

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

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

A8



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Pendleton's Isaac Urbina, top, wrestles with Abraham Tinejaro, of Hood River Valley, to a 16-8 major decision win on Saturday, June 12, 2021, during the Clash in the Canyon at the Happy Canyon Arena, Pendleton. Urbina recently signed to wrestle for Pacific University.

Pendleton's Urbina to put his wrestling skills to work at Pacific University

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Isaac Urbina has been having a hard time trying to find someone to wrestle. He has just as many forfeit wins as matches wrestled this spring, but his already sterling resume is enticing.

That was enough for Pacific University, which recently signed Urbina to wrestle for the Boxers.

Urbina, who also played football and golf for the Pendleton High School Bucks, said wrestling was the right fit for him.

"I really like football, but wrestling seems more fitting as to how my life has gone with sports," Urbina said. "It seems more right to continue that and better myself as much as I can. I want to go to Pacific and be one of the top wrestlers on the team."

Urbina did talk to Willamette University about playing football, and had a word with Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts about wrestling, but chose to stay in the Pacific Northwest.

"I didn't visit any other places, but I talked to others about wrestling and another about foot-

ball," he said. "I chose Pacific. I like how the classes were laid out with the pharmacy program, and the money I would be able to get. Forest Grove is a good distance away to be independent, but close enough in case anything goes wrong."

Urbina, who is wrestling at 220

"FOREST GROVE IS A GOOD DISTANCE AWAY TO BE INDEPENDENT, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG."

— Isaac Urbina, Pendleton High School wrestler

pounds for the Bucks this season, finished fourth at state his junior year at 182, and was fifth as a sophomore at 160.

"I weigh 205, but we didn't need a 195-pounder," he said. "We needed a guy at 220, and I was able to fill that role."

On the football field, Urbina was a second-team defensive lineman for 5A Special District 1.

It's all math and science

Urbina will be part of the accelerated pharmacy program at Pacific University. The first three

years of the program are undergrad, followed by three years of pharmacy school.

"I'm going to take some college classes at BMCC this summer to lighten my load," said Urbina, who scored a 710 on the math portion of the SAT. "I will take economics and communication."

Pharmacy wasn't always his first option, but it was the right option.

"I was focused on physical therapy," he said. "I was looking at other health occupations, but I am not good with blood and needles. I wanted to go into something that not everyone has the opportunity to do and make good money."

Attending Pacific University comes with a hefty price tag, but Urbina's academic prowess has landed him some pretty good scholarships. He received a Found-

ers Scholarship from Pacific, which amounts to \$27,000 a year for four years. He also has student aid and a handful of various scholarships.

"I got a lot of scholarships," Urbina said. "On scholarship night, I got like 10 awards."

There is one scholarship that comes with a little fun.

Urbina, along with Pendleton teammates Chelsea Kendrick and Morgan Schumacher, and Madi McClannahan of Hermiston, all received a \$750 scholarship from the Kings and Queens scholarship committee. The scholarship also comes with an invite to play July 17-18 in the Kings and Queens Couples Golf Tournament at Big River Golf Course.

"That will be fun," said Urbina, who was the Bucks' top golfer this season with a 112 average in his first full year on the links. "Hopefully I won't embarrass myself."

As Urbina moves from high school to college, he will take all the special moments with him.

"All of my sports were memorable to me," he said. "I was surrounded by people similar to me, kids I have known my whole life, on long bus rides for five hours. There are some really good memories."

HERMISTON BASKETBALL

Jay Ego to take over girls team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Jay Ego is coming home.

The 1987 Hermiston High School graduate will take over the girls basketball team next season. He will replace Maloree Moss, who is moving out of the area.

"We are very excited that coach Ego has decided to return home to Hermiston and coach our girls program," Hermiston Athletic Director Larry Usher said in a news release.

Ego said he has been interested in the job before, but the timing wasn't right.

"I had some family tell me it was open," Ego said of the job opportunity. "Every time it has come open, there has been some intrigue. The time just had to be right. This is the right time now."

"I go back (to Hermiston) a few times a year. It has changed, and it has grown. The facilities in Hermiston are as good as there are in the state. They have done an amazing job."

Ego, 52, comes to Hermiston after a long run of coaching basketball in the Portland area.

He was the head coach at Beaverton High School from 2005-15, and was named the Metro League Coach of the Year four times (2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014), and led the Beavers to the state semifinals in 2014.

In his time at Beaverton, Ego had a record of 171-89. Beaverton (24-5, 12-2 Metro) finished fourth in Class 6A during the 2014-15 season.

"We had a good run there," Ego said. "By the time I left, every team in the Metro League had had three to five coaches. People just don't coach as long as they used to."

After he left Beaverton, Ego landed at Tualatin High School from 2016-19. The Timberwolves were 29-46 under his guidance.

The past two years, Ego has been an assistant at Wilsonville High School.

Ego's love of basketball goes back to when he was 5 years old and a ball boy for his dad, Dave, at Parkrose High School.

He played for his dad at Hermiston, then got into coaching in the Portland area.

"I have never been much of a city guy, but it has afforded me some jobs over the past few years," Ego said. "I'm looking forward to taking advantage of living in a small town. There is a sense of community."

Ego will inherit a team with some experience, including Bailey Young, Haylee Mercer, Katelyn Heideman and Morgan Brown.

"I have watched video and watched a game in person," Ego said. "They have some talent. It has been a very sustainable program with success and tradition. I hope to continue what has been established."



Ego

ON THE SLATE

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Prep boys basketball

Redmond at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Pendleton at Redmond, 6:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Heppler at district tournament, Culver, TBD

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Prep boys basketball

Pendleton at Hood River, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Prep girls basketball

Hood River at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

Pilot Rock at Umatilla, 6 p.m.

Weston-McEwen at Riverside, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Prep wrestling

Pendleton at IMC district tournament, Redmond, 10:30 a.m.

Prep swimming

IMC district swimming, Hood River, 10 a.m.

SPORTS SHORT

Runner says tainted burrito led to test for banned substance

The Associated Press

Shelby Houlihan, the American record holder in the 1,500 and 5,000 meters, was banned for four years after failing to prove that tainted pork caused her positive test for an anabolic steroid, sport's highest court said Tuesday, June 15.

Houlihan blamed a pork burrito bought at a Mexican street food truck when she revealed her doping case in an announcement on her Instagram account June 14.

A case that went ahead in secret for five months was published days before the start of U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, where the top three in each event

earn a spot to the postponed Tokyo Games. Houlihan finished 11th at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics in the 5,000 meters.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport confirmed on June 15 its panel of judges "unanimously determined that Shelby Houlihan had failed" to prove how the anabolic steroid nandrolone got into her system.

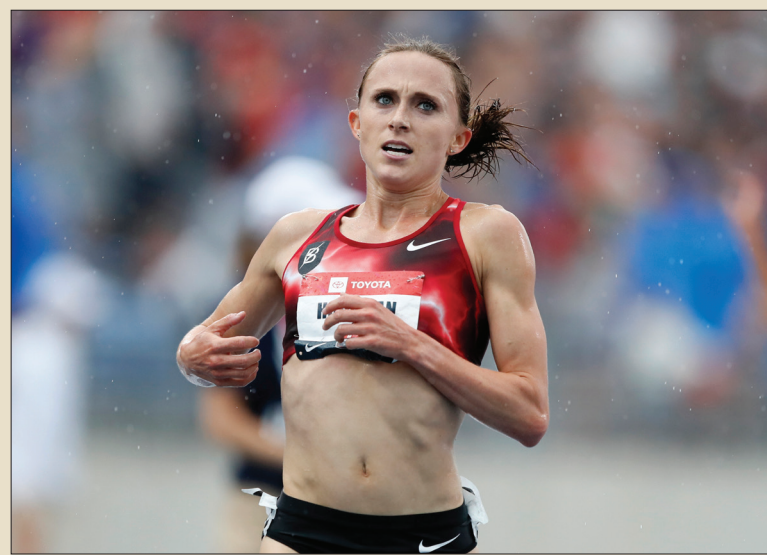
The case was fast-tracked with the consent of all parties to be heard on June 4 by video link with the court in Lausanne, Switzerland. The verdict was announced without a detailed verdict.

It stayed confidential until Houlihan's own announcement of the positive doping test and

ban that runs to January 2025. It also rules her out of the 2024 Paris Olympics and the first track worlds to be held in the United States, next year in Eugene.

The 28-year-old Houlihan said she received an email from the Athletics Integrity Unit on Jan. 14, notifying her a drug testing sample returned a finding for nandrolone.

She said she's since learned it has "long been understood by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) that eating pork can lead to a false positive for nandrolone, since certain types of pigs produce it naturally in high amounts. Pig organ meat (offal) has the highest levels of nandrolone."



Charlie Neibergall/Associated Press, File

Shelby Houlihan crosses the finish line July 28, 2019, as she wins the women's 5,000-meter run at the U.S. Championships athletics meet in Des Moines, Iowa.