

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021

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B1



Beers



Corey



Field



Haguewood



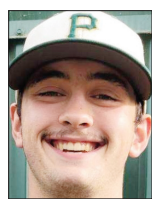
Lambert



Lieuallen



Primus



Swanson



Zander

Pendleton's Lambert snags IMC MVP title

Bucks dominate all-conference team with eight players and top coach

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Bucks went undefeated in Intermountain Conference play and finished 15-3 overall. Those accomplishments don't happen without good players.

Pendleton sophomore Payton Lambert was named co-Player of the Year in the IMC with Hood River Valley's Mason Spelley, and Kyle Field was the Pitcher of the Year as the Bucks dominated the conference voting. Pendleton's TJ Haguewood was named Coach of the Year.

"We had a good team with guys who work hard and do good things," Haguewood said. "They are solid baseball players. Regardless of where they are on the all-league team, they just want to play. We are lucky to have the players we have. I can't be more proud of them."

Joining Lambert and Field on the first team were first baseman Ty Beers, infielder Tucker Zander, outfielder Collin Primus and designated hitter Easton Corey. Field also earned first-team honors as an infielder.

On the second team, the Bucks had Blake Swanson at outfield and Jack Lieuallen as a pitcher.

Over the course of 18 games, Lambert hit .509 with 11 singles, 13 doubles, one triple and three home runs. He also drove in 22 runs and scored 30 times. He had a team-high 28 hits.

In the field, he had just five errors and was a part of four double plays.

"He's our leadoff hitter," Haguewood said. "He's the catalyst of making things go. He is such a special talent. To be MVP as a sophomore is not easy. The other coaches realize what a talent he is. It's well deserved."

Lambert also has been invited to try out for the Area Code Games on July 1

INTERMOUNTAIN CONFERENCE BASEBALL TEAM

Co-Players of the Year: Payton Lambert, so., Pendleton, and Mason Spelley, jr., Hood River Valley.

Pitcher of the Year: Kyle Field, sr., Pendleton.
Coach of the Year: TJ Haguewood, Pendleton.

FIRST TEAM

C: Joe Rietz, jr., Hood River Valley. **1B:** Ty Beers, sr., Pendleton. **Infield:** Braden Schwartz, so., The Dalles; Tucker Zander, sr., Pendleton; Kyle Field, sr., Pendleton. **Outfield:** Aiden Gebhard, jr., Redmond; Collin Primus, jr., Pendleton; Nate Van Dooren, sr., Hood River Valley. **Utility:** Hunter Hough, jr., Hood River Valley. **DH:** Easton Corey, so., Pendleton. **Pitcher:** Nate Van Dooren, sr., Hood River Valley; Jake Von Lubken, so., Hood River Valley.

SECOND TEAM

C: Austin Carter, sr., Redmond. **1B:** Harrison Howell, sr., Hood River Valley. **Infield:** Riley Brock, so., The Dalles; Prestyn Jones, sr., Crook County; Austin Vaughn, fr., Crook County. **Outfield:** Jake Von Lubken, so., Hood River Valley; Beau Hagen, sr., Ridgeview; Blake Swanson, sr., Pendleton. **Utility:** Joseph Teixeira, fr., Redmond. **DH:** Mason Scott, fr., Ridgeview. **Pitcher:** Jack Lieuallen, so., Pendleton; Mason Spelley, jr., Hood River Valley.

HONORABLE MENTION

C: McCain Perkins, sr., Ridgeview. **Infield:** Andy Foster, sr., Hood River Valley; Matthew Delapena, sr., Crook County. **Outfield:** Nolan Ryan, sr., Hood River Valley; Tyis Yustat, fr., Crook County; Curtis Simons, sr., Pendleton. **Utility:** Tyson Martinez, fr., Crook County. **DH:** Rhett Haigh, fr., Redmond. **Pitcher:** Tucker Zander, sr., Pendleton; Riley Brock, so., Pendleton.

at University of Oregon.

Field, who signed to pitch at Community Colleges of Spokane, threw 27 1/3 innings over six starts, finishing with a 4-0 record. He had an ERA of 2.56, with 10 earned runs while striking out 36 and walked just four.

At the plate, Field hit .327, with five doubles and 14 RBIs. As a third baseman, he had just two errors.

"It's a well-deserved reward," Haguewood said. "He worked hard to get back to where he is comfortable. He struggled last summer, but he had a heck of a year. He is a gamer."

The Bucks capped off the year with their third consecutive IMC district title.

"This has been a stressful year," Haguewood said. "To finish on top has been a bonus. These kids had online school, baseball was at the end of football. Their hard work and focus has paid dividends."

HIGH HONOR

Heppner football coach and AD will receive the Dave Johnson Contributor Award

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

H EPPNER — Greg Grant is not one for personal recognition, but every once in a while it's nice to take stock of the people who are a positive influence on students and athletes at the high school level.

Grant, a longtime coach and athletic director at Heppner, will receive the 2021 Oregon Athletic Coaches Association's Dave Johnson Contributor Award on June 6 at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande.

The award is presented to an individual who has been or is involved in coaching or related athletic fields. The award is in recognition of their length of service and positive influence toward their local and state athletic programs and their many contributions to the OACA.

The OACA Executive Board selects the award recipient.

"We have been giving this award for the past 20-plus years," OACA Executive Director Rob Younger said. "Greg represents the quality of past recipients — he is

successful as a coach, but is also an influencer throughout the state. He has been a sports chair for football and golf. What we have been impressed with, is he takes the smaller schools and represents them at the state level. He is a positive voice for the small classifications in Eastern Oregon. We appreciate that vision."

Grant has been the head football coach at Heppner since 1990. His Mustangs have won three state titles (1992, 2015, 2019) and finished second twice (2007, 2014). Between Heppner and

"I TRY TO DO IT FOR ALL KIDS, NOT JUST MY KIDS."

— Greg Grant, Heppner football coach

five years at Alsea, his career coaching record is 311-73.

He also has been the golf coach at Heppner since 1990 and the athletic director since 2000.

"It is my hope that players leave our program understanding accountability, sacrifice and servant leadership while practicing discipline and respect throughout



Ben Loneragan/East Oregonian, File

Heppner coach Greg Grant, left, congratulates Mason Lehman (24) following the state championship game on Nov. 30, 2019. The Heppner Mustangs defeated the Kennedy Trojans 12-7 to win the 2019 OSAA Class 2A state title at Kennison Field, Hermiston. Grant is going to receive the 2021 Oregon Athletic Coaches Association's Dave Johnson Contributor Award on June 6 at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande.

their lives," Grant wrote in a message to the OACA. "We try to build better students, mothers, fathers, employees, employers, community leaders and citizens using the lessons embedded in team play."

State wide, Grant has served on several Oregon

I don't want to spend time on things that waste my time."

Younger said Grant embodies what the OACA award stands for.

"This is not just for his success," Younger said. "This award is for his contribution to his profession and what he does behind the scenes. He is very worthy of this high honor."

Also being honored is Darla Huxel, of the Blue Mountain Volleyball Officials Association, and Terry Sprit of Pendleton, who is receiving an OACA Community Service Award.

The OACA also is handing out eight \$1,000 scholarships to student-athletes throughout the state. Since 1986, the OACA has awarded \$261,000 to graduating student-athletes.

Claire Farwell from Enterprise High School and Hunter Lind from Powder Valley are two of this year's recipients.

NORMAL



THE CHOICE IS YOURS



ON THE SLATE

Schedule subject to change

MONDAY, MAY 31

No events scheduled

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

Prep boys basketball

The Dalles at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

Heppner at Stanfield, 7:30 p.m.

Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.

Pilot Rock at McLoughlin, 7:30 p.m.

La Grande at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m.

South Wasco County at Echo, 7:30 p.m.

Griswold at Umatilla JV, 6 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Pendleton at The Dalles, 6:30 p.m.

Heppner at Stanfield, 6 p.m.

Irrigon at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.

Pilot Rock at McLoughlin, 6 p.m.

La Grande at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.

South Wasco County at Echo, 6 p.m.

Prep bowling

Chiawana at Hermiston, 3:30 p.m.

College men's basketball

Spokane at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball

Spokane at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

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