

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## HONORING BUCKAROO GREATS

### 2021 Hall of Fame class of inductees: 1 coach, 2 teams, and 9 athletes

By ANNIE FOWLER  
*East Oregonian*

**P**ENDLETON — The Pendleton Linebacker's Club has been honoring athletes and coaches for the better part of 30 years.

It all began with a golf tournament in honor of legendary Buckaroos coach Don Requa to raise money for scholarships and financial support for the high school football team.

For the past 17 years, the Linebacker's Club has honored football players, coaches and staff with inductions to the Buckaroo Football Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2017, the club made the move to include all athletes and teams at the high school in the Buckaroo Hall of Fame.

This year's induction class is one of the largest it has had with two teams, one coach and nine athletes. The list includes college champions, Olympic hopefuls and an NFL contract.

The Hall of Fame Night is Aug. 20 at the Pendleton Convention Center. Tickets are available at the door. The cost is \$35 per person.

The auction includes Portland Trail Blazer tickets, University of Oregon and Oregon State University football tickets, and Seattle Seahawks tickets.

Tyasin Burns is the recipient of the Don Requa Scholarship, while Sam Coleman will receive the Alex Stuvland Memorial Scholarship, and Blake Swanson the Schindler-Bunch Scholarship.

#### Teams

The teams being inducted this year include the 1964-65 and the 1954-55 football teams.

The 1964-65 team went 9-0 during the regular season, but ran into a tough Corvallis team in the playoffs, falling 39-14. Terry Harri-



Pendleton Linebacker's Club/Contributed Photo

**Brent Merriman, wearing No. 25, averaged 24.5 points a game during his senior year. He graduated from Pendleton High School in 1975. He is part of the 2021 Buckaroo Hall of Fame class.**

son led the state in touchdown passes with 21, while Mike Temple led the state in scoring with 106 points.

Requa's 1954-55 team brought him his first Blue Mountain Conference title with the likes of Ralph Allen, Doug Minthorn and Joe Temple. The Bucks went 9-0 during the regular season, and brought Pendleton its first conference title since 1947. The Bucks lost to Lincoln 25-13 in the state quarterfinals.

#### Coach

##### Debbie Kishpaugh

Pendleton dance coach Debbie Kishpaugh is the lone coach on the induction roster, and she is more than deserving of the honor.

In her 35 years directing the school's highly successful Rhythmic Mode dance team, the Bucks have brought home nine state titles, and dozens of dancers have

won individual awards.

#### Players

##### Steve Richards (1981-84)

Richards was a standout baseball player for the Bucks, and was selected to play on the Class AAA all-star series.

After high school, he went on to play at Blue Mountain Community College. He was co-MVP in the Northwest Athletic Conference his sophomore year — the first time that a BMCC player earned the award.

From Blue Mountain, Richards went to Linfield University, where he was the Wildcats' Most Inspirational Player in 1987-88 and team MVP as a senior.

In his first year with the Wildcats, he hit .269 with 42 hits, including seven doubles and 18 RBIs. During his final season in 1988, he hit .374 with 65 hits and 18 RBIs.

Richards was the Blue Mountain Community College softball coach from 2015-20.

##### Craig Christianson (1976-79)

A talented three-sport athlete for the Bucks, he excelled in football, basketball and track. He was part of the 1977 football team that advanced to the Class AAA state semifinals against Medford and suffered a 13-7 loss.

It was in track where he excelled. He once held the school record in the high jump and discus.

The University of Idaho gave him a full ride for football and track. Injuries would derail his football career, but his track career took off.

In 1986, he placed fourth in the javelin at the U.S. Championships with a throw of 245 feet, 6 inches. He placed fifth at the 1988 Olympic Trials, throwing against the likes of Brian Crouser, Mark

Babich and Tom Petranoff.

##### Rob Burnside (1977-80)

Football, wrestling and track kept Burnside busy during his high school days.

He was a four-year letterman in wrestling, and won district titles at 178 pounds in 1977 and 1979. The Bucks were fifth at state in 1978 and third in 1979.

He and teammates Miles Hancock and Jim Fitter took part in the Oregon Cultural Exchange Team in the summer of 1979. They traveled to Italy to compete.

Burnside went on to wrestle at Oregon State University, but a knee injury cut his career short.

His love of wrestling never wavered. He refereed middle school and high school matches, volunteered with the Pendleton Youth Wrestling Program, and helped Rollin Schimmel and others construct the Pendleton wrestling building.

A longtime firefighter, he keeps in shape by doing marathons, the Pacific Crest Duathlon and the Hood-to-Coast with his daughter Tara.

##### Jim Malcom (1979-1982)

One of the top high school linemen in his day, Malcom was a three-year letterman and a starter for the 1980-81 playoff teams.

His senior year, he earned first-team all-conference honors on both sides of the ball and earned an invite to the 1982 Shrine Game.

Malcom still is in the Pendleton baseball record book as a pitcher (ERA) and hitter (batting average).

After high school, he played one year of football at Columbia Basin Junior College, then played two years of baseball at BMCC.

He went onto Oregon State University where he played rugby and earned a business degree in forest products.

##### John Vorvick (1977-80)

Another football great in the Requa era, the 6-4, 215-pound Vorvick was a dominating tackle for the Bucks. He was a first-team all-conference and first-team all-state lineman his senior year. He

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## OSU tackle feeling 'natural' with offseason weight gain



Oregon State University/Contributed Photo

**Oregon State offensive lineman Brandon Kipper (68) prepares to make a block during a game against Cal Poly in September 2019.**

By NICK DASCHEL  
*The Oregonian*

**CORVALLIS** — The scales show formidable weight gains throughout Oregon State's roster from a year ago. It's no surprise the offensive line is among the leaders in piling on pounds.

The Beavers' starting offensive line of a year ago, intact from right tackle to left tackle, has increased its mass by a collective 48 pounds. Right guard Nous Keobounnam is up 17 pounds to 292, center Nathan Eldridge up 15 pounds to 297, and right tackle Joshua Gray up 11 pounds to 300.

Right tackle Brandon Kipper tops them all at 310 pounds, a meaty 15-pound increase from his spring practice weight. Since his fresh-

man year, when Kipper started at Hawaii, he has added 40 pounds to his 6-foot-6 frame.

"I'm physically seeing the changes from myself and the guys around me and I'm excited to get on the field and see how the changes affect us on the field," Kipper said before the start of Oregon State's preseason camp.

Kipper said this season's weight gain felt different.

"This is the most weight I've put on where I felt natural, where it felt good," Kipper said.

Kipper felt the COVID-19 atmosphere and protocols impacted him physically during the 2020 season. He found it difficult to eat at a level to maintain a 300-pound-plus body.

Kipper's focus during 2021 is nourishment, and adding weight at

a level where it felt right.

"I feel more natural being this heavy, so it's not something that my body is suddenly shocked by," Kipper said. "I never felt so good in my life being 310, 315."

Kipper was an all-conference lineman in 2019, but failed to earn honors last season. The fifth-year junior, who has started 19 of the 23 games he's played at Oregon State, spent plenty of time pouring over game video of his play. In fact, that's an area where Kipper hopes to improve in 2021.

"This is my fifth year, and I've watched a lot of film. That being said, there's always more you can learn from the film," Kipper said. "I've really taken the time this offseason to try to improve every aspect of my game."

### SPORTS SHORT

#### Ducks defensive backs facing charges for alleged shooting

By JAMES CREPEA  
*The Oregonian*

**EUGENE** — Two of Oregon's starting defensive backs are facing charges following their alleged shooting of three people with an airsoft gun late Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Ducks nickel safety Jamal Hill and boundary cornerback DJ James are each facing three charges of reckless endangering, assault, unlawful discharge of a firearm, and disorderly conduct, according to Eugene Police.

Police said a man reported being shot in the face with a "realistic-looking airsoft gun at 14th and Willamette by someone in a

sedan that had driven past him," at 11:44 p.m. Aug. 3. Two other people reported similar incidents in a close time and proximity, including one riding an electric scooter who claimed he was "almost hit by the vehicle as it left the area," police said.

The vehicle was spotted by responding officers near 11th and Willamette and Hill and James were cooperative, said police, who cited them for the aforementioned charges in lieu of arrest.

"We have high standards and expectations for the student-athletes in our program," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said via a spokesman. "We were made aware

of the situation and are in process of gathering all of the related information, after which we will take appropriate action."

Under Oregon law, reckless endangering is a Class A misdemeanor, disorderly conduct is a Class B misdemeanor, unlawful use of a weapon is a Class C felony and assault can be either a misdemeanor or felony depending on the degree charged.

Class A misdemeanors are subject to a \$6,250 fine and/or one year in jail, Class B misdemeanors are subject to a \$2,500 fine and/or six months in jail and Class C felonies can result in up to five years in prison and/or a \$125,000 fine.



Ashley Landis/The Associated Press, File

**Oregon safety Jamal Hill (19) celebrates after a play during the first quarter of the Pac-12 Conference championship Dec 18, 2020, against Southern California in Los Angeles.**