

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A11

## Showing their true character

W-M football players' team breakfast turns into a blessing

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

ATHENA — In a time where there is uncertainty and ugliness in the world, the Weston-McEwen High School football team has shown goodness still exists.

Two days before their 2A state quarterfinal football game at Heppner, the TigerScots went for a team breakfast Thursday, Nov. 11, at Denny's in Pendleton.

The idea to go to Denny's was that of senior Quinn Graham, with fellow senior Boone Blankenship helping to coordinate the outing.

"It's not real fancy, but it's the best breakfast around and they could fit us all in," Graham said. "We wanted to be respectful and wanted to make sure we had enough money and have a good time and not go overboard.

They met at the school to make sure everyone had a ride, and they walked into the restaurant 25 strong.

"Before they arrived, a young man came in and gave me his credit card and said, 'Please take care of them,'" Denny's server Wendy Christensen said. "The guys came in and they were fantastic. When they sat down, they said each bill was separate and that they were drinking water. I told them it has been paid for and they were to enjoy themselves."

"We were surprised," senior Boone Blankenship said. "We didn't think a whole lot of people knew about it."

The players ordered breakfast, had appetizers and some had milk shakes.

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## EOU's Quinn cements legacy with last second victory

By DAVIS CARBAUGH  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — It has been far from a desirable season for the Eastern Oregon University football team, but one of the program's all-time great quarterbacks secured his legacy in his final game at Community Stadium.

Riding a six-game losing streak, the Mountaineers came into the season finale against rival Southern Oregon with little implications on the season's outcome. However, Eastern walked off with a last-second 14-10 victory on Saturday, Nov. 13, to end the season on a high note and send out 19 seniors on the roster.

After a low-scoring bout between the Raiders and Mountaineers, Eastern managed one final opportunity for a victory. In front of a home crowd on senior day, quarterback Kai Quinn and the Mountaineers took over at their own 10-yard line down 10-3 with 53 seconds remaining.

Quinn was sensational in the pocket on the winning drive, connecting on three straight passes to move the ball past midfield. A 20-yard run by Quinn down to the Southern 20-yard line with nine seconds remaining set up Eastern in prime tie goal range with a chance to tie the game. With one play left before an imminent field goal attempt, Quinn came away with one of the biggest plays

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Heppner players celebrate their win Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at Les Payne Field, Heppner, over the Weston-McEwen TigerScots. Top-ranked Heppner (11-0) won 40-0 in the quarterfinal round of the Oregon School Activities Association Class 2A state football tournament and next play Coquille (8-1) in the semifinals Nov. 20 at noon at McMinnville High School.

## Mustangs punch ticket to 2A semifinals

### Heppner shuts out Weston-McEwen 40-0

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — Greg Grant admitted he loses sleep this time of year. The longtime Heppner football coach said he wants to make sure he doesn't let his players down during the state playoffs.

Grant should have slept soundly Saturday, Nov. 13, after the Mustangs punched their ticket to the Oregon School Activities Association 2A state semifinals with a 40-0 victory over Blue Mountain Conference rival Weston-McEwen.

"This is their last home game, and I wanted it to be a win and a good experience," Grant said of his seniors. "This is a good group of kids. Winning is a relief; I wanted to get them there. They work hard and they care."

The top-ranked Mustangs (11-0) will play Coquille (8-1) in the semifinals Nov. 20 at noon at McMinnville High School.

"It's incredibly exciting," Heppner senior Conor Brosnan said of advancing. "It's crazy to think back to our sophomore year, and to go this far again with these guys, it means a lot."

And it's not an easy thing to do. "It takes a lot of brotherhood and teamwork," senior Jace Coe said. "We are nervous, but we don't acknowledge it. We stay in our own lane and don't talk about it."

The TigerScots finished their season with an 8-2 record.

#### HEPPNER 40, WESTON-MCEWEN 0

##### Score by quarter

Weston-McEwen: 0 0 0 0-0  
Heppner: 6 8 6 20-40

##### Scoring plays

H — Caden George 1 run (kick failed).  
H — Landon Mitchell 2 run (Brock Hisler pass from Mitchell).  
H — George 11 run (pass failed).  
H — Hisler 13 run (run failed).  
H — Jace Coe 58 run (Hisler run).  
H — Conor Brosnan 25 fumble recovery (kick failed).

##### Statistics

PASSING — W-M, Blane Peal 5-20-1-38. Heppner, Mitchell 6-11-1-45.  
RUSHING — W-M, Levie Phillips 14-46, Peyton Sincleir 5-22, Aiden Wolf 1-6, Peal 2-(minus-1). Heppner, Hisler 18-110, Coe 3-81, Mitchell 7-40, George 6-34, Hayden McMahon 1-(minus-4).  
RECEIVING — W-M, Cameron Reich 1-35, Theo White 1-5, Chase Fehrenbacher 1-0, Phillips 1-0, Dylan Youncs 1-(minus-2). Heppner, George 2-15, Coe 2-13, Zander Fisher 1-10, Ty Boor 1-7.

"This senior class, I can't say enough good things about them," Weston-McEwen coach Kenzie Hansell said. "Three years ago, they didn't know me. I can't thank them enough for their leadership and character. Congratulations to Heppner, they are well coached and they execute well. Best of luck to them in the semifinals."

The Mustangs, who are on a 29-game win streak, scored on their first possession of the game as Caden George took the ball in from the 1-yard line. The ensuing kick failed as Heppner took a 6-0 lead.

The TigerScots ended up punting on their first drive, and Heppner wasted no time finding the end zone once again as Landon Mitchell ran the ball in from the 2-yard line on the first play of the second quarter. Mitchell connected with Brock Hisler on the 2-point conversion to take a 14-0 lead.

The remainder of the second quarter saw

Weston-McEwen punt twice, and quarterback Blane Peal was intercepted by Zander Fisher to stall another drive.

The TigerScots got the ball back when Taylor McGill picked off Mitchell to give the team the ball on its own 29 with 13 seconds left in the first half.

"Our team came out ready to play," Hansell said. "It was 14-0 at the half, and with a minute to go in the third quarter. We'd move the ball, then stall. It got away from us in the fourth quarter."

Weston-McEwen did a good job of bottling up Hisler in the first half. Brosnan said the offensive line was partially to blame.

"We weren't playing well as a team," he said. "The line wasn't communicating. We were trying to do fancy stuff instead of what we know — grit and hard work."

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## Hermiston's Pasena-Littlesky named MCC's top goalie

Gonzalez, Seavert named to second team

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston goalkeeper Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky was named to the Mid-Columbia Conference first team by a vote of the coaches.

It's the third time Pasena-Littlesky has earned first-team all-conference honors. She was a two-time Goalie of the Year in the Intermountain Conference when she played at Pendleton.

Pasena-Littlesky transferred to Hermiston during the summer. She allowed an average of .80 goals per game.

"It was a lot of fun," she said of the season. "I got a lot of support from the Pendleton girls and Hermiston girls. It was a great time for me to have the opportunity to play for Hermiston."

Richland's Hayden Crowley was named the MCC Player of the year, while Justin Almqvist of Richland was named Coach of the Year.

Pasena-Littlesky, who would like to pursue a degree in tribal law or business after graduation,



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston goalie Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky stops the ball from going into the net Oct. 9, 2021, while playing Richland at Kennison Field, Hermiston. Coaches voted her to the Mid-Columbia Conference first team.

also would like to continue to play soccer in college.

"I haven't had any contact," she said. "I'm hoping to reach out to schools. I want to go to Ivy League school for academics, but I still want to play."

Hermiston forward Jizelle Gonzalez, and midfielder Sydney Seavert were named to the second team.

Gonzalez finished the season



Gonzalez



Seavert

with five goals and two assists, while Seavert had three goals and eight assists.

#### MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE GIRLS SOCCER

Player of the Year: Hayden Crowley, sr., Richland.  
Coach of the Year: Justin Almqvist, Richland

##### First Team

Forwards — Hayden Crowley, sr., Richland; Kate Christian, jr., Kamiakin; Isabella Hoag, so., Chiawana; Claire Nguyen, sr., Hanford; Ava Suarez, jr., Chiawana. Midfielders — Ellie Cortes-Muniz, sr., Chiawana; Violet Duran, sr., Southridge; Kelsey Fulton, jr., Richland; Hannah Whitmarsh, jr., Kamiakin. Defenders — Kaylie Pearson, sr., Richland; Claire Eerkes, sr., Kamiakin; Emma Haertling, jr., Chiawana; Olivia Mendoza, jr., Chiawana. Goalkeeper — Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky, sr., Hermiston.

##### Second Team

Forwards — Margot Massey, jr., Kamiakin; Angelina Hopwood, so., Southridge; Jizelle Gonzalez, sr., Hermiston; Chelsea Baker, fr., Kennewick. Midfielders — Sierra Larios, jr., Chiawana; Claire Potter, sr., Pasco; Kylie Hay, sr., Richland; Sydney Seavert, sr., Hermiston. Defenders — Kendal Smith, jr., Richland; Maggie Perryman, sr., Richland; Candace Carlson, sr., Kamiakin; Chloe Bond, so., Southridge. Goalkeeper — Devyn Chelin, jr., Kamiakin.

##### Honorable Mention

Midfielders — Kaitlyn King, jr., Walla Walla; Marlee Boyd, jr., Walla Walla; Kayla Anema, jr., Southridge. Defenders — Riley Heidegger, jr., Richland; Maya Wunschel, jr., Hanford; Rylee Siefken, sr., Kamiakin; Mikailyn O'Dell, sr., Walla Walla. Goalkeepers — Alyssa Marsh, so., Richland; Crystal Kelly, sr., Walla Walla.