

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

The Columbia River Conference will send three to the postseason, and teams will have a tough time unseating two-time defending state champion Hood River, which appears reloaded for another run. The runner-up and third-place team will have to go through the play-in round to reach the 16-team OSAA bracket.

Projected Finish

- Hood River Valley Eagles
- Hermiston Bulldogs
- Pendleton Buckaroos
- The Dalles Riverhawks

(Rankings based on coaches and media votes.)

Around The League

Hood River returning All-CRC: (Player of the Year) Noe Magana, F, sr.; Orlando de la Torre, M, sr.
The Dalles returning All-CRC: Brandon Bustamante, M, sr.; Pedro Ayala, M, jr.

2015 Final Standings

	Conf.	Overall
Hood River*	5-0-1	15-0-3
Hermiston*	4-1-1	12-3-2
Pendleton	1-5	4-10-1
The Dalles	1-5	2-12

*-Made playoffs

Head coach: Rich Harshberger, 10th year
Assistant coaches: Freddy Guizar, 3rd year; Francisco Carrillo, 4th year; Brandon Purcell, 1st year
Returning lettermen: 13
Returning All-CRC: Freddy Rodriguez, F, sr.; Ismael Arenas, D, sr.; Mark Mejia, M, jr.; Antonio Campos, GK, jr.
Other returning starters: Isaac Munoz, M, sr.; Giovanni Madrigal, M, sr.; Esgar Avila, D, jr.; Miguel Hoyos, D, jr.; Joel Mendez, F, jr.
Other seniors: Anthony Carrillo, M
On offense: The Bulldogs' first priority is possession, and Hermiston isn't afraid to sit back and study an opponent before going on the attack. Once the Bulldogs discover the defense's weak point, however, they'll try to exploit it as much as possible. Sixteen of the Bulldogs' 44 goals came CRC play in 2015. That total ranked eighth in Class 5A.
On defense: The Bulldogs will look to apply heavy pressure on ball handlers to keep the



ball from getting deep in their half, but should the opposition push through the midfield an experienced back line and goalkeeper will be waiting. Hermiston only allowed seven goals in league play and 21 all of last season.

Harshberger's key to the season:

"Forging a coherent team, bringing 20 individuals together and making them realize that they are a family, and making sure everyone in that family understands they will go through a brick wall for each other."

2016 Schedule

Aug. 27	vs Umatilla	W 4-0
Aug. 30	vs Mac-Hi	4 p.m.
Sept. 3	at La Grande	2 p.m.
Sept. 6	vs Century	6 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Putnam	1 p.m.
Sept. 13	vs La Salle	4 p.m.
Sept. 15	at St. Helens	6 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Hillsboro	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	at The Dalles*	4 p.m.
Oct. 4	vs Hood River*	4 p.m.
Oct. 11	vs Pendleton*	4 p.m.
Oct. 13	at The Dalles*	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Hood River*	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Pendleton*	4 p.m.

*-League game



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Hermiston's Freddy Rodriguez battles Crescent Valley's Isaac Wilson for the ball during a playoff game at Kennison Field during the 2015 season that Hermiston won 3-1. Rodriguez is one of five seniors for the Bulldogs this season.

Pendleton Buckaroos



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton's Jose Rodriguez, left, is one of 10 returning starters for the Buckaroos in 2016. He's shown here battling for the ball with a Milwaukie players last season.

Head coach: Jeremy Talbot, 2nd year
Assistant coaches: Ryan Ulicni, 2nd year; Eyes Kaplanovic, 2nd year
Returning lettermen: 13
Returning All-CRC: Fernando Gomez, F, sr.; Lincoln Johnson, D, sr.; Drew Lunny, D, jr.
Other returning starters: Jonathan Wolotira, F, sr.; Brian Ramirez, M/D, sr.; Josh Mendoza, M/D, sr.; Caleb Cary, D, sr.; Jose Rodriguez, M, jr.; Sawyer Powell, M, jr.; Aiden Henderson, D, soph.
Impact transfer: Jeff Kovach, GK, sr. (Ontario)
Other seniors: Jake Szumski, Isaac Ukachukwu

On offense: The Buckaroos scored just 17 goals in 2015, so Talbot is looking for more attempts on goal this season.
On defense: Only two 5A teams allowed more goals than Pendleton's 66 in 2015. Talbot is looking for improved communication and positional awareness from his back line in 2016.
Talbot's key to the season: "Overall, we want to build off of the improvement we made from last season. We played in a lot of tight games last season and so we will be looking to play more comfortably in these situations."

2016 Schedule

Aug. 29	vs Lewiston (ID)	4 p.m.
Sept. 1	at Milwaukie	4 p.m.
Sept. 6	at La Grande	4 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs Sandy	4 p.m.
Sept. 22	vs Redmond	4 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Mac-Hi	4 p.m.
Oct. 4	at The Dalles*	4 p.m.
Oct. 6	vs La Grande	4 p.m.
Oct. 11	vs Hermiston*	4 p.m.
Oct. 13	vs Hood River*	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	at The Dalles*	4 p.m.
Oct. 20	vs Baker	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Hermiston*	4 p.m.

*-League game

Umatilla Vikings

Head coach: Pedro Ortiz, 11th year
Assistant coach: Edmundo Bedolla, 3rd year
Returning lettermen: 13
Returning starters: Diego Saldana, M/F, sr.; Marcos Fonseca, D, sr.; Armando Espinoza, M/F, sr.; Ernesto Barrera, D/M/F, sr.; Luis Vallejo, D, sr.; Douglas Gomez, F, sr.; Elian Armenta, D, jr.; Isidro Fonseca, D/M, so.; Luis Castro, M/D, so.
Other seniors: Josue Guzman, Marco Madrigal
On offense: Umatilla's short-pass possession attack scored 44 goals in 2015.
On defense: Ortiz expects position to contribute to a defense that allowed 27 goals last season.



Ortiz's key to the season: "Since I have a small squad this year, I have to motivate them to give it their all and work as a team. I have to convince them to play the (possession) style of soccer that I want them to play."

2016 Schedule

Aug. 27	at Hermiston	L 4-0
Sept. 3	vs Riverside*	1 p.m.
Sept. 6	vs Baker	4 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Prescott (WA)	4 p.m.
Sept. 17	vs City Christian*	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	at La Grande	4 p.m.
Sept. 23	vs Nyssa	3 p.m.
Sept. 27	vs WWVA (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Irrigon*	1 p.m.
Oct. 8	vs Riverside*	1 p.m.
Oct. 11	at WWVA (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	at City Christian*	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	vs Irrigon*	4 p.m.

*-League game

Riverside Pirates

Head coach: Francisco Velazquez Sr., 4th year (11th overall)
Assistant coaches: Jose Luis Duenas, 2nd year; Francisco Velazquez Jr., 1st year

Returning lettermen: 12
Returning starters: Adolfo Bedolla, GK, sr.; Alejandro Llamas, M, sr.; Kevin Altamirano, D, jr.; Ulises Calvillo, D, jr.; Quincy Castillo, M, jr.; Kevin Madrigal, M, jr.; Misael Madrigal, F, jr.; Luis Olvera, M, jr.; Daniel Rodriguez, D, jr.



Other seniors: Bryan Altamirano, Ivan Escobedo, David Rodriguez

Impact transfer: Brock Rosen, F, jr. (Spokane)

On offense: Quick touches and short passes led to 79 goals last season — second most in Class 3A.

On defense: The Pirates return four starters to a unit that tied for fewest goals allowed in Class 3A with 12 in 2015.

Velazquez's key to the season: "Always keep my players in shape and also have my players to have good ball control."

2016 Schedule

Aug. 30	at La Grande	4 p.m.
Sept. 3	at Umatilla*	1 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Catlin Gabel	2 p.m.
Sept. 13	vs Portland Adv.	4:15 p.m.
Sept. 19	vs Prescott (WA)	4 p.m.
Sept. 24	vs Irrigon*	1 p.m.
Sept. 27	vs Mac-Hi	4 p.m.
Oct. 1	at City Christian*	1 p.m.
Oct. 4	vs WWVA (WA)	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 8	at Umatilla*	1 p.m.
Oct. 11	vs Dayton (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Mac-Hi	4 p.m.
Oct. 22	at Irrigon*	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	vs City Christian*	4 p.m.

*-League game

Irrigon Knights

Head coach: Paul Keefer, 3rd year
Assistant coach: Luis Campos, 1st year
Returning lettermen: 12
Returning starters: Jose Romero, GK, sr.; Ruben Barrera, sr.; Kenny Blurton, sr.; Bruno Salas, sr.; Oscar Armenta, sr.; Marcos Mejia, sr.; Isaac Estrada, sr.; Ammon Byers, sr.; Ruben Torres, jr.; Julio Bernal, jr.; Steve Robles, so.; Luis Cardenas, so.
On offense: Irrigon was able to finish just 12 times in 2015, and Keefer said that number can't be blamed on lack of opportunity. Finding players that will attack the net and consistently put the ball on target will be key to getting more out of the Knights' offense this season.
On defense: The Knights' 38 goals allowed last season put them firmly in the middle of the pack when it comes to state rankings. Simply bringing back the entire starting lineup should help that number improve.



Keefer's keys to the season:

"There are eight seniors this year. There are 12 games left in their high school career and these players need to play every game like it is their last."

2016 Schedule

Sept. 10	vs City Christian*	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	vs Dayton (WA)	4 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Riverside*	1 p.m.
Oct. 1	vs Umatilla*	1 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Dayton (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 8	at Prescott (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 15	at City Christian*	1 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs WWVA (WA)	4 p.m.
Oct. 22	vs Riverside*	1 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Umatilla*	4 p.m.

*-League game

3A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4

It seems like every team is coming back loaded with experience in the SD4 this season. The league won't find out how many playoff berths it will receive until an OSAA executive board meeting on September 12, but knows it will be at least two.

Projected Finish

- Riverside Pirates
- Umatilla Vikings
- Irrigon Knights
- City Christian Lions
- Culver Bulldogs

(Rankings based on coaches and media votes.)

2015 Final Standings

	Conf.	Overall
Riverside*	8-0	8-3-2
Umatilla*	6-2	7-6-1
Irrigon	2-4-2	2-6-2
Culver	1-5-2	3-8-3
City Christian	0-6-2	0-6-3

*-Made playoffs

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