









5A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1








The Summit Storm ruled the IMC and Special District 1 for the past few seasons, but their reign may end this season. On paper, Hermiston looks to be the strongest team in the league, returning seven all-league players and 11 total starters. Mountain View should be strong again as well, and Pendleton could push for a postseason spot. The top four teams earn a playoff berth.

Projected Finish

-  Hermiston Bulldogs
-  Mtn. View Cougars
-  Pendleton Buckaroos
-  Summit Storm
-  Bend Lava Bears
-  Redmond Panthers
-  Hood River Eagles
-  Ridgeview Ravens

(Rankings based on coaches and media votes)

2016 Final Standings

	Conf.	Ovr.
 Summit*	7-0	9-2
 Redmond*	5-2	6-5
 Hermiston*	5-2	5-5
 Mtn. View*	4-3	6-4
 Bend	4-3	6-3
 Pendleton	2-5	3-6
 Ridgeview	1-6	1-8
 Hood River	0-7	0-9

*-made postseason

Returning All-League

Hermiston — Dayshawn Neal, WR, sr.; Andrew James, QB, jr.; Jonathan Hinkle, RB/LB, sr.; AJ Fernandez, OL, sr.; Joe Gutierrez, DB, sr.; Beau Blake, OL/DL, sr.; Tyler Rohrman, DB/WR, sr.

Hood River Valley — Wade Pickering, OL, sr.; Patrick Estes, LB, sr.

Pendleton — Shaw Jerome, WR/DB, sr.; Nick Bower, QB, sr.; Greg Lee, DL, sr.

Mountain View — Rylee Ettinger, DL/OL, sr.; Brandt Waller, OL, sr.

Redmond — Dillon Taylor, RB, sr.; Colton Mortenson, DB, sr.; Tyson Hester, TE, sr.; Brian Lopez, K, sr.





Ridgeview — Jace Reitz, LB, sr.

Summit — Ben Graziani, WR, sr.; Noah Turnbull, OL/DL, sr.; Cian Marderos, DL/OL, sr.; Evan Heimuller, LB, sr.





4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

The Greater Oregon League was pretty balanced among the top three teams in 2016, with Ontario, La Grande, and Baker each tying for first place and making the postseason. However, all three teams lost a lot of players to graduation, which could allow for Mac-Hi to creep into the top three. La Grande should be the team this year with all-state QB and Utah State commitment Andrew Peasley leading the way.

Projected Finish

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

2016 Final Standings

	Conf.	Overall
 Ontario*	2-1	7-3
 La Grande*	2-1	4-6
 Baker*	2-1	7-3
 Mac-Hi	0-3	2-5

*-made playoffs

Hermiston Bulldogs



In this 2016 file photo, Hermiston quarterback Andrew James looks to hand off to Johnathan Hinkle in the Bulldogs' 36-14 loss to Union (WA) in Hermiston. With a lot of weapons back on offense, including James, the Bulldogs appear to be a team to beat in Special District 1 again this season.

Head coach: David Faeteete, 3rd year (10th overall)

Assistant coaches: Scott Hammond (defensive coordinator), 7th year; Mike Mosher (quarterback coach), 2nd year; Rick Wells (offense line coach), 2nd year; Gary Posten (linebacker, JV head coach), 2nd year; Jared Munsterman (freshman quarterback coach), 4th year; Nolan West (offensive line coach), 3rd year; Andy Hall (linebacker and freshman head coach), 2nd year; Travis Jones (running back coach), 3rd year; John Christy (offensive and defensive line coach), 1st year; Eddie Lopez



(defensive line coach), 7th year; Chris Gilchrist (wide receiver coach), 1st year

Returning starters: Taylor Arnold, OT, sr.; Beau Blake, OL/DT, sr.; AJ Fernandez, OT/DT, sr.; Joe Gutierrez, DB/WR, sr.; Jonathan Hinkle, RB/LB, sr.; Jose Huato, OL, sr.; Tyler Hunter, DE, sr.; Dayshawn Neal, WR/DB, sr.; Tyler Rohrman, WR/DB, sr.; Eric White, TE/DE, sr.; Andrew James, QB/LB, jr.

Returning lettermen: Keaton Mikami, DE/TE, sr.; AJ Tuia, WR/OLB, sr.; Peter Earl, RB/LB, sr.; Jacob Liebe, C/DT, jr.

On offense: The Bulldogs work with a spread offense, using multiple formations and personnel

2016 Results

Week 1	vs. Union (WA)	L 38-27
Week 2	at Lewiston (ID)	L 38-13
Week 3	vs. Mtn. View	W 35-21
Week 4	vs. Summit	L 27-14
Week 5	at Hood River	W 36-6
Week 6	vs. Ridgeview	W 54-0
Week 7	at Bend	W 28-7
Week 8	at Redmond	L 26-14
Week 9	vs. Pendleton	W 13-12
Playoff	at St. Helens	L 12-7

2017 Schedule

Sept. 1	at Union (WA)	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs. Lewiston (ID)	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Mtn. View*	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Summit*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	vs. Hood River*	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Ridgeview*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Bend*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	vs. Redmond*	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Pendleton*	7 p.m.

*-denotes league game

groups throughout the game. **On defense:** With an even front team with multiple coverages, the Bulldogs stay in their base package and will blitz when they feel it gives them an advantage.

Primary goals for the season: Faeteete wants the team to get better each day, and put in championship work every day.

Faeteete's key to season: "Trust the process. Preparation every week is why great teams are great, and why they win. Prepare every week like it is the last game you will ever play in or coach and pay attention to the details — that is our key to victory."

Pendleton Buckaroos

Head coach: Erik Davis, 6th year

Assistant coaches: Fred Phillips (Def. coordinator/linebackers), 10th year; Josh Linehan (offensive line), 8th year; Aaron Schmidt (wide receivers), 8th year; Wes Armstrong (running backs), 2nd year; Drew Hubel (quarterbacks), 3rd year; Mark Sokoloski (defensive backs), 8th year; Ron Murphy (defensive line), 3rd year.



Key returners: Nick Bower, QB, sr.; Shaw Jerome, WR/DB, sr.; Greg Lee, DL/TE, sr.; Tanner Stephan, WR/DB, sr.;

Impact newcomers: Willie Camp, WR, sr. (transfer from La Grande).

On offense: The Buckaroos want to keep defenses guessing out of its spread formations, and senior QB Nick Bower will look to fellow senior Shaw Jerome to attack defenses downfield.

On defense: The Bucks have some holes to fill along the front seven, but return enough in the secondary to help balance it. They'll still look to keep opposing offenses out of rhythm and use aggressive pass rushes and coverages.



Buckaroo quarterback Nick Bower avoids a tackle during a 2016 game against Redmond at the Round-Up Arena. Bower returns to lead Pendleton's offense as the Bucks look to get into the playoffs.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

2017 Schedule

Sept. 1	vs. La Grande	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs. Putnam	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	vs. Summit*	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	vs. Ridgeview*	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Redmond*	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	vs. Mtn. View*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Hood River*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Bend*	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	vs. Hermiston*	7 p.m.

*-league game

2016 Results

Week 1	at La Grande	W 48-28
Week 2	at Putnam	L 49-21
Week 3	at Summit	L 55-17
Week 4	at Ridgeview	W 29-25
Week 5	vs. Redmond	L 49-21
Week 6	at Mtn. View	L 35-18
Week 7	vs. Hood River	W 33-23
Week 8	vs. Bend	L 22-7
Week 9	at Hermiston	L 13-12

McLoughlin Pioneers

Head coach: Gary Robertson, 2nd year (3rd year overall)

Assistant coaches: Rory Simpson (defensive coordinator), 3rd year; James Wilbourn (Offensive/Defensive line), 1st year; Mike Lesko, 1st year.



Returning starters: Drew Birdwell, QB/DB, sr.; Michael Breeding, DE/RB, sr.; Brandyn Chaney, LB/TE, sr.; Zach Crisman, WR/DB, sr.; Kyler Kelly, OL/DL, sr.; Allen Mendoza, DB/WR, sr.; Salvador Patino, LB/TE, sr.; Alejandro Saldana, LB/OL, sr.;

Josh Torres, OL/LB, sr.; Spencer Wells, OL/DE, sr.

Other returners: Wyatt Bamford, RB/DB, sr.; Alex Doherty, OL/DL, jr.; Cruz Garcia, DL/OL, sr.; Wyatt Gilmore, QB/DB, sr.; Alfredo Lopez, WR/DB, sr.; Joey Olson, OL/DL, sr.; Tristan Brennan, RB/LB, soph., Marcellus Brinkley, RB/DB, soph., Zach Hodgen, TE/DE, jr.; Alexis Perez, OL/DL, jr.; Dylan Quist, TE/LB, soph.

Impact newcomers: Hector Castillo, fr.; Andrew Ceja, fr., Nick Doherty, fr., Devin Humber, fr.; Rafael Pereydn, fr.; Eli Springer,

fr., Kiez White, fr.

On offense: The Pioneers are a run/pass/option team that runs out of the spread formation with four wide receivers at a time.

On defense: Mac-Hi goes with a stacked box on most plays, running a 4-4 base formation, and the Pioneers intend to up its aggressiveness in playcalling and utilize more blitzes and pressures.

Robertson's key to the season: "Health. If we can keep our starters healthy and continue to improve as we did last year, it'll be a good year."

2017 Schedule

Sept. 1	at Dayton-Waitsburg (WA)	7 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs. DeSales (WA)	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Weston-McEwen	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	vs. Riverside	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	vs. Ontario*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at La Grande*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	vs. Baker*	7 p.m.

*-league game

2016 Results

Week 1	vs. Waitsburg (WA)	W 14-7
Week 2	vs. Desales (WA)	L 28-27
Week 3	at The Dalles	L 36-0
Week 4	at Riverside	W 41-26
Week 6	at Ontario*	L 53-0
Week 7	vs. La Grande*	L 68-20
Week 8	at Baker*	L 48-7