

Officials: 'We are looking for people'

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6A games. That stretches the Blue Mountain Football Association pretty thin. Most seasons, the association has 25-30 officials to put to work, but because of COVID, this year's manpower is about 18 men.

George Gillette, who has officiated football, basketball and baseball for the better part of 50 years, said because of his age (70) and COVID that he hasn't been able to help out with football this year.

"It has been challenging for our commissioner," said Gillette, who is the commissioner of the Blue Mountain Basketball Association. "Mike (Lieuallen) has been changing schedules daily, if not hourly. A lot of guys are doing more than yeoman's duties with two games a day, three or four days a week."

In addition to that, officials need to keep abreast of the COVID protocols for games.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

An official watches as the Umatilla Vikings kick off the second half against the Irrigon Knights. The Vikings defeated the Knights 55-8 at Umatilla High School on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

"All of us working as officials are concerned about ourselves, the players, coaches and fans," Gillette said. "We are dealing with health protocols we have never had before, and they change weekly."

Weston-McEwen coach Kenzie Hansell said he appreciates everything the officials have done this season.

"Because of the officials,

we are allowed to play," Hansell said. "They do a great job. The Weston-McEwen TigerScots appreciate all that the officials have done to allow us to have a season."

Grant echoed the sentiment.

"They came to us before the season and asked us to help them out," Grant said. "This is a partnership. I told them we'd play on a Wednesday night in a Walmart park-

ing lot if we could. They have been big advocates for our players being able to play this year. We really appreciate them."

Smith and Gillette both say every sport, from baseball to volleyball, needs more officials. People are retiring, health issues force them to step down, or they have had enough of unruly fans.

"We are looking for people," Smith said. "Volleyball is usually 8-12 weeks, and it goes by really fast. It's great for former high school players who are going to college. They can make enough to pay for a semester of school."

Gillette said he is scheduled to work one baseball doubleheader. It's what fits into his work schedule at the Milton-Freewater Municipal Golf Course, where it has had its best year of business in several years.

"We are extremely short on officials for football and baseball," he said. "We need some younger guys to step in."

PREP STANDINGS

Through games played March 28

PREP FOOTBALL

5A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1

Team	League	Overall
Pendleton	3-1	3-1
Redmond	2-1	3-1
Hood River Valley	2-2	2-2
Ridgeview	2-2	2-2
The Dalles	1-0	2-1
LaSalle Prep	0-1	2-1
Parkrose	0-1	1-3
Putnam	0-2	1-2

MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Chiawana	5-0	5-0
Kennewick	5-0	5-0
Kamiakin	4-1	4-1
Richland	3-2	3-2
Walla Walla	2-2	2-2
Hermiston	1-3	1-3
Pasco	0-4	1-4
Hanford	0-4	1-4
Southridge	0-4	0-5

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	4-0	4-0
Weston-McEwen	2-1	3-1
Umatilla	2-2	2-2
Stanfield	1-2	2-2
Irrigon	0-1	0-3
Riverside	0-1	0-2
Grant Union	0-2	1-2

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Team	League	Overall
Dufur	3-0	4-0
Wallowa	2-1	2-1
Pilot Rock	2-2	2-2
Powder Valley	1-0	3-1
Enterprise	1-1	1-1
Imbler	1-2	1-2
Crane	1-3	1-3
Elgin	0-0	0-1
Union	0-1	0-1
Cove	0-2	0-2
Ione/Arlington	0-3	0-3

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4 (6-MAN)

Team	League	Overall
South Wasco County	4-0	4-0
Joseph	3-0	4-0
Dayville/Monument	1-0	1-2
Sherman/Condon	1-1	2-1
Mitchell/Spray/Wheeler	1-2	1-2
Harper Charter	0-1	0-1
Prairie City	0-2	0-2
Echo	0-4	0-4

PREP VOLLEYBALL

5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Crook County	6-0	9-1
Ridgeview	6-1	9-3
Pendleton	4-3	7-4
Hood River Valley	3-4	3-6
The Dalles	1-6	1-7
Redmond	1-7	2-9

3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Burns	3-0	9-1
Vale	1-3	3-6

2A BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Heppner	4-0	5-1
Grant Union	3-1	4-3
Union	2-0	8-1
Weston-McEwen	1-1	6-2
Stanfield	1-3	1-6
Enterprise	0-1	2-4
Pilot Rock	0-2	4-4

1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Echo	6-1	6-1
Condon	5-1	5-1
Dufur	3-0	5-3
South Wasco County	3-1	3-5
Ione/Arlington	3-3	3-3
Sherman	3-3	3-3
Lyle/Wishram	2-1	2-1
Trout Lake	1-3	1-4
Mitchell/Spray	1-4	1-5
Glenwood/Klickitat	0-4	0-4
Bickleton	0-6	0-6

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Team	League	Overall
Imbler	3-0	3-2
Powder Valley	1-0	7-0
Nixyaawii	1-0	5-3
Wallowa	1-1	5-2
Cove	1-2	2-4
Joseph	0-0	1-4
Griswold	0-0	1-6
Elgin	0-1	0-1
Pine Eagle 0-2	0-5	

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
The Dalles/Dufur	2-0-0	4-2-0
Redmond	1-0-2	4-1-2
Hood River Valley	0-0-2	1-4-2
Ridgeview	0-1-2	0-5-2
Crook County	0-1-0	0-2-0
Pendleton	0-2-0	0-6-0

3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Team	League	Overall
Riverside	2-0-0	6-1-0
Nyssa	1-0-0	3-1-0
Umatilla	0-1-0	1-2-2
Stanfield/Echo	0-1-0	0-3-2
Four Rivers	0-2-0	0-6-0

PREP BOYS SOCCER

5A INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

Team	League	Overall
Hood River Valley	3-0-0	3-2-0
Ridgeview	2-1-0	4-3-0
The Dalles/Dufur	2-2-0	3-3-0
Pendleton	1-1-0	1-2-0
Redmond	0-2-0	1-5-0
Crook County	0-2-0	0-5-0

3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 6

Team	League	Overall
Nyssa	1-0-0	2-3-0
Riverside	0-0-0	3-2-1
Umatilla	0-0-0	2-2-0
Irrigon	0-0-0	0-5-0
Four Rivers	0-1-0	0-5-1

ON THE SLATE

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Volleyball
 Pendleton at Crook County, 6:30 p.m.
 Echo at Ione/Arlington, 5 p.m.
 Griswold at Riverside, 5 p.m.
 Umatilla at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.
 Pilot Rock at McLoughlin, 5 p.m.
 Irrigon at Stanfield, 5 p.m.

Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Girls soccer
 Hood River Valley at Pendleton, 6 p.m.
 Stanfield/Echo at McLoughlin, 4 p.m.
Boys soccer
 Riverside at Baker/Powder Valley, 5 p.m.
 Irrigon at Umatilla, 4 p.m.
 Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Oregon:

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wins and got four teams through to the Sweet 16.

Oregon State and UCLA already advanced, so the showdown between the Ducks and Trojans meant a Pac-12 trio in the Elite Eight.

Oregon was in a familiar position, running this deep into March for the fourth time in five NCAA Tournaments. USC had to reach back to the 2006-07 team with Nick Young and Taj Gibson for its last Sweet 16 ride.

The Trojans won the teams' lone regular-season meeting 72-58 by getting off to a fast start.



Jeff Roberson/Associated Press

Southern California guard Tahj Eaddy (2) drives between Oregon guard LJ Figueroa, left, and guard Will Richardson, right, during the first half of a Sweet 16 game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament at Bankers Life Fieldhouse on Sunday, March 28, 2021, in Indianapolis.

They did the same in the rematch by slowing the fast-moving Ducks. Normally free flowing on

offense, Oregon had a hard time solving USC's zone between the big guards up top and the shot-swatting

Mobley anchoring the paint.

Offensively, USC looked more like the Ducks than they did, pouring in 3s and getting shots at the rim, using a 17-2 run to go up 14. The Trojans led 41-26 at half-time.

USC stretched the lead to 20 in the opening 3½ minutes of the second half before the Ducks finally came to life. An 11-0 run cut USC's lead to 69-60, but the rally ran out of steam.

Oregon turned it over, failed on a lob attempt, and then Mobley threw down a two-handed dunk over Franck Kepnang.

"When you're trying to come back from the deficit that we had you just can't have those mistakes," Altman said.

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