

"Probably, I should have rested it instead of running on it," said Gatlin, who finished second to Bolt in the 100.

It was a lost medal opportunity for the Americans, for sure. But they're ahead of the game.

Their medals Wednesday gave them 19 for the meet — five gold, seven silver and seven bronze — which is already one more than they won through the entire world championships last year in Beijing.

Decathlete Ashton Eaton is a candidate to add to that haul. The defending champion finished Day 1 with a solid 121-point lead over Kai Kazmirek of Germany.

Correction

The Blue Mountain women's soccer team will scrimmage Western Wyoming at home on Friday at noon. Incorrect information was displayed in Wednesday's story "T-Wolves eager to be tested."

Olympics

TV SCHEDULE TODAY NBC — Track & Field (LIVE); Men's 400m Hurdles - Gold Medal Final; Canoe/Kayak - Sprint Gold Medal Finals; Women's Volleyball - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Diving - Platform Semifinal; Men's Cycling - BMX Quarterfinals; Men's Water Polo - Semifinal (LIVE); Synchronized Swimming - Team Qualifying, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Track & Field - Gold Medal Finals (LIVE); Men's Shot Put, Women's Javelin, Men's 1500m Decathlon, Women's 400m Hurdles, Men's 200m; Women's Diving - Platform Gold Medal Final; Men's Beach Volleyball - Gold Medal Final (LIVE), 9 p.m.-Midnight; Men's Beach Volleyball - Medal Round, 12:35-1:35 a.m.

NBCSN — Canoe/Kayak - Sprint Gold Medal Finals (LIVE); Track & Field (LIVE); Men's 400m Hurdles - Gold Medal Final; Men's Water Polo - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Wrestling - Freestyle Qualifying; Men's Field Hockey - Bronze Medal; Women's Basketball - Semifinal (LIVE); Women's Wrestling - Freestyle Gold Medal Finals (LIVE); Women's Basketball - Semifinal 2 (LIVE); Semifinal 2 Encore, 2 p.m.-2 a.m.

TELEMUNDO — News Recap; Synchronized Swimming; Track & Field; Beach Volleyball, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. NBC UNIVERSO — Volleyball; Boxing, 4-8 p.m.

Wednesday's scores and results TRACK & FIELD Men 3000 Steeplechase Final 1. Consesius Kiprotui, Kenya, 8:03.28. 2. Evan Jager, United States, 8:04.28. 3. Mahiedine Mekhissis, France, 8:11.52. Women 200M Final 1. Elaine Thompson, Jamaica, 21.78. 2. Dafne Schippers, Netherlands, 21.88. 3. Tori Bowie, United States, 22.15. Long Jump Final 1. Tianna Bartoletta, United States, (7.17), 23.6-1.4. 2. Brittney Reese, United States, (7.15), 23.5-1.2. 3. Ivana Spanovic, Serbia, (7.08), 23.2-3.4.

SCOREBOARD

Large scoreboard table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes sections for Wild Card Standings, American League, National League, MLB, North Division, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, National League East Division, Central Division, West Division, Soccer, Team Handball, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Baseball.