

**3A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1**

In their first season in Class 3A, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots held off Vale and Echo for the league title. But in 2017, the league got a little less crowded as the move up by Irrigon and Burns caused the OSAA to split up the Eastern Oregon League into two Special Districts. Weston-McEwen returns five all-league players from last year, and is expected to be the favorite once again, while Riverside, Irrigon and Echo will all challenge for the second playoff spot.

**Projected Finish**

-  Weston-McEwen
-  Riverside Pirates
-  Irrigon Knights
-  Echo Cougars
-  Umatilla Vikings

(Rankings based on coach and media votes)

**Returning all-league**

**Weston-McEwen** — C Sydney Peal, sr.; INF/P Jordyn Lambert, soph.; OF Amie Coffman, soph.; P/IF Bailey Hillmick, sr.; OF Charmayne Bennett, jr.  
**Riverside** — P Skylar Wightman, jr.; 1B Sadie Hasbell, sr.  
**Echo** — P MacKenzie Gonzales, sr.; OF Hannah McCarty, sr.  
**Irrigon** — C Lilly Mills, sr.

**Irrigon Knights**

The Knights' veteran leadership should make them a team to watch in the Special District 1 title race.



**HEAD COACH:** Jeff Botefuhr, 2nd year  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Steve Sheller, 2nd year; Dan Verley (volunteer), 1st year; Al Phillips (volunteer), 1st year  
**RETURNING STARTERS:** Lily Mills, sr., C; Cassandra Fleming, sr., 1B; Kayla Gilman, sr., P/IF; Ariana Walls, sr., OF  
**OTHER RETURNERS:** Jada Burns, jr., IF; Mya Chapman, jr., P/IF; Karrizma Luna, so., IF/OF; MaKenzie Wilson, jr., OF; Courtney Case, sr., OF  
**IMPACT NEWCOMERS:** Bailey Botefuhr, fr., P/IF; Emma Combes, fr., OF

**SEASON GOALS:** Come together as a team to learn and grow and be successful against all of the other great teams on the schedule.

**BOTEFUHR'S KEY TO THE SEASON:** "We have a strong lineup that is ready to take on any challenge put before them. Consistent practices, building trust through team bonding, discipline on and off the field, and making the season fun and memorable for the coaches and players (is the key)."

**Weston-McEwen TigerScots**

**2017 Schedule**

Mar. 16	vs Mac-Hi	L 20-17
Mar. 24	vs Enterprise (at Pilot Rock)	9 a.m.
Mar. 24	vs Gaston (at Pilot Rock)	3 p.m.
Mar. 25	at Pilot Rock	11 a.m.
Mar. 25	vs Scio (at Pilot Rock)	3 p.m.
Mar. 31	vs Pilot Rock (at La Grande)	9 a.m.
Apr. 1	vs Union (at La Grande)	11 a.m.
Apr. 11	vs Umatilla*	4 p.m.
Apr. 13	at Union	4 p.m.
Apr. 18	at Echo*	4 p.m.
Apr. 22	vs Riverside (2)*	1/3 p.m.
Apr. 25	vs Irrigon*	4 p.m.
Apr. 28	at Umatilla (2)*	1/4 p.m.
May 5	at Irrigon (2)*	1/3 p.m.
May 9	at Riverside*	4 p.m.
May 12	vs Echo (2)*	1/3 p.m.
May 16	vs Union	4 p.m.

\*-denotes league game

The TigerScots made it to the state quarterfinals in their first season playing at Class 3A and will look to replace some key players lost to graduation and continue their run as state postseason regulars.

**HEAD COACH:** Jeff Griggs, 15th year  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** KC Ashley, Michael Lambert  
**RETURNING STARTERS:** P/2B Bailey Hillmick, sr.; C Sydney Peal, sr.; IF Charmayne Bennett, jr.; P/3B Jordyn Lambert, so.; OF Amie Coffman, so.  
**OTHER RETURNERS:** UT Emma Burke, sr.; OF Whitney Roggerio, jr.; INF Courtney Cain, so.; 1B Tyree Burke, so.

**SEASON GOALS:** Winning a second-straight league and district title and returning to the state playoffs for the fourth straight year.

**GRIGGS' KEY TO THE SEASON:** "We need to grow together as a team and work well as a unit. Our skills at particular positions must continuously improve over the next few months to accomplish the team's goals."

**BIGGEST STRENGTHS:** Hitting, speed on the base paths and a deep pitching rotation will help Weston-McEwen find success in 2017.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Charmayne Bennett (12), of Weston-McEwen, is greeted by the rest of her team at home plate after she hit a home run during Thursday's season-opening game against the Mac-Hi Pioneers.

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Hermiston Herald**

- Content by Matt Entrup & Eric Singer
- Photos by E.J. Harris and Kathy Aney

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Echo junior Mackenzie Gonzales delivers a pitch early during a 2016 game.

**Riverside Pirates**

The Pirates finished below the .500 mark last season, but the team returns seven starters who are strong in key areas where they are thinking of bigger and better things in 2017.

**HEAD COACH:** Jordan Mittelsdorf, 1st year (2nd year at school)  
**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Brooke Anderson, 1st year; Dean Mason, 23rd year; Rick Stokoe, 3rd year.

**RETURNING STARTERS:** 1B/UTIL Sadie Hasbell, sr.; INF/OF Xenia Velasco, sr.; SS Megan Hauner, sr.; SS/P Skylar Wightman, jr.; 3B/OF Abby Hernandez, jr.; C/3B Emily Kirby, jr.; OF/2B Masie Hancock, jr.

**OTHER RETURNERS:** OF Filone Mabila, jr.; OF Ruby Barrera, jr.; OF Shelby Collins, sr.; 1B Railyn Elliott, soph.

**IMPACT NEWCOMERS:** P/2B Bianca Avalos, fr.; OF/C Alexis Villegas, fr.

**SEASON GOALS:** Riverside has three goals this season, 1) to finish at least second place or better in the EOL, 2) to improve its win/loss record from 2016, and 3) to have each player learn a new skill and have fun.

**MITTELSDORF'S KEY TO THE SEASON:** "Our key to the season will be to play as a team, work on our fundamentals and defensive skills, and to develop the necessary skill to be

successful at this level."

**2017 Schedule**

Mar. 17	at Elgin (2)	1 p.m.
Mar. 20	at Waitsburg (WA)	3 p.m.
Mar. 21	vs Dayton (WA)	4 p.m.
Mar. 24	vs Columbia (2)	2 p.m.
Mar. 28	vs Willamina	2 p.m.
Mar. 29	vs Knappa	10 a.m.
Mar. 29	vs Burns	1 p.m.
Apr. 4	at Portland Christ.	4 p.m.
Apr. 6	vs Pilot Rock	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 11	at Irrigon*	4 p.m.
Apr. 14	vs Umatilla (2)*	1 p.m.
Apr. 18	at Columbia (WA) (2)	2
Apr. 22	at W.-McEwen (2)*	1 p.m.
Apr. 25	vs Echo*	4 p.m.
Apr. 28	vs Irrigon (2)*	1 p.m.
May 2	at Umatilla*	4 p.m.
May 5	at Echo (2)*	1 p.m.
May 9	vs W.-McEwen*	4 p.m.

\*-denotes league game

**Umatilla Vikings**

Having won just one game in the past three seasons, the Umatilla Vikings team this season hope to get things going in the right direction under 2nd year coach Kylee Lete. Umatilla already has one win under its belts for 2017.



**HEAD COACH:** Kylee Lete, 2nd year  
**ASSISTANT COACH:** Erick Olson

**2017 Schedule**

Mar. 14	at Touchet (WA)	L
Mar. 16	vs. Touchet (WA)	W/L
Mar. 20	vs Heppner (2)	2 p.m.
Mar. 27	vs Portland Christ.	1 p.m.
Mar. 27	vs Clatskanie	4 p.m.
April 4	at Heppner	3 p.m.
Apr. 11	at W.-McEwen*	4 p.m.
April 14	at Riverside (2)*	1 p.m.
April 18	vs Irrigon*	4 p.m.
April 21	at Echo (2)*	1 p.m.
Apr. 28	vs W.-McEwen (2)*	1 p.m.
May 2	vs Riverside*	4 p.m.
May 5	at Enterprise (2)*	1 p.m.
May 9	vs Echo*	4 p.m.
May 12	at Irrigon (2)*	1 p.m.

\*-denotes league game

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**Echo Cougars**

**RETURNING STARTERS:** P MacKenzie Gonzales, sr.; P Alyssa Ray, jr.; OF Hannah McCarty, sr.

**2017 Schedule**

Mar. 16	vs Union	L 10-2
Mar. 18	vs Pilot Rock	L 8-7
Mar. 21	vs Elgin (2)	1 p.m.
Mar. 31	vs Pilot Rock#	1 p.m.
Mar. 31	vs Union#	3 p.m.
Apr. 7	at Burns (2)	2 p.m.
Apr. 8	at Bonanza	11 a.m.
Apr. 8	vs Oakland%	2 p.m.
Apr. 14	at Irrigon (2)*	11 a.m.
Apr. 15	at Grant Union (2)	1 p.m.
Apr. 18	vs W.-McEwen*	4 p.m.
Apr. 21	vs Umatilla (2)*	1/4 p.m.
Apr. 22	vs Irrigon*	1 p.m.
Apr. 25	at Riverside*	4 p.m.
Apr. 29	at Glide (2)	11 a.m.
May 5	vs Riverside (2)*	1 p.m.
May 9	at Umatilla*	4 p.m.
May 12	at W.-McEwen (2)*	1 p.m.

\*-denotes league game

#-played at La Grande

%-played at Bonanza

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