

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS | FACEBOOK.COM/EOSPORTS

B1

OHA issues a two-week pause on indoor high school sports

By COREY KIRK
Baker City Herald

PENDLETON — The Nov. 18 to Dec. 2 statewide “freeze” designed to slow the recent surge in COVID-19 cases stopped high school sports practices before they had a chance to get started.

The last of three monthlong “mini-sessions” was scheduled to start Tuesday, Nov. 17.

This session was for traditional winter sports — basketball, wres-

ting and swimming.

When Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced the two-week freeze, the restrictions didn't include high school sports.

But on Wednesday, Nov. 18, the day the freeze started, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) stated that schools will have to stop indoor sports, including basketball and wrestling.

“I was disappointed, I felt that the district had done a great job in keeping kids safe and I would

argue that our school district is probably one of the safer places for our kids to be,” said Buell Gonzales Jr., athletic director for the Baker School District.

Pendleton High School Athletic Director Mike Somnis wasn't surprised by the OHA's announcement.

“I think the signs were kind of pointing that way,” Somnis said.

Not all schools will be affected in quite the same way.

La Grande High School, for

instance, had already delayed its winter sports mini-session until after Thanksgiving.

“We had already decided to wait until after Thanksgiving week to start up anyway, so we put our winter sports on delay next week until we got back from Thanksgiving just to see what the numbers are like then,” said Darren Goodman, La Grande's athletic director.

Athletes now have to return to home workouts.

Goodman said he doesn't intend to set up an online conditioning program, based on the idea that the freeze will end Dec. 2 and schools can resume practices during the mini-session.

“If the weather is decent we can do some conditioning outside but we aren't going to do online conditioning for the sports,” Goodman said.

At Baker High School, mean-

See OHA, Page B2



Pilot Rock's Tel Thacker (31) eyes the basket as he prepares to shoot a free throw during the second half against Grant Union. The Rockets defeated the Prospectors 68-40 at the Pendleton Convention Center on Feb. 22, 2020, to win the Blue Mountain Conference district tournament title.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File
Hermiston's Jayden Ray (10) leaps to put up a shot against the Chiawana Riverhawks. The Riverhawks defeated the Hermiston Bulldogs 58-31 on Jan. 28, 2020, at Hermiston High School.

Hermiston plays the waiting game

Frustrations mount with continued setbacks to start of season

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

HERMISTON — When that is the word Hermiston High School girls basketball coach Maloree Moss likes to use with her players when talking about the upcoming season.

“It is so frustrating,” Moss said. “I can't keep up with all the rules. I've decided I'm not going to look into it until they tell us we can play. I've been in contact with the seniors. I can't imagine what they are going through. When we have a season, we will do this.”

The Bulldogs were handed bad news twice earlier this week.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown put a statewide freeze on indoor school sports activities that lasts through Dec. 2, but could be extended.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, which Hermiston joined three years ago, voted Nov. 18 to delay the start of

See Hermiston, Page B2

Winter sports face uphill battle

Dec. 7 OSAA meeting will decide if winter sports can officially begin on Dec. 28

By COREY KIRK
Baker City Herald

SALEM — After a hiatus of more than nine months, organized high school sports in Oregon are set to resume Dec. 28 with a season for traditional winter sports.

Or maybe not.

Earlier this fall the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) set Dec. 28 as the date schools could start practices for basketball, wrestling and swimming.

The first interschool competitions are slated to start Jan. 11, 2021.

But the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) considers both basket-



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File
Pendleton's Dawson Tremper, right, wrestles Nathan Ganders of The Dalles during a Jan. 29, 2020, dual meet at 106 pounds. Tremper pinned Ganders in 42 seconds.

ball and wrestling “full-contact” sports, and with COVID-19 cases surging in most parts of the state,

athletes in those sports can't even have regular practices.

OSAA's executive board is

scheduled to meet Dec. 7 to decide

See Uphill battle, Page B2

SPORTS SHORT

Fundraising campaign seeks to reopen Muhammad Ali museum

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A fundraising campaign has been launched in an effort to raise enough money to renovate and reopen a museum at Muhammad Ali's childhood home in Louisville, Kentucky.

The nonprofit Muhammad Ali Childhood Home Museum is trying to raise \$5.8 million that would be used to build a welcome center and for “improving the grounds, creating com-

munity programs as well as an endowment,” WDRB-TV reported, citing a news release. Museum officials hope to raise \$1 million by the end of February 2021 and reopen the tribute to the life of the former heavyweight boxing champion next fall, the release said.

The museum opened in May 2016, but closed the following year due to financial troubles.

Ali moved into the home with his family when he was 5 years old and lived there for 15 years.



Former East Oregonian Editor Mike Forrester is pictured here in his early news career as a reporter for the Associated Press in Los Angeles. Oh, and that other fellow on the left? That's legendary heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali.

EO Media Group file photo