

Officials:

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makes it difficult for schools to find individuals to referee the games.

“The biggest issue is liability because if you have an injury there are a lot of things that could come into play on the legal side,” he said. “(Certified officials) have training in case of injury, and we know what OSAA policy is.”

Other associations across the state are facing similar situations and can rarely send their officials to other areas to cover another associations’ games.

Disturbing trend

Referee shortage is not just an Oregon issue but a nationwide problem driven by several factors, Gillette noted. It is a decline 30 to 40 years in the making with older officials getting out for a variety of reasons and no one there to take their place.

“Young people watch games growing up and see people in the stands going crazy, and really question whether they want to go out and subjugate themselves to being treated that way,” he said.

Gillette has been commissioner for 24 years, but has been an official for 52 years at the high school level. He began as a 19-year-old and has continued on. Today’s athletes graduate and have many other avenues to make money or spend their time.

“Trying to get people involved is very difficult,” he said.

The lack of officials can also have an impact on the

court with more games officiated by two-man crews rather than the preferred three.

“Over half our games in the spring had just two-man crews,” Gillette said. “That is why peoples’ bodies started breaking down when they are working four and five nights a week. It doesn’t mean in three-man that you don’t run, but it is shorter distances and your vision and focus is greater.”

Getting involved

Becoming a certified official begins with a simple click of a mouse on the “Become an official” button on the OSAA website. After choosing a sport, they fill out an online information sheet and the OSAA will reach out to the proper association based on where the individual lives.

For basketball, registration and a fee is required as well as a background check. Individuals watch a video on warning signs when an athlete may have suffered a concussion, and there are six required meetings or at least 10 hours of instruction.

“People also have to take a state certification test that is 50 questions,” said Gillette, who said people get three tries at the test.

To officiate at the junior varsity or lower level, people only need to take the test. A varsity-level official must score 75 or better. To qualify for postseason assignments, officials must have three years of experience and score 90 or above.

The latest requirement is to supply a COVID-19 vaccination card or apply for a medical or religious exemption.

Heppner:

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Coquille, which had success moving the ball, but not scoring, finally put the two together on its ensuing drive.

The Mustangs had the Red Devils facing fourth-and-1 from the Heppner 41-yard line. That’s when Gunner Yates broke free for a 34-yard run to put the ball at the Heppner 7. Yates would score on the next play.

The Red Devils also opted to go for the 2-point conversion, and were successful as Brock Willis ran the ball in for an 8-6 lead with 2:23 to play.

With one last drive to score, the Mustangs struggled to move the ball. They looked to have a first down after an 13-yard pass from Mitchell to Cimmiyotti, but the play was nullified by a false start penalty. Two more incomplete passes turned the ball over to the Red Devils with 1:16 to play.

“To their credit, they executed and we couldn’t stop them,” Grant said. “It was a tough, tough way to go out.”

Heppner’s defense has been its strength this season, allowing an average of six points a game. The Mustangs still held strong Nov. 20, despite Coquille’s Yates and



Damon Brosnan/Contributed Photo

Heppner running back Brock Hisler (32) fights off Coquille linebacker Bo Messerle (34). The Heppner Mustangs fell 8-6 to the Coquille Red Devils Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, during the semifinal round of the Oregon School Activities Association Class 2A state football tournament at McMinnville High School.

Willis, combining for 238 yards.

The Red Devils moved the ball slowly and methodically on their first drive, eating up nearly 10 minutes. The drive moved into the second quarter, where on fourth-and-14 Cimmiyotti intercepted Coquille quarterback Bryce Poston in the end zone.

Heppner lost Jace Coe on the next series. The talented senior, who does a little bit of everything for the Mustangs, injured his knee when he was tackled after a 16-yard run. He did not play the rest of the game.

“We lost Jace early and it was tough without him,” Grant said.

Heppner forced Coquille to turn the ball over on downs on its next possession, and again on its first drive of the third quarter. The Red Devils punted to open the fourth quarter.

“We got behind the chains in the first half and played a lot of defense,” Grant said. “They had some drives that ate up some time, but we stopped them. In the second half, I thought we could open things up. I could have done some things differently.” Caden George led the

Mustangs with 54 yards rushing on nine carries, while Hisler had 39 yards on 12 carries. The Red Devils held Heppner to just 141 yards of offense and seven first downs.

“I thought they defended us OK,” Grant said. “In the first half, we made some mistakes and I made some wrong calls. It threw us off a little bit not having Jace out there.”

Defensively, Blane Mahoney led the Mustangs with 16 tackles, while Cimmiyotti added 13, Conor Brosnan 11, Toby Nation 11 and Hisler nine.

Soccer:

Continued from Page A10

said Pendleton coach Kiana Rickman. “Her work ethic is admirable, she gives 100% every day, is super dedicated to improving her skills, and was a great teammate, which was our goal for every player this year. It’s a well-deserved honor and I’m so proud of her.”

Rickman earned Coach of the Year honors.

Pendleton posted its first 10-win season in school

history, finishing with an 11-4-1 overall record, and 7-2-1 in IMC play. The Bucks won their first-ever state playoff game on Nov. 2, beating Thurston 2-1. They then lost to La Salle in the quarterfinals.

Lovercheck had team-high 12 goals in conference play, along with three assists.

Also earning first-team honors was senior Kelsey Lovercheck, who had seven conference goals and four assists. She also had one playoff goal.

The Bucks dominated the second team with five

players — junior Hadley Brown, sophomore Hailey Schmidt, sophomore Madeline Schumacher, sophomore Alison Spratling, and sophomore goalkeeper Miranda Medrano.

Brown had one goal and two assists in IMC play, and played a key position to help run the offense.

“Madeline was a strong center back, core of the defense and not afraid to challenge the ball,” Rickman said. “Hailey was a strong center back and commanded the back line. Alison was an explosive right back

and great at stopping major threats.”

Medrano had 38 league saves and two shutouts.

“She is a vocal leader on the soccer field, showed great growth this year, and has unmatched mental toughness,” Rickman said.”

Named to the honorable mention team were senior Brielle Youncs and sophomore Ashtyn Larsen.

Larsen had two goals and five assists, and created countless opportunities off the wing. Youncs, who played left back, stopped two corner kick goals this season.

ON THE SLATE

TUESDAY, NOV. 23

Prep girls bowling
Hermiston at Kennewick, 2:30 p.m.

College men’s basketball
Eastern Oregon at College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho, 6:30 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Eastern Oregon vs. the College of Idaho,

Caldwell, Idaho, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

College men’s basketball
Eastern Oregon at William Jessup, 3 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Eastern Oregon vs. Simpson, Best Western Caldwell Inn and Suites Classic, Caldwell, Idaho, 2 p.m.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Default: Failure to fulfill an obligation, especially the obligation to make payments on a loan.

Encumbrance: A right to interest in, or legal liability attached to a property that may lessen its value, such as a lien, lease or easement.

Foreclosure: The legal process of terminating an owner’s interest in property and forcing a sale, usually as the result of a default under a mortgage.

Lien: A legal claim asserted over a property, usually to secure payment for a debt or obligation.

Mortgage: A legal agreement that conveys the conditional right of ownership on an asset or property by its owner to a lender as security for a loan.

Probate: The legal process that resolves a deceased person’s debts so the executor or personal representative can distribute assets in an estate according to a will.

Trustee: a holder of property on behalf of a beneficiary.

Disclaimer: The foregoing terms and definitions are provided merely as a guide to the reader and are not offered as authoritative definitions of legal terms.

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651 Help Wanted

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The four characteristics of public notices:

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- They must be archived,
- They must be accessible to the public,
- The public must be able to verify that the notice was not altered once published.

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