

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Mac-Hi and La Grande made the GOL a two-horse race in 2016 and will likely do the same this season. The top two teams in the league earn automatic postseason berths.

Projected Finish

-  La Grande Tigers
-  Mac-Hi Pioneers
-  Baker Bulldogs
-  Ontario Tigers
- (Rankings based on coaches and media votes)

Mac-Hi Pioneers

Head coach: Martin Martinez, 16th year
Assistant coach: Devin Holmes, 3rd year
2016 season: 9-6-1 overall, 4-2 GOL (2nd); lost to Cascade in 4A first round.
Key returners: Faith Kelly, D, sr.; Brianna Hernandez, D, sr.; Lorena Romero, D, sr.; Rachael Lyon, M, sr.; Bianca Garcia, F, jr.; Jacky Gomez, M, sr.

2017 Schedule		
Aug. 28	vs. Hermiston	3 p.m.
Aug. 29	at Umatilla	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	vs. The Dalles	4 p.m.
Sept. 9	vs. Banks#	3 p.m.
Sept. 12	vs. Pendleton	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Ontario*	1 p.m.
Sept. 19	vs. Riverside	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	vs. La Grande*	Noon
Sept. 30	vs. Baker*	Noon
Oct. 7	vs. Ontario*	Noon
Oct. 14	at La Grande*	Noon
Oct. 21	at Baker*	Noon

*-denotes league game
#-game played at The Dalles HS

3A SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Riverside is the front-runner for the league title this year after returning the majority of its roster from last season, while Umatilla should be improved. Irrigon is also debuting a girls team this season. Top two teams get a postseason berth.

Umatilla Vikings

Head coach: Tim Lee, 11th year
Assistant coach: Monty Williams, 7th year; Adrian Soto, 2nd year
Returning starters: Mayra Ortiz, M, sr.; Maria Moreno, GK/M, sr.; Daisy Mendoza, D, sr.; Celeste Rodriguez, F, sr.; Yamilex Ortiz, M, jr.; Viridiana Mendoza, D/M, jr.; Christy Macias, D/M, jr.; Patty Burres, D, so.
Other returners: Brenda Mendoza, DM, sr.; Julisa Bernal, DM/GK, sr.; Lorena Leon, M, sr.; Lizzy Burres, F/D, so.; Nalleli Madrigal, F, so.

Projected Finish

-  Riverside Pirates
-  Umatilla Vikings
-  Nyssa Bulldogs
-  Irrigon Knights
- (Rankings based on coaches and media votes)

Riverside Pirates

Head coach: Carlos Velasco, 5th year
Assistant coach: Yvonne Torres, 3rd year
Returning starters: Abigail Hernandez, Bianca Avalos, Brendy Avalos, Alondra Caldera, Estrella Daltoso, Faith Rosen, Neftali Pacheco, Skylar Wightman, Yoanna Lopez
Returning letterman: Nahomy Claustro, Karina Llamas, Brenda Flores
Team's expectations: "Win districts again and make it to the second round in state"

2017 Schedule		
Aug. 29	vs. Baker	4 p.m.
Sept. 2	at Stevenson (WA)	1 p.m.
Sept. 7	at La Grande	4 p.m.
Sept. 9	vs. Portland Christ.	1 p.m.
Sept. 12	at Portland Adventist	6 p.m.
Sept. 14	vs. White Salmon (WA)	4 p.m.
Sept. 15	at Riverdale	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Mac-Hi	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Umatilla*	5 p.m.
Sept. 30	vs. Nyssa*	1 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Irrigon*	1 p.m.
Oct. 14	vs. Umatilla*	1 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Nyssa*	2 p.m.
Oct. 28	vs. Irrigon*	4 p.m.

*-denotes league game

Irrigon Knights

Head coach: Joe Cobb, 1st year
Assistant coach: Andrea Chairez, 1st year.
Season outlook: The 2017 season will be the first for the Irrigon girls soccer program, which hopes to begin to build a solid program like their boys' counterparts have done over the last few years.

2017 Schedule		
Sept. 7	at Hermiston JV	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 12	at White Salmon (WA)	5 p.m.
Sept. 19	vs. Hermiston JV	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. White Salmon (WA)	5 p.m.
Sept. 23	vs. Nyssa*	1 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Umatilla*	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	vs. Riverside*	1 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Nyssa*	3 p.m.
Oct. 21	vs. Umatilla*	1 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Riverside*	4 p.m.

*-denotes league game



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Riverside's Faith Rosen battles for the ball with a Cascade Christian defender in a 2016 game in Boardman.

CROSS COUNTRY

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE

Hood River and The Dalles controlled the district all around last season, but Hermiston expects to make a big push in its final season in the OSAA.

2016 Boys Finish

	Points
 Hood River Eagles	23
 The Dalles Riverhawks	48
 Hermiston Bulldogs	71
 Pendleton Buckaroos	88

2016 Girls Finish

	Points
 Hood River Eagles	18
 The Dalles Riverhawks	45
 Hermiston Bulldogs	73
 Pendleton Buckaroos	102

Hermiston Bulldogs

Head coach: Troy Blackburn, 3rd year
Assistant coaches: Sean Williams (Boys Assistant), 3rd year; Patti Shult (Girls Assistant), 1st year.
Returning starters: (GIRLS) Melany Solorio, senior; Morgan Hancock, sr.; Sidney Tovey, sr.; Sheila Solorio, soph. (BOYS) Isaac Sanchez, sr.; Emanuel Ibarra, sr.; Angel Benites, jr.; Nicholas Brashears, jr.
Other returners: Martin Heredia, jr.
Impact newcomers: (GIRLS) Julianna Joyce, fr.; Amanda Nygard, fr.; Faith Bartch, jr.; Fatima Frasser, fr.; Emily Collinsworth. (BOYS) Adrian Delgado, fr.; Jaime Corona, fr.; Brooks Bellinger, fr.
Team's primary goals: (GIRLS) "This year we are returning all of our key contributors from our third place district team from last year, and we are adding two promising freshmen. With returning state qualifiers Melany Solorio and Morgan Hancock, our team leader Sidney Tovey and adding good freshmen and transfers we have the strongest girls team that I have coached. I expect us to be competitive in districts and be competitive in state."
(BOYS) "Last year was a developmental year for our team, but we have returned all of our top seven from last year. We have three-time state qualifier Isaac Sanchez leading with fellow senior Emanuel Ibarra, along with very committed core that have put in a lot

of miles this summer. Angel Benites, Heredia, Anderson and Freddy Ibarra have put in over 300 miles this summer. Hard work equals success so I expect Hermiston to once again compete for a district title and make some noise at state."
Blackburn's key to the season: "Hard work and consistency will be key in the success of both our teams. In running you get out what you put in, the more work you do the better you will be, and that is what we will need to do."

2017 Schedule		
Sept. 2	at Ultimook Nike Invite	TBD
Sept. 9	Runner's Soul XC*	10 a.m.
Sept. 16	at Oregon City Invite	10 a.m.
Sept. 22	at Umatilla	TBD
Sept. 28	Bulldog Fest*	TBD
Sept. 30	at Nike Portland XC	8 a.m.
Oct. 7	at Richland (WA) Invite	TBD
Oct. 14	at George Fox XC Classic	TBD
Oct. 19	Wildhorse Invite	TBD
Oct. 26	CRC Districts	TBD

*-denotes races in Hermiston

Pendleton Buckaroos

Head coach: Nicole Stewart, 13th year.
Assistant coaches: Ben Bradley, 4th year; Maddy Naughton, 13th year; Jake Osborne, 13th year.
Returning starters: (BOYS) Nick Oja, sr.; (GIRLS) Rylee Harris, soph.
Other returning lettermen: (BOYS) Dustin Henderson, jr.; Shane Miltenberger, sr. (GIRLS) Dani Moore, sr.; Ashlee Zaugg, soph.
Impact newcomers: Curtis Simons, fr. (boys); Jordyn Murphy, fr., (girls).
Season outlook: Pendleton has graduated a lot of talent over the past few years, but the Bucks return a lot of young, skilled runners that want to put in the work to push the pace. And the improvement from the young athletes are going to be crucial for the Buckaroos if they want to improve their standing in the district, which is goal No. 1 for them this season.
Stewart's key to the season: "A strong junior varsity team that pushes the varsity and team unity."

2017 Schedule		
Sept. 9	Dress Up Parade Run	10 a.m.
Sept. 22	at Umatilla	TBD
Sept. 30	Nike Portland XC	8 a.m.
Oct. 7	Richland (WA) Invite	TBD
Oct. 13	at Mac-Hi Gutbuster	TBD
Oct. 19	Kyle Burnside Invite	TBD
Oct. 26	Districts (at Wildhorse)	TBD



EO File photo
Hermiston's Emanuel Ibarra and Pendleton's Nick Oja run side-by-side at 2016 Runner's Soul XC Fest in Hermiston.



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