

**5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE**

The Hood River Valley Eagles have been kings of the CRC for each of the past two seasons, but with a lot of roster turnover in 2017 the CRC appears to be up for grabs. Pendleton returns the most all-league players (4) led by shortstop and pitcher Wyatt Morris and outfielder/speedster Shaw Jerome, while Hermiston will have some gaps to fill, but a successful offseason slate has coach Lance Hawkins feeling good about his squad.

**Projected Finish**

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

**2016 Final Standings**

	Conf.	Ovr.
Hood River	10-2	23-7
Hermiston	6-6	13-12
Pendleton	4-8	13-13
The Dalles	4-8	10-14

**Returning All-League Players**

**Hood River** — C Adam Cameron, sr.; INF Morgan Williams, sr.; P Isaiah Enriquez, sr.  
**Hermiston** — INF Daniel Gossler, jr.; INF Kody Moss, sr.  
**Pendleton** — INF Wyatt Morris, sr.; C/DH Ryan Russell, jr.; OF Shaw Jerome, jr.; INF Daniel Naughton.  
**The Dalles** — INF John Miller, sr.

**Pendleton Buckaroos**

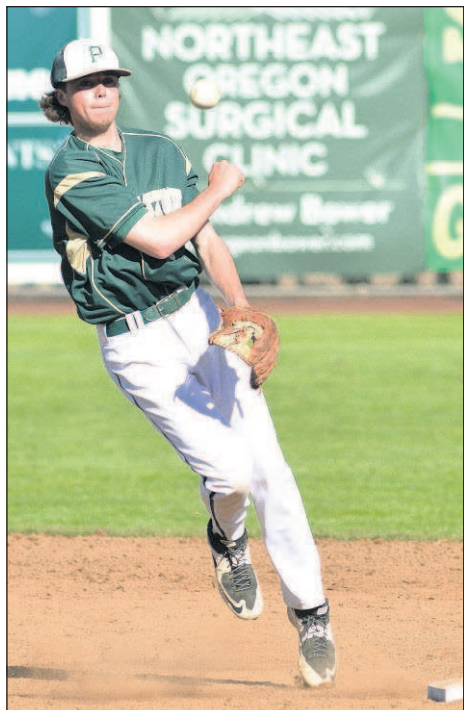
Pendleton will need to replace some big bats in the lineup, but return the most all-league players in the CRC as the Bucks aim to unseat Hood River for the league crown.

- HEAD COACH:** TJ Haguewood, 2nd year (3rd with team)  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Travis Zander, 17th year; Mike Hodgen, 43rd year; Wes Armstrong, 2nd year; TJ Presley, 4th year; Jackson Huth, 5th year.  
**RETURNING STARTERS:** P/SS Wyatt Morris, sr.; OF Shaw Jerome, jr.; C Ryan Russell, jr.; 3B/P Daniel Naughton, jr.; OF Nick Bower, jr.  
**OTHER RETURNERS:** P/INF Nick Lani, sr.; P/OF Austin Zaugg, sr.; OF Caleb Cary, sr.; OF/P Hayden Villers, sr.  
**OTHER SENIORS:** Jared Beveridge, INF/P

**SEASON GOALS:** Pendleton has two major goals for the 2017 season, to win the league title and go deep into the playoffs and to ultimately win a state championship, and it hopes to get there by competing and playing the game the right way.

**HAGUEWOOD'S KEY TO THE SEASON:** "Pretty cliché, but if we throw strikes and play solid defense good things will happen. Early in the year we have not been consistent in, but we expect more and we will do a better job."

**BIGGEST STRENGTHS:** Pendleton has several newcomers to fill some gaps this season, but the athletes' hard-working attitude will make up for the inexperience. The Buckaroos players are also good at playing the game right, with hustle, teamwork and effort and always competing against their best self, not the opponent.

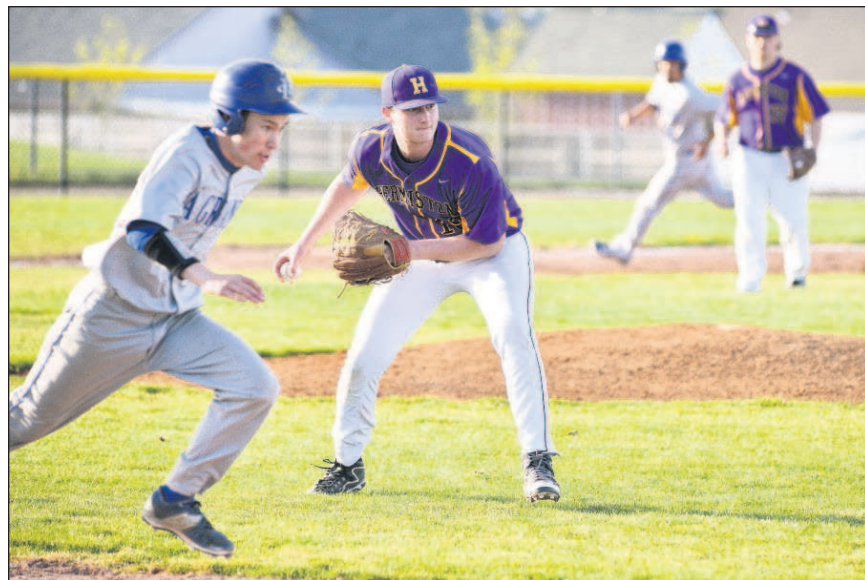


**Pendleton shortstop Wyatt Morris makes a throw to first base last season during a game against Hood River in Pendleton.**

EO file photo

**2017 Schedule**

March 14	at Southridge (WA) (2)	L/L
March 18	vs Oak Harbor (WA) (at Hanford)	W 12-1
March 18	at Hanford (WA)	L 11-6
March 21	vs La Grande	4:30 p.m.
March 23	vs Walla Walla (WA)	4:30 p.m.
March 24	at Walla Walla (WA)	4:30 p.m.
March 27	vs Roseburg	TBD
March 28	vs Roseburg	TBD
March 30	vs Bishop Kelley (ID) (at Boise)	5 p.m.
March 31	vs Caldwell (ID) (at Boise)	9:30 a.m.
March 31	vs Wood River (ID) (at Boise)	Noon
April 1	vs Vallivue (ID) (at Boise)	Noon
April 6	at La Grande	4 p.m.
April 15	vs The Dalles (2)*	Noon/1:30 p.m.
April 18	at The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
April 22	vs Hood River (2)*	Noon/1:30 p.m.
April 25	at Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
April 29	at Hermiston (2)*	Noon/2 p.m.
May 2	vs Hermiston*	4:30 p.m.
May 5	at The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
May 9	at Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
May 12	vs Hermiston*	4:30 p.m.



**Hermiston pitcher Lukas Tolan fields a ground ball in a game against La Grande last season in Hermiston.**

EO file photo

**Hermiston Bulldogs**

The Bulldogs have several holes to fill from last season's squad, most notably in the pitching staff, where the likes of R.J. Robles, Chase Root and Tyler Sexton are no longer around to carry the load.

- HEAD COACH:** Lance Hawkins, 3rd year.  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** John Christy, Anthony Volker, Matt Bergstrom.  
**RETURNING STARTERS:** C Slade Gritz, sr.; INF/P Kody Moss, sr.; INF Daniel Gossler, jr.  
**OTHER RETURNERS:** P/3B Lukas Tolan, jr.; INF Andrew James, soph.; OF Mitch Brown, sr.; OF/P Wyatt Noland, soph.; INF/P Caden Schwirse, jr.; 1B Kaden Caldwell, sr.  
**IMPACT NEWCOMERS:** OF Brylee Dufloth, jr.; OF Joel Mendez, jr.; INF/P Jordan Ramirez, soph.;

1B/P Cole Campbell, jr.

**2017 Schedule**

Mar. 14	vs Ridgeview	W 7-6
Mar. 23	vs Wilsonville	4 p.m.
Mar. 27	vs Mtn. View (2)	1/3 p.m.
Mar. 30	vs Cleveland#	11:30 a.m.
Mar. 30	vs Summit #	2 p.m.
Mar. 31	vs Central Cath. #	2 p.m.
April 1	vs TBD (at Keizer)	TBD
April 4	at La Grande (2)	3 p.m.
April 7	vs Heritage (WA) (2)	3 p.m.
Apr. 10	at Kennewick (WA)	4 p.m.
Apr. 15	at Hood River (2)*	Noon
Apr. 18	vs Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 22	at The Dalles (2)*	Noon
Apr. 25	vs The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 29	vs Pendleton (2)*	Noon
May 2	at Pendleton*	4:30 p.m.
May 5	vs Hood River*	4:30 p.m.
May 8	vs The Dalles*	4:30 p.m.
May 12	at Pendleton*	4:30 p.m.

\*-denotes league game  
 #-denotes Volcanoe Spring Break Tournament in Keizer.

**Mac-Hi Pioneers**

**Mac-Hi's Jesus Vela throws from the mound in a game against Orofino (ID) last season in Milton-Freewater.**



EO file photo

With several underclassmen expected to see the field this season, the Pioneers will look for strong leadership from the upperclassmen to continue the program's progress.

- HEAD COACH:** Mark Michaud, 2nd year  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Carlos Ruvalcaba (JV head coach), 2nd year; Clint Hale, 1st year; Rick Ockerman, 1st year  
**RETURNING STARTERS:** 1B Keaton Smith, sr.; P/IF Jesus Vela, jr.; SS/P Miguel Garcia, jr.; CF/C Adrian Martinez, jr.; C Rudy Esparza, jr.  
**IMPACT NEWCOMERS:** David Zitterkopf, so.; Zach MacPerson, so.; Matt Cunningham, so.; Jesse Jones, fr.; Marcellus Brinkley, fr.; Devon Cothey, fr.

**SEASON GOALS:** Steady improvement every day is the goal for the Pioneers.  
**MICHAUD'S KEY TO THE SEASON:** "For every player to be present on every pitch. For every member of the program to have a great attitude and effort in practice and games."  
**BIGGEST STRENGTHS:** A strong commitment to their teammates, ability to respond to diversity and a love of the game are the strengths Michaud sees being displayed often with this group.

**2017 Schedule**

March 14	at College Place (WA)	Canceled
March 18	vs Elgin	Canceled
March 20	at DeSales (WA)	4 p.m.
March 21	at Weston-McEwen	4 p.m.
March 24	vs McCall (ID)	6 p.m.
March 25	vs Orofino (ID) (2)	11 a.m./1 p.m.
March 28	vs Vernonia (at Irrigon)	10 a.m.
March 28	vs TBD (at Irrigon)	TBD
March 29	vs TBD (at Irrigon)	TBD
April 3	at Riverside	4 p.m.
April 8	at Ontario (2)*	Noon/2 p.m.
April 11	vs College Place (WA)	4 p.m.
April 15	vs La Grande (2)*	Noon/2 p.m.
April 20	at Baker (2)*	3/5 p.m.
April 29	vs Ontario (2)*	Noon/2 p.m.
May 1	vs Riverside	4 p.m.
May 6	at La Grande (2)*	Noon/2 p.m.
May 12	vs Baker (2)*	3/5 p.m.

**4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE**

**Projected Finish**

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

**2016 Final Standings**

	Conf.	Ovr.
La Grande	8-4	14-12
Ontario	8-4	17-9
Baker	6-6	13-14
Mac-Hi	2-10	6-16

**Returning All-League Players**

**La Grande** — P GT Blackman, jr.; C Garrett Vaughn, sr.; 1B Aaron Goss, sr.; INF Isaac Chamberlain, jr.; OF Zack Jacobs, sr.; DH Chance Frederick, sr.; INF Jon Gonzalez, sr.  
**Ontario** — INF Mike Mejia, jr.; INF Eric Garcia, sr.; OF Steele Hartley, sr.; P Adam Hawker, jr.; P Seth Forsyth, so.; 1B Noah Navarette, jr.; OF Zack Forsythe, sr.  
**Baker** — OF Brad Zemmer, sr.; C Seth Dixon, sr.; INF TJ Dunn, sr.; OF Marcus Plumley, sr.  
**Mac-Hi** — INF Jesus Vela, jr.; INF Miguel Garcia, sr.

**GOOD LUCK BUCKS!**

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