

# Riverside, Umatilla boys soccer rule EOL all-league honors

**By BRETT KANE**  
*East Oregonian*

BOARDMAN — While six teams competed for the Eastern Oregon League boys soccer district title this year, only two dominated the all-conference selections.

The Riverside Pirates placed eight athletes on the season-ending EOL all-league honors, and the Umatilla Vikings six cap off their successful seasons out on the field.

Riverside senior Ulyses Lopez, a midfielder, junior forward Gerardo Lopez, senior defender Edwin Pacheco, and senior midfielder Cristian Rea made the first team, and were joined by Umatilla junior forward Jefri Coria, senior defender Cesar de la Cruz, and junior defender Cristian Alaniz.

Irrigon senior defender Marcos Rangel also earned a spot on the first team, as did Nyssa senior midfielder Javier Castro.

Senior midfielder Julian Jimenez,



sophomore midfielder Jose Napoles, and junior defender Ricky Davila represent Riverside on the second team list, and Umatilla junior midfielder Carlos Mejia and sophomore midfielder Alexis Ruiz also made the second-team cut. The Irrigon Knights placed junior midfielder Abraham Espinosa on the second team. Espinosa's teammate,

sophomore midfielder Jacob Ayala, earned an honorable mention spot.

But the recognition didn't stop there for the Pirates and the Vikings. Riverside senior goalkeeper Jose Torres and Umatilla senior keeper Roberto Lugo share this year's EOL Goalkeeper of the Year distinction.

Riverside's Jose Duenas and

Umatilla's Pedro Ortiz also shared the Coach of the Year honor.

The list of all-league awards capped off another big season for the Pirates, who went undefeated in league play at 10-0 to earn the 3A/2A/1A Special District 6 title for the fifth year in a row. They finished with a 12-4 overall record. They racked up 134 goals on the season, and allowed just 24.

Their season was cut short with a close 3-2 loss to Oregon Episcopal in a state quarterfinals contest on Nov. 9. The Aardvarks would go on to lose to Catlin Gabel in the state championship match.

The Vikings secured the No. 2 spot in the league standings with a 8-2 showing in conference action and 9-5-1 overall. This year marks the second in a row that Umatilla finished at second place in the league. They amassed a combined 101 goals by the year's end, while allowing 32. They fell 6-0 to Catlin Gabel to end their season on Nov. 5.

**EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE**

**First Team**  
Ulyses Lopez, sr., MF, Riverside; Gerardo Lopez, jr., F, Riverside; Javier Castro, sr., MF, Nyssa; Marcos Rangel, sr., D, Irrigon; Jefri Coria, jr., F, Umatilla; Edwin Pacheco, sr., D, Riverside; Cesar de la Cruz, sr., D, Umatilla; Cristian Alaniz, jr., D, Umatilla; Cristian Rea, sr., MF, Riverside

**Second Team**  
Carlos Mejia, jr., MF, Umatilla; Abram Castro, sr., D, Nyssa; Thomas Kreamier, jr., D, Ukiah; Abraham Espinosa, jr., MF, Irrigon; Julian Jimenez, sr., MF, Riverside; Jose Napoles, soph., MF, Riverside; Ricky Davila, jr., D, Riverside; Elias Laso, fr., MF, Nyssa; Alexis Ruiz, soph., MF, Umatilla; Carlos Castro, soph., MF, Nyssa, Matt Tamez, sr., Nyssa

**Honorable Mention**  
Andy Montez, sr., D, Nyssa; Jacob Ayala, soph., MF, Irrigon; Phillip Lee, jr., D, Ukiah; Liaus Beck, jr., D, Ukiah; Lalo Trinidad, sr., Nyssa.

**Goalkeepers of the Year**  
Jose Torres, sr., Riverside; Roberto Lugo, sr., Umatilla

**Coaches of the Year**  
Jose Duenas, Riverside; Pedro Ortiz, Umatilla



The Heppner offensive linemen, left to right, Roy Collins, Gavin Hanna-Robinson, Kevin Rea, Jason Rea and Kellen Grant pose for a portrait at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner on Monday afternoon.

## Heppner's offensive line is key for a successful season

**By ANNIE FOWLER**  
*East Oregonian*

**H**EPPNER — The hierarchy of football generally starts with the quarterback, then trickles down to the running back, receivers, linebackers and then the linemen.

Unless you play at Heppner.

The offensive linemen are the big men on campus, so to speak.

They are first on the bus, have a special place in the locker room, and their quarterback and running backs have nothing but love for their big men up front.

"We try to instill that as a culture among our kids," Heppner coach Greg Grant said. "We try to make sure they get their fair share credit."

Across the front line for the Mustangs, going from left tackle are Kellen Grant (6-1, 210), Jason Rea (6-2, 205), Kevin Rea (6-1, 185), Gavin Hanna-Robinson (6-0, 190) and Roy Collins (6-2,

235). All are seniors except Collins and Kevin Rea, who are juniors.

"We are generally a school that is not as big, and we don't have as many big kids," coach Grant said. "Line play is about hard work and how smart you are. Size helps, but you can't worry about it. You just have go out and play."

The 12-0 Mustangs will do just that Saturday when they take on Kennedy in the 2A state championship game at Hermiston High School.

Heppner's front five has more than held their own this season.

Quarterback Jayden Wilson has had the time he needs to throw for 1,203

yards and 23 touchdowns. He's also ran for 713 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Running back Blake Wolters leads the team with with 917 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns. The Mustangs have a combined 2,767 yards rushing.

"It is through the roof," Wolters said of his confidence in his line. "Without them, we are nothing. They give Jayden time to throw, and they are pushing guys 10 yards back for me."

Wilson said he would not trade his linemen for a set that runs 6-5 and 300 pounds across the board.

See Mustangs, Page B2

# Around the Pac-12: Rivalry Week lacks luster this season

**By ANNE M. PETERSON**  
*Associated Press*

The potential drama of this season's Civil War is diminished, the Big Game has already been played and the Trojans are all done — for now.

Rivalry Week in the Pac-12 — what's left of it — seems to have lost a bit of its luster this season.

Oregon (9-2, 7-1 Pac-12) appeared to be hurtling toward a possible College Football Playoff berth when it wilted in the desert with a 31-28 loss at Arizona State last weekend. The Ducks dropped from No. 6 to No. 14 in the AP Top 25.

All is not lost for Oregon, by any means. The Ducks have already clinched the Pac-12 North's spot in

the league title game. If they win that one on Dec. 6 in Santa Clara, California, they'll go to the Rose Bowl.

But first they'll have to get by Oregon State in the 123rd edition of the Civil War set for Saturday in Eugene.

The Beavers are motivated. They remain just a win away from bowl eligibility after a disheartening last-minute 54-53 loss at Washington State last Saturday. Additionally, Oregon State (5-6, 4-4) has won only one Civil War since 2007.

"I think the fact that this is such a huge rivalry, this is such an important game to our players, our university, our community, (and) the fact that Oregon State is playing really good football and they have a really good football program. I think there

are so many factors," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said, rattling off the reasons why the regular-season finale is important. "This is everything you would want in a college football game, especially for your last one of the regular season."

Where the Pac-12's other rivalries stand going into the final week of the season:

**The big game**

It's in the books, with Cal breaking a nine-game losing streak to Stanford with a 24-20 victory last weekend to claim the Axe. The Golden Bears (6-5, 3-5) made it dramatic with quarterback Chase Garbers scrambling for a 16-yard touchdown with 1:19 remaining and the defense stand-

ing strong to close out the win. Cal reached bowl eligibility with the win. Stanford (4-7, 3-6) will miss the post-season for the first time since 2008.

"To be able to get a win, get the Axe back and what that means to the players and our institution, it's a big deal," Cal coach Justin Wilcox said. "To get bowl eligible and have a chance to win a bowl game, it's huge for our program. To get both on the same day is special."

Both teams still have a game left. Cal visits UCLA (4-7, 4-4) on Saturday night and Stanford hosts Notre Dame that afternoon.

**UCLA-USC**

The battle for the City of Angels is already decided, with the Trojans

besting the Bruins 52-35 last Saturday. The game marked the end of the regular season for USC (8-4, 7-2) but not the end of the year. The Trojans are still in the race for the Pac-12 South title, sharing a seven-win conference season with Utah. If Colorado topples the No. 6 Utes on Saturday, USC earns the spot in the conference championship game against Oregon for a shot at the Rose Bowl. Which, let's face it, would be the finish that no one expects.

**The Apple Cup**

Washington and Washington State are both 6-5 overall and bowl eligible as they head into a game

See Pac-12, Page B2