

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Hermiston goalie Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky grabs a Hanford shot on goal during a soccer game on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, at Kennison Field.

Pasena-Littlesky a perfect fit for the Hermiston girls soccer team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — When Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky was in the first grade, she wanted to be president of the United States when she grew up.

In the fifth grade, she wanted to be a lawyer. That still is her ambition, but for now, she will embrace her new job as starting goalkeeper on the Hermiston girls soccer team.

“I made a decision to go to Hermiston because of all the academics and the Pathways program to help my career,” said Pasena-Littlesky, who has a 3.8 GPA. “They have a business one and I was able to get

more (Advanced Placement) classes than I had at Pendleton.”

Pasena-Littlesky and her family moved to Hermiston during the summer, and the position on the soccer team was a bonus.

“The environment is different,” Pasena-Littlesky said of the Hermiston program. “It’s way more competitive. We train a lot harder, we work harder. We push each other. I really love it. I am working harder than I ever have.”

Hermiston soccer coach Freddy Guizar was excited to welcome Pasena-Littlesky to the program. She was the Intermountain Conference goalie of the year as a sopho-

more and a junior at Pendleton.

“She is a good leader, it’s just natural for her,” Guizar said. “She was a captain for Pendleton last year on a young team. She is one of those girls who is willing to carry her team on her back. She is willing to sacrifice to help our team out. I am super excited to have her this year.”

Though Pasena-Littlesky has only been with the Bulldogs a short time, she said she feels welcome.

“I love the team,” she said. “Since I met them, they have treated me like family. Playing together is like a whole different experience. Freddy sees what we don’t see in

ourselves. He pushes us. The first day of tryouts, we ran 3 miles. I’ve never done that. Freddy was a goalie himself and I have learned a lot from him.”

Pasena-Littlesky also is making history with the Bulldogs.

“She is native playing in a minority school,” Guizar said. “She is the first native we have had playing goalie at our school.”

Pasena-Littlesky’s mom is from the Hopi Tribe in Pueblo, New Mexico, while her dad is part of the Ogala Lakota Nation in South Dakota.

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Echo/Stanfield enters second season in BMC soccer



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Echo’s Emily Hancock controls the ball during a home game Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, with Trout Lake.

Young Cougars still learning the game

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

ECHO — It’s never easy to start a team from scratch. It’s even harder when half of your players have never played the game before.

Echo/Stanfield girls soccer coach Ayleen Sandoval has gone through the growing pains with her team, but now that the Cougars are in their second season, things are starting to fall into place.

“Last year, we started with seven players, then it got up to eight,” Sandoval said. “This season, we have 12 girls. The standard is 11 girls on the field, and seven is the minimum. Teams were great last year to play us 7-on-7. The girls are adjusting to 11 girls on the field.”

When the schools were trying to get the program

off the ground last year, they needed a coach and Sandoval was approached about applying. She did, and got the job.

“I have been playing since I was 3 years old,” said Sandoval, a 2016 graduate of Hermiston High School. “I played in high school and I was on the first women’s team at Blue Mountain. I played defender, but I also played a couple of games at goalie at Blue Mountain.”

On her team, Sandoval has Morgan Gaines, McKenzie Rose, Keaton Nasario, Emily Hancock, and sisters Anaitza and Nayeli Mendez, who had experience playing the game before last season.

“Pretty much half the team has never played before,” Sandoval said. “When I first saw them, they said they had never played before, but it looked like they had. They are athletes. I love the work ethic they have.”

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ON THE SLATE

Tuesday, Sept. 7

Prep volleyball
Hermiston at Hanford, 7 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at McLoughlin, 5:30 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Dufur, 6 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Hermiston at Kennewick, 7 p.m.
Umatilla at Trout Lake, 4 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
McLoughlin at Irrigon, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 8

College volleyball
Blue Mountain at WWCC, 6 p.m.
College men’s soccer
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4:15 p.m.

College women’s soccer
Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
EOU at Whitman College, 6 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Baker at Riverside, 5 p.m.
Ontario at Pendleton, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 9

Prep football
Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.

Prep volleyball
Pendleton at Baker, 6:30 p.m.
Pasco at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 5 p.m.

Pilot Rock at Wallowa, 6 p.m.
McLoughlin at Griswold, 4 p.m.
Ione/Arlington at Griswold, TBD

Riverside at Umatilla, 5 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Pasco at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
McLoughlin at Stanfield/Echo, 5 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Prescott at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 10

Prep football
Wilsonville at Pendleton (at PHS), 7 p.m.

Hermiston at Sunnyside, 7 p.m.
La Grande at McLoughlin, 7 p.m.

Ione/Arlington at Imbler, 2 p.m.

Umatilla at Irrigon, 7 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Echo, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Nestucca, 7 p.m.

Stanfield at Culver, 7 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Catlin Gabel at Riverside, 4 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Irrigon at Trout Lake, 5 p.m.

Prep cross-country
Hermiston, Griswold, Weston-McEwen, Umatilla at Runners Soul XC Fest, Umatilla, 5 p.m.

Pendleton, Heppner, McLoughlin, Nixyaawii, Stanfield/Echo, Pilot Rock, Riverside at Catherine Creek Scamper, TBD

Prep volleyball
Umatilla, Irrigon, McLoughlin at Baker Tournament, TBD

Echo at Lyle/Wishram, 5 p.m.

College volleyball
Blue Mountain vs. Central Wyoming at STARR Invite, 1 p.m.

Blue Mountain vs. Salt Lake CC at Starr Invite, 3 p.m.
Walla Walla at EOU, 2 p.m.

SPORTS SHORT

Blue Mountain teams to open East Region play

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Blue Mountain Community College volleyball team will kick off its Northwest Athletic Conference East Region schedule Wednesday, Sept. 8, at Walla Walla Community College.

Timberwolves coach Ceanna Larson returns nine players from last year’s team that finished 7-6 in the East standings and 8-7 overall.

This season, BMCC is off to a 2-2 start after playing at the Northwest

Challenge in Bellevue, Washington.

Emma Barclay, a 5-foot-7 outside hitter from American Falls, Idaho, has gotten off to a good start for the Timberwolves. She had 12 kills against Bellevue in their tournament match.

The Timberwolves have a bit of local flair with Cloe Davis, a 5-foot-11 right-side hitter from Weston-McEwen High School. She had four blocks against Bellevue.

BMCC will play at the STARR Invite on Sept. 9 and 10, then will host

Columbia Basin College at 6 p.m. on Sept. 15.

The BMCC men’s soccer team will host Wenatchee Valley in its East Region opener at 4:15 on Sept. 8.

The Timberwolves return 13 players from last year’s team that finished first in the East with a 6-1-3 record

Led by goalkeeper Aeryn Elder, the BMCC women’s soccer team opens East Region play Sept. 8., hosting Yakima Valley at 2 p.m.

BMCC returns 10 players from last year’s team, which finished 4-5-0.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Blue Mountain Community College’s Amanda Kvamme (7) hits the ball during the final set in October 2019 in Pendleton against the Big Bend Community College Vikings. Blue Mountain is off to a 2-2 start for the 2021 season.