

Prep Sports

OSAA committee gives final classification recommendation

East Oregonian

After a year of meetings, discussions, work sessions and 20 drafts, the OSAA’s landscape for the next four years to nearly be set. The OSAA classification and districting committee released its final recommendation for the four-year time block that will run from 2018-2022 earlier this week. The final recommendation is a six-classification plan that will be presented to the OSAA executive board for final approval at its next meeting on Oct. 16.

In that recommendation, a few schools in Umatilla and Morrow Counties will see some change, while most will keep the status quo. Among the changes are in Class 5A, where Pendleton will move into a new six-team Intermountain Conference with Crook County, Hood River Valley, Redmond, Ridgeview and The Dalles. In Class 2A, the Columbia Basin Conference and Wapiti League will combine under the



Wapiti League name, comprised of Heppner, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen, Enterprise, Grant Union and Union. And in 1A, the lone local school to see a change-of-scenery is Echo, who moves from the Old Oregon League to the Big Sky League with the likes of Arlington, Ione and Condon/Wheeler. Meanwhile, the 4A Greater Oregon League and 3A Eastern Oregon League will stay completely intact. Each of the six classifica-

tions saw some significant changes in terms of size. Class 4A saw the biggest change as it loses seven schools to fall from 40 to 33 and 2A had the biggest increase from 44 to 48. Elsewhere, 6A dropped to 53, while 5A increased by one to 33, and 1A increased by three to 85. Perhaps the toughest decision for the committee over the past year was how to best fit the three Bend schools — Bend, Summit and Mountain View — into Class 6A the best, as none of the 6A leagues were inter-

ested in taking them in. Over the span of the 20 drafts, the three schools were jumped from league-to-league until the committee settled on the Salem-area Greater Valley Conference. “The committee reviewed potential placements with Southern Oregon/Eugen schools, Salem schools and East Portland schools,” the committee wrote in the recommendation. “After lengthy conversation, the committee reached consensus that the three Bend schools fit best with

the Greater Valley Conference when reviewing the four criteria of placement ... choosing the shortest of the three travel options makes the most sense.” As the committee noted at the end of its recommendation, nothing is yet set in stone and member schools and the public will still have the chance to express opinions about the recommendation to the executive board prior to or at the Oct. 16 meeting in Wilsonville. The final recommendation can be found online at OSAA.org.

Golf

Americans running away in the Presidents Cup

Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Phil Mickelson rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to cap off another big day for the Americans and set a record for the largest lead after two sessions in Presidents Cup history. Another day like this and that’s what the International team will be — history. Mickelson and Kisner never led against Jason Day and Marc Leishman until the par-3 18th hole Friday at Liberty National. Mickelson poured in his birdie putt, and Leishman missed his from about the same range. About the only thing that went wrong was the celebration. Mickelson, who on Thursday cropped himself out of a selfie with the last three U.S. presidents, missed a move in the “Three Amigos” dance with Kisner.

“I’m clearly the worst selfie taker. I’m the worst ‘Three Amigos’ dancer. But I can putt,” Mickelson said. Mickelson, who has played in all 12 Presidents Cups, has 24 match victories to tie the record set by Tiger Woods in eight appearances. Woods was looking on in his role as an assistant to U.S. captain Steve Stricker. And that’s about all the International team could do. Hideki Matsuyama and Adam Hadwin were 2 up with four holes to play against Jordan Spieth and Patrick Reed and had to settle for a halve. Even that felt like a small victory for the International team because Spieth had birdie putts on the final two holes that narrowly missed. Justin Thomas, already with a big year behind him as a major champion and the FedEx Cup champion, teamed with Rickie

Fowler for another easy victory. They have trailed only one hole in their two matches, and they became the first partnership to beat Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace. They took the lead for good when Fowler made a 15-foot birdie putt on the third hole, and then Thomas produced the loudest cheer of the afternoon at a pivotal moment on the 14th hole. Oosthuizen hit his approach to 6 feet, while both Americans missed the green. From the left bunker, Thomas blasted out perfectly and watched in drop in for a birdie that kept the International team from cutting the deficit to 1 down. Thomas birdied the next hole, and his bunker shot on the 16th hit the pin and somehow stayed out. The shortest match of the day belonged to a pair of American rookies, Kevin Chappell and Charley Hoffman, who sat out the foursomes matches in the opening

session. They were 3 up after four holes against Charl Schwartzel and Anirban Lahiri and never let up in a 6-and-5 victory. Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka, close friends and the last two U.S. Open champions, took their first lead on the par-3 10th with Koepka’s birdie, and Johnson showed rare emotion on his final two birdies in a 3-and-2 victory over Adam Scott and Jhonattan Vegas. The Americans have a 9-1-1 lead in the series, their only loss coming in 1998 at Royal Melbourne. But it has at least been close after the opening two sessions, with neither side leading by more than two points since 1998. With an 8-2 lead, the Americans have a mathematical chance to clinch on Saturday, which features four matches of foursomes in the morning and four matches of four-balls in the afternoon.

HEPPNER: Has bye next week

Continued from 1B 61-yard drive when Coby Dougherty took a handoff on 4th-and-4 and ran it 14 yards into the end zone. A good two-point conversion made it an 8-0 lead for Heppner early in the first. But Weston-McEwen answered Heppner’s drive with one of its own, and found the end zone on an inside handoff to Kelen McGill who broke a tackle and bounced outside for a 14-yard touchdown, but a failed two-point conversion kept Heppner in front 8-6. After that, it was all Mustangs. Wolters took over on the next drive, breaking off a 41-yard rush that took Heppner into the red zone and then finishing off the drive with a 3-yard touchdown rush for a 14-6 Heppner lead early in the second quarter. Two possessions later, Heppner took over at the TigerScots’ 37 and on its first play of the drive Wolters took a sweep handoff and dashed 37 yards for a touchdown. Coby Dougherty added his second touchdown of the game on a 20-yard rush late in the second quarter to send Heppner to halftime with a 32-6 lead and cruise in the second half. Heppner rushed for 279 yards as a team as the offensive line won the battles in the trenches. “We felt all along that we have an offensive front that can be good when they work together,” Grant said. “It’s all about communication and they all know what to do, but they’re all doing different things and not jelling. We’re finally starting to trust and do some things and we’re really close.” While the win was good, it was a frustrating game for Grant and the Heppner coaches because of mistakes that piled up as the game went on. The defense struggled to tackle at times, letting Weston-McEwen turn big negative losses into positive gains, and the offense fell into lulls where the execution lacked. “My assistant said it best, we’re mercurial. We look like we know what we’re doing one minute and the next minute we don’t,” Grant said. “The kids are trying really hard but we just have to clean up technique and things. I’m happy for them because they’ve been working hard and making strides, but I just know gee whiz if we can do a few things better how much better we can be. I’d love to see their effort be rewarded.” For Weston-McEwen, the little offense it could muster mostly came from quarterback Brett Speed, as the senior ran for 62 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries, and also threw for 49 yards on 5 of 11 passing. Running back Jacob Speed was unable to show off his speed for most of the game, finishing with just one net rushing yard on eight carries. McGill was the team’s second leading rusher with 21 yards on seven carries with his score. “They came out and punched us in the mouth over and over again,” Weston-McEwen coach Travis Glover said. “I’ve always said football is a game of inches and they took every one of them. Outside of that, we got beat by a great football team and we have to put things back together and get ready for Stanfield.” Weston-McEwen will look to regroup next week at Stanfield while Heppner gets a bye week to try and clean up things before hosting Culver on Oct. 13. “I’m happy for the kids,” Grant said. “We had a pretty tough start and a good couple of weeks to give the kids some confidence.”

HERMISTON: Scored 34 second quarter points

Continued from 1B lone yard and his second and final rushing touchdown of the night. A little more than five minutes later, still in the second quarter, Hinkle rushed 19 yards to push the score to 20-0 in favor of the Bulldogs. The Eagles (2-2, 1-2) struggled in the first half and desperately needed something to click. But nothing did. Hood River answered the Bulldogs’ third touchdown by giving Hermiston the ball right back after an unsuccessful try on fourth down. Although the run game was the focus of the night, James did make some exceptionally good passes. The 66-yarder to senior wide receiver Tyler Rohram for a touchdown highlighted his performance. James finished 10-of-11 passing on the night, racking up 200 yards and two touchdowns. The second came minutes after his connection to Rohram. With less than 30 seconds until halftime, James found Neal for 42 yards to push Hermiston’s lead to 34-0 at the break. Once both teams returned, the Bulldogs were giving up too many yards on penalties — part of the reason why the Eagles’ eventual scoring drive was continued. “We didn’t come out and start very well in the third quarter,” Faaeteete said. “Some penalties extended their drive and some penalties killed our drive when we got something going.” By the end of the night Hermiston had given up 79 total yards on nine penalties, and as a result allowed Hood River to get points of its own on the board. Back-to-back pass interference calls on the defense moved the Eagles all the way to the Bulldogs’ 5-yard line. Their first touchdown came with nine seconds left in the third quarter, and they would score



Hermiston’s Dayshawn Neal (1) and Peter Earl wrap up Hood River’s Michael Jones in the Bulldogs’ 40-14 win against Hood River on Friday in Hermiston.

again in the final 10 minutes of the game. But Hermiston’s first half efforts and an insurance touchdown from Neal to open the fourth quarter put Hood River in too big of a hole to crawl out of and that’s just fine with the Dawgs. “It’s huge,” James said of the victory. “It shows us we have the ability to win but we still can’t have a bad week. ... We’ve just got to keep the same momentum, the same attitude.” Hermiston will get a brief break from league play when it travels to Riverside next week, and won’t return home until Oct. 13 to face Bend.

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Hermiston quarterback Andrew James rushes the ball for a touchdown chased by Hood River’s Matthew Tichenor in the Bulldogs’ 40-14 win against Hood River on Friday in Hermiston.

PREP ROUNDUP: Irrigon shuts out Riverside

Continued from 1B

with the game plan, things would start to click. And they did. The comeback was a team effort, but a few players lead pack. Senior running back Adrian Renner finished the night with 199 yards and one touchdown on 16 carries. Fellow senior Justin Keeney added 108 yards on 11 carries and had three catches for 32 yards and one touchdown. Senior quarterback Shayne Keltz went 3-for-6 for 82 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore running back Mason Smith also recorded one catch for 30 yards and a touchdown. Stanfield will return home where the Tigers will finish out their season with three straight home games. Up next is a match

up against Weston-McEwen. Culver will remain at home next week and host Grant Union. **IRRIGON 50, RIVERSIDE/ IONE 0** — The Knights had no trouble on the road Friday. Irrigon handed Riverside its first league loss in shut-out fashion as both teams opened conference play. The efforts on both offense and defense were worthy of praise from head coach Steve Sheller, and it was quarterback Jada Burns who got a lot of it. The junior varsity quarterback entered the game early in the third quarter, and led multiple touchdown drives en route to Irrigon’s 50-0 victory. “I really like working with good kids, and I have a lot of good kids but there’s something about Jada that stands out,” Sheller said.

Also having a good night is the junior running back duo of Josue Aguilera and Lino Covarrubia. Aguilera has been the star of the offense for the past couple weeks, and tonight he put on another show for the Knights (3-1 overall, 1-0 EOL). He ran for 200 yards and four touchdowns on 25 carries and Covarrubia rushed for Sheller adds these performances would have been difficult to execute without the offensive line playing lights out. “He’s a tough kid and a tough runner,” he said of Aguilera. “But even he’ll tell you that he couldn’t get those yards without the o-line being tough off the ball and controlling the line of scrimmage.” At the half, Irrigon was up 28-0 and once the teams returned to the field the defense continued to shut

the Pirates (2-2, 0-1) down. “The Riverside kids were tough, and fought hard all night,” Sheller said. “This is nothing to hang their heads over.” Up next, Irrigon will face Vale at home while Riverside will travel to Umatilla to continue league play.

GIRLS SOCCER UMATILLA 2, IRRIGON 0 — At Umatilla, the Vikings picked up their first league victory of the season with a shutout over Irrigon on Friday afternoon. Umatilla (2-3-2, 1-0-1 EOL) earned the victory on goals by Devina Monreal and Mayra Ortiz. The Vikings will next play on Tuesday at Baker, while Irrigon (0-6, 0-2) will play at Mac-Hi on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

HHS	8	24	8	12	—	52
W-M	6	0	6	0	—	12
PASSING — (IHHS) J. Wilson 2-11; 23, TD, INT; K. Smith 1-1; 13, (W-M) B. Speed 5-11; 50, INT.						
RUSHING — (IHHS) Be. Wolters 15-151; 3TD; C. Dougherty 10-72, 3TD; G. Hanna-Robinson 5-34; Bl. Wolters 5-9; J. Wilson 2-10; K. Wilkins 1-9; J. Lehman 1-61. (W-M) B. Speed 15-62; TD; J. Speed 8-1; K. McGill 2-21; T. Novokovskiy 1-4; H. Lantz 1-4-2).						
RECEIVING — (IHHS) Bl. Wolters 1-16; G. Hanna-Robinson 1-13; Be. Wolters 1-7 TD. (W-M) P. Munck 5-50.						
FIRST DOWNS — HHS 17, W-M 12. PENALTIES — HHS 6-55; W-M 5-30. TIME OF POSSESSION: HHS 19:49; W-M 28:11.						

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