

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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WWU withdraws from CCC basketball, soccer, volleyball schedules

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — As part of its COVID-19 safety plan, Walla Walla University has announced that it will withdraw from the Cascade Collegiate Conference (CCC) schedules for men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, and men's soccer for the 2020-21 academic year.

The decision follows careful review by the university's COVID-19 Response Task Force and Athletics Department, and significant consultation with WWU President John McVay and CCC Commissioner Rob Cashell.

WWU athletes were informed of the decision last weekend, just



Greg Lehman/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, File

WWU's Pailina Quintana brings the ball upcourt against the full-court pressure of Whitman's Shaira Young during the first half of a 2019-20 game.

prior to the conclusion of the university's fall academic quarter.

"Our primary concern is for the safety and well-being of Walla Walla University students, faculty and staff," said McVay. "I am disappointed that we are unable to participate in these athletic seasons, as well as so many other cherished WWU activities and traditions. This pandemic is challenging, and we are doing our best to enable our students to continue their academic programs in a safe and supportive environment. While I am disappointed now, I know I join countless others in looking forward to a time when normal activities can resume."

The women's volleyball and

men's soccer seasons were already delayed from normal fall competition, and university officials were monitoring closely to determine what might be possible for winter sports like basketball.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect each institution and community differently, and we certainly respect the decision by Walla Walla University to opt out of CCC men's and women's basketball, volleyball and men's soccer for the 2020-2021 season," stated CCC Commissioner Robert Cashell. "None of these choices come easy, but as a conference we fully support the need for campus

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Contributed Photo

Kylie Parsons poses for a picture while signing a letter of intent to play softball for Saint Martin's University on Nov. 15, 2020.

Field signs with CCS

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Kyle Field doesn't know if he will get to play another baseball game for Pendleton High School, but after signing with Community Colleges of Spokane on Nov. 16, he knows his baseball career will continue.

"The opportunity to play past high school — a lot of guys don't get to do that," the right-handed pitcher said. "It's really special. They have a really good program, and they play really well in the (Northwest Athletic Conference). I'm really excited."

Pendleton coach T.J. Haguewood said the Sasquatch will not be disappointed.

"Kyle will work hard and give it his all," he said. "They are getting a quality player."

At 6 feet, 2 inches tall, Field has the frame of a pitcher. At 155 pounds, he knows he needs to fill out to be competitive for CCS.

"Putting on weight is something I need to do," he said. "Spokane puts a lot of emphasis on the weight training program. That was a really big deciding factor. They have a lot of different resources for pitchers. They also have an indoor mound. They let you do what works for you."

Haguewood said he is confident Field can fill out and be productive for CCS.

"Kyle has a good frame to build muscle onto," Haguewood said. "He will get stronger as he matures."

Field grew up playing T-ball and Little League in Montana. His family moved to Pendleton halfway through his fifth-grade year.

"I was lucky," Field said. "Football is a big thing in Montana, but there is no high school baseball."

The last high school game Field played for the Bucks was the 2019 5A state championship game. Pendleton lost to Central 11-4.

"It's weird not playing for the high school since the championship game," he said. "It makes wanting to play this season a little more important."

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ELEVATING HER GAME

Pendleton pitcher Kylie Parsons parlays strong summer softball showings to college opportunity at Saint Martin's University

By ANNIE FOWLER
For the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Kylie Parsons' pitching numbers her sophomore year would not be what college coaches are looking for, but two summers of elite softball elevated her game, and her improved numbers caught the attention of Saint Martin's University.

The right-handed pitcher from Pendleton High School, who verbally committed to

the Saints on Sept. 8, signed a letter of intent on Nov. 15 to play for the Div. II program in Lacey, Washington.

"I'm excited," said Parsons, who received an academic/athletic scholarship. "I visited the campus in August to make sure I liked it."

Parsons had a 5-3 record her sophomore year for the Bucks, with a 5.95 ERA. She also struck out 43 batters in 55 innings of work.

"We brought her up her sophomore year to get experience," Pendleton softball coach Tim Cary said. "She has progressed a lot since that time and has developed into a very good pitcher."

Parson has played three summers with the Tri-Cities-based Washington Angels, honing her skills.

"I've been able to play in the summer and some fall ball," Parsons said. "We played a lot in Idaho because they were open. I pitched a lot this fall. We went to Arizona for a tourna-

ment a couple of weeks ago."

Parsons also played in a tournament for Power Fastpitch of California.

"I met (Power's) Damion Wynne and he was very helpful through the whole recruiting thing and made sure I could find a school that fit me," Parsons said.

One quality that put Parsons on the college radar was her height. She stands 6 feet tall.

"Being tall gives me a lot more velocity on the ball," she said.

Cary said Parsons has the tools to have a good college career.

"Kylie has the right build, and that puts her in a position to throw hard and be imposing," he said.

A season lost

The Bucks finished 9-6 in the Intermountain

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SPORTS SHORT

In this Dec. 19, 2018, file photo, Washington Wizards guard John Wall walks off the court during a timeout during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets in Houston.

Eric Christian Smith/Associated Press, File



NBA releases shorter preseason schedule; games start Dec. 11

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — The NBA released a condensed 49-game preseason schedule on Friday, Nov. 27, with teams playing between two and four games starting on Dec. 11.

Preseason contests will continue through Dec. 19. Teams begin training camps next week.

The league plans to reveal the first half of the 72-game regular season schedule — that meaning games to be played between Dec. 22 and March 4 — in the coming days. Games for the season's second half, scheduled as between March 11 and May 16, will be revealed around the midpoint of the season.

The defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers will play on the first night of the preseason, technically a home game against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Lakers play the Clippers twice in the preseason, then two games against Phoenix and new Suns guard Chris Paul as well.

The Eastern Conference champion Miami Heat are scheduled for two preseason games — at home Dec. 14 against New Orleans and new Pelicans coach (and former Heat coach) Stan Van Gundy, then on Dec. 18 in Toronto's first game at its temporary home in Tampa, Florida. The Raptors are going to open this season in Tampa because the U.S.-Canada border remains closed

to nonessential travel during the coronavirus pandemic.

That Dec. 18 game is Toronto's lone home game on the preseason schedule.

Orlando, Atlanta, New York, Detroit, Houston, Chicago, Sacramento, Portland, Charlotte, Phoenix, Memphis, Cleveland and the Lakers are all scheduled to play four preseason contests.

Minnesota, Golden State, Oklahoma City, San Antonio, Dallas, Milwaukee, Toronto, Denver, Washington, Utah, Indiana and the Clippers have three preseason games apiece on their schedules.

Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, the Pelicans and the Heat opted for two-game preseasons.