

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File
Weston-McEwen's Madison Shell hits the ball during a May 10, 2021, game against the Echo/Stansfield Cougars in Athena. Shell recently signed a letter of intent to play softball at Salt Lake Community College in Utah.

BULLDOGS

Cadenas, Hottman earn MCC honors

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston lineman Sam Cadenas, and linebacker/receiver Caden Hottman were selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference football team by the conference coaches.

Cadenas, a 6-foot-1, 245-pound senior, was a first-team selection as a defensive lineman, and a second-team pick as an offensive lineman.



Cadenas

On defense, he had 78 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and a team-high eight quarterback sacks.



Hottman

Hottman, a 6-2, 215-pound senior, earned second-team honors as a linebacker and honorable mention honors as a receiver.

Defensively, he had a team-high 102 tackles, seven for loss and two sacks.

Offensively, he had 34 receptions for 400 yards and three touchdowns.

The Bulldogs had a rough start to the season, but won their last three games to finish 3-7 overall.

Kamiakin, which won the MCC regular-season title, saw quarterback Henry Mercado named Player of the Year, while Braves coach Scott Biglin was named Coach of the Year.

MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Offensive Player of the Year — Henry Mercado, sr., Kamiakin.

Defensive Player of the Year — Bronson Childs, sr., Kennewick.

Lineman of the Year — Ayden Knapik, sr., Kennewick.

All-Purpose Player of the Year — Payton Graham, sr., Kamiakin.

Coach of the Year — Scott Biglin, Kamiakin.

First Team

Defensive back — Gabe Tahir, jr., Kamiakin; Payton Graham, sr., Kamiakin; Austin Stoddard, sr., Kennewick; Luke Ritchie, sr., Richland. Linebacker — Bronson Childs, sr., Kennewick; Isaya Galvez, jr., Richland; Luis Salgado, sr., Kamiakin; Myles Mayovsky, sr., Kennewick. Defensive line — Ayden Knapik, sr., Kennewick; Elijah Rodriguez, sr., Richland; Aaron Tano, sr., Kamiakin; Sam Cadenas, sr., Hermiston.

Offensive line — Ayden Knapik, sr., Kennewick; Aaron Tano, sr., Kamiakin; Ashton Tripp, jr., Kennewick; Andon Castilla, sr., Kamiakin; Jaxin McCallum, sr., Kamiakin. Wide receiver — Aidan Canada, sr., Kamiakin; Austin Stoddard, sr., Kennewick; Payton Graham, sr., Kamiakin; Lucien Cone, jr., Southridge; Kade Smith, jr., Chiawana. Running back — Myles Mayovsky, sr., Kennewick; Elijah Rodriguez, sr., Richland; Luis Salgado, sr., Kamiakin. Quarterback — Henry Mercado, sr., Kamiakin. Kick returner — Jamie Townsend II, sr., Pasco. Punter — Lance Spaniel, sr., Southridge. Kicker — Michael Kot, sr., Chiawana.

Second Team

Defensive back — Isaac Hoag, sr., Chiawana; Aaren Lindsey, sr., Walla Walla; Simon Howard, sr., Kennewick; Lucien Cone, jr., Southridge; Aidan Canada, sr., Kamiakin. Linebacker — EJ Hawkins, sr., Kamiakin; Kale Crawford, sr., Kamiakin; Caden Hottman, sr., Hermiston; Logan Ashbeck, sr., Walla Walla. Defensive line — Andon Castilla, sr., Kamiakin; Jacob Raab, sr., Richland; Camden McCollough, sr., Walla Walla; Trevor Hoopes, jr., Southridge; Judah Bishop, jr., Chiawana; Noah Collingridge, sr., Richland. Offensive line — Sam Cadenas, sr., Hermiston; Aden Goodwin, sr., Walla Walla; Josh Evans, sr., Hanford; Wade McCaughy, sr., Southridge. Wide receiver — Tanner Schuster, jr., Richland; EJ Hawkins, sr., Kamiakin; Bronson Childs, sr., Kennewick; Seth Shook, jr., Richland; Marco Elizondo, jr., Chiawana. Running backs — Jake Humphrey, sr., Walla Walla; Jimmy Rush, jr., Southridge. Quarterback — JP Zamora, sr., Chiawana. Kick returner — Landon Charlton, jr., Richland. Punter — Payton Graham, sr., Kamiakin. Kicker — Zaydel Capetillo, jr., Kennewick.

Honorable Mention

Defensive backs — Manny Rosales, sr., Pasco; Skyler Williamson, sr., Hanford; Seth Shook, jr., Richland; Eli Allen, sr., Kamiakin; Landon Charlton, jr., Richland. Linebackers — Kalani Steward, jr., Richland; Caden Wilson, so., Hanford; Hunter Taylor, so., Chiawana; Jamie Townsend II, sr., Pasco; Jake Humphrey, sr., Walla Walla. Defensive line — Ashton Tripp, jr., Kennewick; Santos Flores, sr., Kennewick; Easton Skipper, sr., Southridge; Darion Johnson, sr., Chiawana. Offensive line — Chase Langford, jr., Chiawana; Jon Smith, jr., Walla Walla; Gauge Machado, sr., Pasco; Briar Tousley, sr., Hanford. Wide receivers — Fabian Hernandez, jr., Kamiakin; Caden Hottman, sr., Hermiston. Running back — Jamie Townsend II, sr., Pasco. Quarterback — Cameron Kitchens, sr., Richland. Punter — Joey Weissensfels, sr., Richland. Kicker — Joel Valle, fr., Pasco.

GOOD CONNECTIONS

SLCC softball is the next step for Weston-McEwen's Madison Shell

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

ATHENA — Sometimes, it's who you know, not what you know, that will open a few doors.

For Weston-McEwen softball player Madison Shell, that's how she ended up signing a letter of intent to play at Salt Lake Community College, Utah.

"It's the weirdest connections

that get you in," Shell said. "My USA coach Ron Thompson knew the Utah Valley University coach. I went to a camp there and I loved the Utah area. When I talked to the coach, I told him I loved Utah, and how I would like to play there. He told me I would redshirt my first year. He emailed me a week later and told me there was another school I might like."

That school was SLCC. Shell contacted Bruins assistant coach Tara Bendt and set the wheels in motion.

"I contacted coach T (Bendt), and she said to come down and spend a day with the team," Shell said. "When she told me what (scholarship) she would give me, I was like yes, I will take it. It was like

that moment you have heard of. It was my place, and I was meant to be there."

Shell, who plays catcher, second base and shortstop, will focus her efforts on catching — her favorite position — in college.

"Between her and her parents, there has been a huge commitment outside of school," W-M coach Jeff Griggs said. "Madi set some goals to play college ball. She is landing in a prestigious program and she will contribute right away. That is the tough thing about the college process. You love the game and you don't want to sit. I think she found a good fit."

SLCC is one of the top junior colleges in the nation. The Bruins have made an annual appearance in

the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament every year but one (2014) since 2009. There was no season in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The cool thing with this college is in the fall, they only play Division I schools," Shell said of SLCC. "They are ranked first nationally."

The love of the game

Shell got a good dose of baseball when she was growing up. Her dad Rob coached her older brother Garrett's baseball team and she always tagged along.

"I was always around the baseball boys," Shell said. "My brother Garrett was a catcher and I wanted

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Jets win Hermiston Grid Kids

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Jets won the Hermiston Grid Kids 5th/6th grade championship on Nov. 3, at Kennison Field, defeating the Raiders 22-20 in overtime.

With the game tied at 14-14 at the end of regulation, the Jets scored first on a quarterback keeper by Kyle Stasik. Stasik also kicked the point after to give the Jets a 22-14 lead.

The Raiders came back to score on the third play of their drive on a run by Jayden Martinez. The game-tying PAT was blocked by Andrew Pinto to secure the win for the Jets.

Both teams finished their seasons 6-1.



Luke Swanson/Contributed Photo
The Jets, back row from left: coaches Greg Cortaberria, Luke Swanson, Jerry Stasik and Dustin Rysdam. Middle row: Kaycn Crandall, Grayson Kincaid, Cooper Davis, Andrew Pinto, Kyle Stasik, Harry Bither, Arian Garay and Brehnan Rysdam. Front row: Jakoby Rodriguez, Tyler Hansell, Zayden Hinz, Kiro Viesca, Griffin Davis, Cole Johnson, Chase Swanson, Brayden Cortaberria and Colton Wieseler. Not pictured are coaches Aaron Davis and Ryan Wieseler.

Racism during La Grande, Gladstone game still under investigation

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

LA GRANDE — An investigation into alleged use of racism during a recent La Grande state playoff football game remains underway.

The La Grande and Gladstone school districts are continuing to work alongside the Oregon School Activities Association to get to the bottom of allegations from Gladstone players and parents accusing La Grande players of saying racial slurs during a playoff game on Nov. 5. The game ended in a major

dispute between the two football teams, which Gladstone players claim was the result of persistent racism throughout the contest.

Players and parents documented their accusations in an article released by The Oregonian on Nov. 11.

The entities involved released a joint statement on Tuesday, Nov. 16, that articulated a move toward solidarity between the two schools as the investigation continues.

"The La Grande School District deeply regrets that the Gladstone players, coaching staff, parents and fans did not have a positive

experience competing against La Grande High School," the statement read. "The district is proud of our history of sportsmanship, so we take the situation very seriously."

OSAA is working with an independent investigator and will take action on the incident when the investigation concludes.

According to the joint statement, both school districts are taking additional actions to smooth out relations on both sides in addition to following OSAA's policies. These actions include incident reporting, preventative actions,

review of game film, interviewing athletes from both teams and fact-finding.

It remains to be seen what potential actions could stem from the allegations, but the statement indicates the two sides are working together in the meantime to build back the relationship between the two schools.

"As we have sought to determine administrative action and potential sanctions; our mutual goal has been to ensure that a restorative and educational process

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