

Twins:

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Rickman said she tried to implement the change last year, but was met with some resistance.

“They fought me on it all last year,” she said.

Kelsey has one goal and a handful of assists this season. While Reilly has benefitted from the change, she also recognizes her sister’s sacrifice.

“I owe a lot of my success to my sister,” Reilly said. “She has sacrificed so much. She loves scoring goals. She has been my No. 1 supporter and teammate. I think this year has been so much better. We are starting to click and we are making something special this year.”

After last year’s 1-10 season, there was nowhere to go but up.

Two of a kind

Reilly and Kelsey, who just turned 18, are mirror twins, which occurs in about 25% of identical twins.

Mirror twins is a term used to describe identical twins whose features are exact reflections of each other.

In the case of the Loverchecks, Reilly is left-handed and Kelsey is right-handed.

“We found out we were having twins on the ultrasound,” said the girls’ father, C.B. Lovercheck. “You would not have seen two more surprised people than my wife (Kirsten) and I. We had no idea. We had to get a new car that would fit three car seats instead of two.”

Reilly and Kelsey have an older brother, Luke, who is a senior at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

Reilly and Kelsey also run track at Pendleton, and play hockey in the winter on the small sheet of ice at Roy Raley Park.

“My girls love hockey because their mom is Canadian,” C.B. Lovercheck said. “The girls played hockey until last year. It’s a lot of fun, and a great alternative for those who don’t want to play basketball. The program here has grown exponentially. The Olympics around our house are quite exciting, especially when the United States plays Canada.”

Kelsey said hockey and soccer go well together.

“Being in another competitive sport helped me learn positioning and field awareness,” she said. “The more you see the field, the better you are. I really like soccer. It’s very athletic. It’s a beautiful game and I love it so much.”

The sisters would like to play in college, and would like to continue to play together, but they know that may not happen.

“We are together all the time, that’s what makes us such a good pair,” Kelsey said. “Ultimately, we’d like to go together, but if different opportunities take us in different directions, that will be OK.”

An athletic family

Both C.B. and Kirsten Lovercheck were athletic when they were younger.

Kirsten was on her high school trampoline team in Merritt, British Columbia, while C.B. played high school football and basketball. His high school team in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, won state basketball titles in 1983-84. He then went on to play football at the University of Wyoming.

The Loverchecks met at Pacific University College of Optometry, and both have practices in Pendleton.

On the soccer field, Reilly wears No. 2, while Kelsey wears No. 3 to honor their dad who wore No. 23 when he played high school basketball.

“I wished my mom would have passed on her flexibility to me,” Reilly said. “I can barely touch my toes.”

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Prize

Mudcats, cat-fesh, bullheads, slimers and a host of other local names all offer valid table fare across much of their native range. Though they can tolerate an array of water conditions and even salinities (I’ve caught brown bullhead in Miami’s primarily salt-water canals), they thrive in other areas, too.

Though most farmed catfish you’ll see at the store is channel catfish, many parts of the American Midwest and South have small, wild-caught catfish industries, which often sell bullheads along with the larger channels, flatheads and blues. In most states, it’s illegal to sell sport-caught fish, but commercial fishing licenses open up many doors and many more wallets.

In fact, according to the aquaculture tracking site, IntraFish, America’s eighth-favorite seafood to consume is catfish.

While traveling through the South — particularly Mississippi, where per capita catfish

consumption is the highest in the U.S. — you can find catfish almost everywhere. Every diner and American restaurant offers catfish, many boasting “All You Can Eat Catfish” on a certain day of the week.

There are fast food chains you won’t find anywhere else that sell catfish by the boatload.

I’ve eaten fried catfish purchased at convenience stores and gas stations when fishing out in the sticks on numerous occasions that wasn’t half bad.

Usually it’s been channel catfish, but a couple of times, it has been bullheads, fried and battered so evenly that it all tastes the same.

Though I still won’t go out of my way to catch bullheads, I’ve come to respect them a lot more when in their native range, and if fresh saltwater fish isn’t available, and the bullheads are coming from clean water, I’m more than willing to chow down.

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OSAA:

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Five classifications would be a tectonic shift.

“As the committee looks at trying to meet some of the charges, it’s certainly something that’s been brought up,” Weber said. “There seems to be some level of interest

in it. I don’t know if there’s heavy momentum or not. It’s been tough to engage schools just because everybody is so busy.”

A major selling point of the five-classification plan is it would create bigger leagues and give schools more flexibility with scheduling, allowing them to compete locally more often.

“That could be a way for people to embrace that,” Weber said.

ON THE SLATE

Saturday, Sept. 25

- College football**
College of Idaho at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.
- Prep volleyball**
Union at Heppner, noon
Pendleton at Oregon City Tournament, 7 a.m.
Weston-McEwen vs. Grant Union at Stanfield, 1:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 3 p.m.
- Dayton-Waitsburg at McLoughlin, 12:30 p.m.
- Joseph at Nixyaawii, 10 a.m.
- Wallowa at Nixyaawii, 1 p.m.
- Wallowa at Griswold, 10 a.m.
- Joseph at Griswold, 1 p.m.
- Prep girls soccer**
Hermiston at Richland, 1 p.m.
- Pendleton at Lewiston, noon
- McLoughlin at Ontario, 11 a.m.
- Stanfield/Echo at Trout Lake, 1 p.m.
- Irrigon at Four Corners, 10 a.m.
- Riverside at Nyssa, 1 p.m.
- Prep boys soccer**
Lewiston at Pendleton, noon
- McLoughlin at Ontario, 12:30 p.m.
- Irrigon at Four Rivers, noon
- Riverside at Nyssa, 11 a.m.
- Prep cross-country**
Pendleton at Three Course Challenge, TBD
- McLoughlin at Connell Invite, 1 p.m.
- Pilot Rock at John Hascall Memorial 3K, TBD
- College men’s soccer**
Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2:15 p.m.
- Corban at Eastern Oregon, 4 p.m.
- College women’s soccer**
Blue Mountain at Spokane, noon
- Corban at Eastern Oregon, 6:30 p.m.
- College volleyball**
Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.



Flu Season is Coming

Drive Through Adult Flu Shot Clinic

Thursday September 30th

Friday October 1st

10am - 2 pm

Pendleton Convention Center
Parking Lot

1601 Westgate - Pendleton

PLEASE WEAR A MASK IN YOUR VEHICLE WHEN YOU ARRIVE

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