

**5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE**

The Columbia River Conference will send three to the postseason, and Hermiston will be gunning for defending league champ Hood River this season. The runner-up and third-place team will have to win play-in games to reach the 16-team OSAA bracket.

**Projected Finish**

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

(Rankings based on coaches and media votes.)

**Around The League**

**Hood River returning All-CRC:** Cindy Magana, 12, F; Cielo Rivera, 11, M; Vanessa Silva, 11, GK; Yahaira Chavarria, 11, D; Claire Davies, 11, M; Ami Santillan, 12

**2015 Final Standings**

|             | Conf. | Overall |
|-------------|-------|---------|
| Hood River* | 5-0-1 | 9-5-2   |
| Hermiston*  | 2-1-3 | 4-5-6   |
| The Dalles  | 1-4-1 | 4-10-1  |
| Pendleton   | 1-4-1 | 5-7-2   |

\*-Made playoffs

**Head coach:** Danielle Turner, 5th year

**Assistant coaches:** David Wattenburger, 5th year; Kasia Hoover, 1st year

**Returning lettermen:** 9

**Returning All-CRC:** Kilie Harrison, GK, sr.;

Shaelynn Gilbert, F, sr.; Audrey Lincoln, D, sr.; Lesley Risueno, D, jr.; Quinn Latham, D, jr.; Hannah Thompson, F, jr.



**Other returning starters:** Alysia Garcia, F, sr.; Kali Torres, M, jr.; McKayla Pacheco, M, jr.

**Other seniors:** Katelyn Millard, M

**Impact transfer gained:** MaKayla Akers, M/F, sr. (Pendleton)

**On offense:** The Bulldogs are looking to force opponents to speed up the tempo this season, and better execution in front of the net will be one way Turner hopes to see them do it. She also is encouraging more creativity in creating scoring chances. Hermiston had just 13 goals in 2015.

**On defense:** The Bulldogs return the CRC Goalkeeper of the Year along with three all-league defenders to give the unit a rock solid base, and Turner is looking for improved communication to take them to a new level in 2016. Hermiston allowed a league-low 22 goals last season.

**Turner's keys to the season:** "Keys for us this season will be communication, executing simple play and finishing the chances we create."

**2016 Schedule**

|          |                |        |
|----------|----------------|--------|
| Aug. 27  | vs Umatilla    | W 4-0  |
| Aug. 30  | vs Mac-Hi      | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 2  | at La Grande   | 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 6  | vs Century     | 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 10 | at Putnam      | 3 p.m. |
| Sept. 15 | vs St. Helens  | 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | vs Hillsboro   | 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 22 | at Sandy       | 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | vs The Dalles* | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 4   | at Hood River* | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 11  | at Pendleton*  | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 13  | at The Dalles* | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 18  | vs Hood River* | 4 p.m. |
| Oct. 25  | vs Pendleton*  | 6 p.m. |

\*- league game



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

**Hermiston's Shaelynn Gilbert (8) is one of six all-league players returning to the Bulldogs as the team aims for a CRC title.**

**Pendleton's Samantha Parker has high expectations after an all-league selection as a freshman in 2015.**

Staff photo by Kathy Aney



**Head coach:** Paul Parker, 2nd year

**Assistant coaches:** Tyrel Burchard, 2nd year; Chelsey Argueta, 2nd year

**Returning lettermen:** 8

Returning All-CRC: Samantha Parker, D, so.

**Other returning starters:** Haley Burchard, F, sr.; Alexis Parker, M, jr.; Maggie Scanlon, F, so.; Megan Burchard, M, so.; Emma Florence, D, so.

**Other seniors:** Hailey Kendrick, Bradi Reynolds

**Impact transfers lost:** MaKayla Akers, sr. (Hermiston); Maize Williams, jr. (Idaho)

**On offense:** The Buckaroos will look

to establish possession through the midfield before funneling the ball up to its forwards for shots. Pendleton will look for stronger finishes this season after being held to one goal of fewer in nine games during 2015.

**On defense:** Parker wants his defenders pouncing as soon as the opposition crosses midfield and clearing the ball up the sidelines. Pendleton allowed 33 goals last season.

**Parker's key to the season:** "Keys to this year's season will be the girls staying healthy through the entire season."

**2016 Schedule**

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

\*-League game

**Pendleton Buckaroos**

**McLoughlin Pioneers**

**2016 Schedule**

|          |                          |           |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Aug. 30  | at Hermiston             | 6 p.m.    |
| Sept. 2  | at Stayton               | 5:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 3  | at Hood River            | 4:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 6  | at The Dalles            | 4 p.m.    |
| Sept. 10 | vs Banks (at The Dalles) | TBD       |
| Sept. 13 | vs Riverside             | TBD       |
| Sept. 17 | vs Ontario*              | 2 p.m.    |
| Sept. 20 | at Riverside             | 4 p.m.    |
| Sept. 24 | vs La Grande*            | 2 p.m.    |
| Sept. 29 | at Pendleton             | 4 p.m.    |
| Oct. 1   | at Baker*                | 2 p.m.    |
| Oct. 8   | at Ontario*              | 2 p.m.    |
| Oct. 11  | vs Clarkston (WA)        | 4 p.m.    |
| Oct. 15  | at La Grande*            | Noon      |
| Oct. 22  | vs Baker*                | 2 p.m.    |

\*-League game

**Mac-Hi's Jacky Gomez jockeys with Pendleton's Megan Burchard during a 1-1 draw last season in Milton-Freewater. Both players are back for their squads this season.**

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



**4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE**

Only the league champion will be assured a spot in the OSAA 16-team final bracket. The runner-up, and possibly the third-place team based on its ranking, can earn their way into the bracket with a win in the play-in round.

**Around the League**

**La Grande returning All-GOL:** Brittney Bertrand, 11, F; Alaina Carson, 10, D/F; Kara Gooderham, 10, D; Jenny Schiller, 11, D

**Baker returning All-GOL:** Josie Ash, 11, F/M; Natalie Nelson, 10, D/M; Shane McCauley, 12, D

**Ontario returning All-GOL:** Esmeralda Montoya, 10, M; Lyseth Munoz, 11, F

**Projected finish**

- Mac-Hi Pioneers
- La Grande Tigers
- Baker Bulldogs
- Ontario Tigers

(Rankings based on coaches and media votes.)

**2015 Final Standings**

|            | Conf. | Overall |
|------------|-------|---------|
| La Grande* | 5-0   | 9-1-2   |
| McLoughlin | 3-2   | 8-3-3   |
| Baker      | 2-4   | 4-9     |
| Ontario    | 1-5   | 5-9     |

\*-Made playoffs

**Head coach:** Martin Martinez, 15th year

**Assistant coach:** Devin Holmes, 2nd year

**Returning lettermen:** 13

**Returning All-GOL:** Mallory Copeland, GK, sr.;

Sydney Richwine, D, sr.; Harmonie Correa, M, sr.; Jacky Gomez, M, jr.; Rachael Lyon, M, jr.

**Other returning starters:** Dani Betancourt, D, sr.;

Anna Lonai, D, sr.; Kaitlyn Slusarenko, M, sr.;

Faith Kelly, D, so.; Bianca Garcia, F, so.

**Other seniors:** Amayrani Alvarez, F

**On offense:** The Pioneers are putting a new twist on their 4-3-3 and will be asking midfielders and defenders to get more involved in the offense this season, which Martinez said should be more aggressive than a prior seasons. The Pioneers were third in the GOL with 44 goals in 2015.

**On defense:** A flat-four defensive alignment for the back line requires more communication, but with the experience he has returning Martinez is confident it will lead to far fewer shots on goal. Mac-Hi allowed 30 last season, again third in the GOL.

**Martinez's key to the season:**

"Try to stay focused and motivated. Last year we started strong but toward the end of the year we lost a little focus on what direction we wanted to go and what goal we wanted to reach."

# Pilot Rock Rocks!

*Way to go Rockets!*

**Terry Bechtold**

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