

Class 4A Greater Oregon League

The GOL looks like Ontario's league to lose this season, as the defending league champions return some key contributors to the Tigers team that made it all the way to the state semifinal a season ago. La Grande, Baker and Mac-Hi will battle it out for the

league's second playoff spot.

2017 Standings

Ontario	3-0	8-3
La Grande	2-1	8-3
Baker	1-2	3-6
Mac-Hi	0-3	3-4

Mac-Hi Pioneers

Head coach: Gary Robertson

Assistant coaches: Rory Simpson (Defensive Coordinator, Running Backs, Linebackers);

James Willbourn (Defensive Line); Mike Lesko (Line Coach); James McBride (Line Coach).



2017 season: 3-4 overall, 0-3 Greater Oregon League (4th); Did not make playoffs.

Returning starters: Wyatt Gilmore, QB/S, jr.; Alexis Perez, OL/DL, sr.; Alex Doherty, OL/DL, sr.; Marcell Brinkley, RB, jr.

Other returning lettermen: Tristan Brennan, L, jr.; Sam Carlson, OL/LB, sr.; Devin Humbert, WR/LB, soph.; Rafael Peredyn, LB, soph.; Dylan Quist, TE/DL, jr.; Kiez White, RB, soph.

Other seniors: Matt Cunningham, OL/DL; Zach Hodgen, OL/DL.

Team outlook: The strength of the Pioneers

2018 Schedule

Aug. 31	at Madras	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Tilamook	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	vs. Baker*	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. La Grande*	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Ontario*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Baker*	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at La Grande*	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	vs. Ontario*	7 p.m.

*-league game

lies in the trenches and the offensive skill positions, with a group of big, strong linemen and fast skill guys.

Robertson's expectations: "Build on the success of the previous season, have fun and play with passion."

Class 1A Special District 5

For the first time since 1959, six-man football will be played at the high school level in

Oregon this fall. As part of a two-year trial, teams with adjusted enrollments of fewer than 89 were eligible and the Echo Cougars are a part of the 15 teams playing six-man.

Echo Cougars

Head coach: Rick Thew, 8th year

Assistant coaches: Richard Thew, Don Walker

2017 season: 7-3 overall, 4-1 1A Special District 1 (4th); Lost 58-20 to Falls City in 1A first round



Key returners: Devan Craig, QB/S, sr.; Caden Fisher, LB/C

jr.; Camron Scott, DE, soph.; Eli

Garcilazo, NG, soph.

Thew's expectations: "We expect to competing for the top spot in our league and our goal is to have fun learning this new game while

2018 Schedule

Aug. 31	vs. Harper Charter	6 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Dayville	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. Huntington	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Prairie City	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Burnt River	2 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Mitchell	3 p.m.
Oct. 19	vs. South Wasco	7 p.m.

playing at a high level."

and Special District 4, as well as a few Class 2A teams such as Pilot Rock and Enterprise that dropped down to 1A for competitive balance purposes.

Class 1A Special District 3

Special District 3, which encompasses Eastern Oregon, is now a 15-team district comprised of the 2017 Special District 1

Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii

Head coach: Mike Baleztena

Assistant coaches: Joe Burns (Special Teams), Shane Munkers (Defensive Coordinator),

Terry Corwin (Line Coach), Lane Crisman (Nixyaawii)



2017 season: 3-5 overall as Class 2A independent; did not qualify for postseason.

Returning starters: Logan Weinke, QB/DB, jr.; Cade Munkers, OC/

DE, sr.; Saber Harp, DB/WR, sr.; Christian Haskall, P/DB, sr.; Tanner Corwin, DB/WR, soph.;

Tyasin Burns, RB/DB, soph.; Ian Gambill, RB/DB, soph.; William Sigo, NT/OL, soph.; Caden

Thornton, DE/OL, soph.

Other returning lettermen: Paxton Ellis, DT, soph.; Deven Barkley, DT, sr.

Impact newcomers: Quannah Picard, WR, sr.; Justin Smith, DB, sr.; Kade Koberstein, OL, soph.

Team outlook: Low participation forced Pilot Rock to play 8-man football last season as a

Class 2A independent, and though numbers

are up this year, Pilot Rock drops to the Class 1A level for football as a part of the OSAA's new competitive balance measures. And with nine returning starters and some new talent coming into the team, Pilot Rock is thinking about a playoff spot this fall.

Baleztena's expectations: "Stay healthy and make the playoffs."

2018 Schedule

Aug. 31	vs. Enterprise*	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Sherman*	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Lone*	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Arlington*	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	vs. Imbler*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Union*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	vs. Dufur*	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	League Playoff#	TBD

*-league game

#-at Eastern Oregon University

Class 3A Special District 3

For the past five seasons only Vale and Nyssa have been crowned Eastern Oregon League champions, with Burns finishing in third three of those times. Umatilla and Irrigon will try to break that streak this fall and snag one of the league's three playoff spots.

2017 Standings

Nyssa	5-0	8-1
Vale	4-1	7-4
Burns	3-2	5-4
Irrigon	2-3	4-4
Umatilla	1-4	4-5

Umatilla Vikings

Head coach: Dan Durfey, 4th year

Assistant coaches: Kris Welch (Defensive Coordinator), 3rd year; Steven Williams (QB's),



2nd year; John Garrett (Special Teams), 1st year; Norman Valdez (Line Coach), 1st year

2017 season: 4-5 overall, 1-4 Eastern Oregon League (5th); Did not make playoffs.

Returning starters: Darion Smith, DE/OL, jr.; Trent Durfey, RB/LB, sr.; Pablo

Ames, WR, sr.; Josh Brown, TE/LB, sr.; Arrik Russel, WR, jr.; Zach Funderburk, DE/T, sr.;

Blaz Zapata, DT/OG, sr.

Other returning lettermen: Eric Hoyos, RB/LB, soph.

Impact newcomers: Andrew Earl, QB/WR/FS, jr.

Team outlook: The Vikings have a few notable pieces to replace, including QB Kaden Webb, but return all-state player Trent

Durfey and other key contributors as the Vikings aim for a playoff berth in a smaller

Eastern Oregon League in 2018.

Durfey's expectations: "Improve on the record from last year and make the playoffs."



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Viking running back Trent Durfey (34) makes long yardage.

2018 Schedule

Aug. 31	vs. Rainier	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Clatskaine	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Stanfield	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Grant Union	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Nyssa*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	vs. Burns*	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Vale*	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Irrigon*	7 p.m.

*-league game

Irrigon Knights

Head coach: Ken Thompson, 1st year

Assistant coach: Jacob Arnold

2017 season: 4-4 overall, 2-3 Eastern Oregon

League (4th); Did not make playoffs.



Key returners: Reece Sheller, C, jr.; Keith Fleming, LB, jr.;

Alex Walls, LB, jr.; Lino Covarrubia, LB/RB, jr.;

Josue Aguilera, RB/LB, sr.; Zack Henrichs, QB/DB, sr.

Team outlook: With talented running backs

Lino Covarrubia and Josue Aguilera back for their senior seasons, the Knights will continue to be a run-heavy team as they aim to

2018 Schedule

Aug. 31	at Stanfield	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	vs. Weston-McEwen	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Liberty (WA)	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	vs. Stevenson (WA)	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Burns*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Heppner	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Vale*	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	vs. Nyssa*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	vs. Umatilla*	7 p.m.

*-league game

crack the likes of Vale, Burns and Nyssa for a playoff spot this fall.

Ione Cardinals

Head coach: JJ Rosenberg, 1st year

Assistant coaches: Tanner Rietmann, 1st year; Gary Maldonado (equipment),

1st year; Josh Bleth (equipment).

2017 season: Did not field team.

Returning starters: Nestor Ramirez, RB/DB, sr.;

JR Roque, RB/LB, jr.; Hunter Padberg, RB/LB, soph.

Other returning lettermen: Aidan Barresse, RB/LB, sr.;

Josh Gray, OL/DL, sr.; Jake Heideman, QB/DB, jr.;

Evan Ferguson, WR/DB, soph.

Other seniors: JR Verduzco, RB/DB.

Impact newcomers: Mauricio Martinez, WR/DB, jr.;

Taylor Rollins, RB/LB, fr.; Colt Parker, QB/DB, fr.;

Gary Walls, OL/DL, fr.

Team outlook: After a one-year co-op with Riverside due to low participation, football is back in Ione with more than enough kids for the 8-man level. The Cardinals have several experienced upperclassmen to lead

the way, and four first-time varsity players to fill in the gaps.

Rosenberg's expectations: "We are going to take care of the small things and the rest will fall into place. Our expectation for the year is to win in the community, classroom and on the field."

2018 Schedule

Aug. 30	vs. Powder Valley#	1 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Enterprise*	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	vs. Pilot Rock*	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Imbler*	2 p.m.
Sept. 28	at Dufur*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	vs. Sherman*	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	vs. Arlington*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	vs. Union*	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	League Playoff	TBD

*-league game

#-at Dufur

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