

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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LISCOM NAMED 5A DEFENSIVE POY

Bucks also had Browning and Griffin named to all-state team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The honors keep rolling in for the Pendleton football team.

The Bucks had three players named to the 5A all-state football team, with senior linebacker Kyle Liscom named Defensive Player of the Year.

Liscom, a two-time Defensive Player of the Year for the Northwest Oregon Conference East, is the first Pendleton player in recent memory to win an all-state player of the year honor.

"It's very exciting for a real special kid," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said. "I was shocked, but his play speaks for itself. For Kyle to be Defensive Player of the Year, and we lost in the first round, is a little unprecedented. It's really hard if you don't make it deep in the playoffs, the other coaches don't get a chance to see them play."

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound Liscom finished the season with 104 tackles, leading all 5A players around the state. "You can never replace a kid like Kyle," Davis said.

Joining Liscom on the all-state team are senior lineman Jacob Griffin and senior defensive back Gabe Browning.

The 5-11, 160-pound Browning, who had five interceptions to lead all 5A players, was named to the second team.

"Gabe was one of the top two in the state in interceptions," Davis said. "That's nice coming from an Eastern Oregon school where you don't get much recognition."

Griffin, an undersized



Pendleton linebacker Kyle Liscom (21) brings down The Dalles running back Riis La Roux (20) Sept. 30, 2021, during a 70-6 win over The Dalles Riverhawks at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. Liscom was named Defensive Player of the Year for the Northwest Oregon Conference East for the second year in a row.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

lineman at 6-1, 265, was named to the second team on both sides of the ball.

"I thought that was neat to get named on both sides of the ball at the state level," Davis said. "It's satisfying and well deserved. That proved he was our rock on the offensive and defensive lines."

The Bucks, who won the conference title with a 7-0 record, finished the season with a 9-2 overall record. They lost in the first round of the 5A state playoffs to the Dallas Dragons 7-6.

5A GIRLS ALL-STATE SOCCER

Pendleton senior Reilly Lovercheck was named to the all-state first team, and the Bucks' Kiana Rickman was named Coach of the Year.

Lovercheck, the Inter-



Rickman



Castillo



Flores



Browning



Griffin



R. Lovercheck

mountain Conference Player of the Year, had a team-high 12 goals in conference play, along with three assists.

"It's really cool," Lovercheck said. "It's really awesome. In the summer, it was sort of a goal of mine to be something all-state. During the season, I completely forgot about it. It was such a surprise. I could not have done it without my teammates."

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.

Wilsonville senior Lindsey Antonson was named Player of the Year.

4A BOYS ALL-STATE SOCCER

McLoughlin sophomore Angel Castillo and senior Daniel Flores were named to the all-state team after leading the Pioneers to the state quarterfinals.

Castillo, who was named the Greater Oregon League Player of the Year, was named to the first team.

Castillo scored 26 goals and had 12 assists for the Pioneers.

Flores, a senior, was named to the second team.

The Pioneers won the GOL regular-season title with a 5-0-1 record, and were 11-3-1 overall.

They beat Cottage Grove 2-0 in the first round of the 4A state playoffs, then lost in the quarterfinals 1-0 to eventual state champion Philomath.

Mark Grimmer of Philomath was named Player of the Year, while David Ellis of Philomath was the Coach of the Year.

5A STATE FOOTBALL

Offensive Player of the Year — Jordan McCarty, sr., Silverton

Defensive Player of the Year — Kyle Liscom, sr., Pendleton

Coach of the Year — Josh Craig, Silverton

First team offense

QB — Jordan McCarty, sr., Silverton.

RB — Josiah Davis, jr., North Salem; Tyler Konold, so., Canby. WR — Vandon Fessler, sr., Silverton; Jacob Newell, sr., Thurston; Austin Ratliff, sr., Silverton. TE — Grayson Starck, sr., Thurston; Jacob Strand, sr., Canby. C — Auron Cramer, sr., Thurston. OL — Carson Benedict, sr., West Albany; Jimmy Jordahl, sr., Crater; Ori Schaffers, sr., Silverton; Samuel Willis, sr., Silverton. K — Joey Friedman, sr., Wilsonville.

Second team offense

QB — Trenton Hughes, sr., Hood River; Luke McNabb, sr., Scappoose. RB — Brycen Indell, sr., Thurston; Logan Person, sr., Dallas. WR — Cooper Hiday, jr., Wilsonville; Riley VanCamp, sr.,

Churchill; Carson Wright, sr., Corvallis. TE — Brysen Kachel, so., West Albany.

C — Keenan Sanford, sr., Wilsonville.

OL — Jacob Griffin, sr., Pendleton; Casey Langdale, sr., Canby; Joseph Martin, sr., Ridgeview; Brycen Thomas, sr., Churchill. K — Gavin Levesque, sr., Thurston.

Honorable mention offense

QB — Chase Hix, sr., Wilsonville; Chace Pence, sr., Churchill; Carter Steeves, sr., Corvallis. RB — Myles Barton, sr., Putnam; Alex Briseno, jr., Silverton; Gavin Knights, sr., Thurston; Caden Lasater, sr., Crater; Jacob Ogden, jr., Wilsonville; Eric Pendergrass, jr., Ridgeview. WR — Jimmie Copeland, sr., Eagle Point; Chansse Lee, sr., McKay; Jeremiah Schwartz, jr., Ridgeview. TE — Zach Gault, sr., Ridgeview; Waylon Wolfe, sr., Lebanon. OL — Brock Arntson, sr., Wilsonville; Nick Cooper, sr., Wilsonville; Ramie Halbrook, sr., South Albany; Malcom I'aulualo, so., Hood River; Colin Kennedy, sr., Canby; Chase

Sattler, sr., Springfield; Weston Tucker, sr., Corvallis; Alex Whitaker, sr., Hood River. K — Landen Parker, sr., Crescent Valley; Robert Rowen, sr., Hood River.

First team defense

DL — Josh Buller, sr., Thurston; Jimmy Jordahl, sr., Crater; Jacob Newell, sr., Thurston; Braden Rohde, sr., Churchill; Ori Schaffers, sr., Silverton; Jacob Strand, sr., Canby. LB — Joe Brauckmiller, sr., Canby; Vaun Halstead, jr., Thurston; Kyle Liscom, sr., Pendleton; Tyler Seiber, sr., South Albany; Keegan Walter, sr., Silverton. DB — Vandon Fessler, sr., Silverton; Jack Johnson, sr., Wilsonville; Austin Ratliff, sr., Silverton; Darien Witham, jr., Thurston. P — Landen Parker, sr., Crescent Valley.

Second team defense

DL — Chase Barnes, sr., West Albany; Jacob Griffin, sr., Pendleton; Joseph Martin, sr., Ridgeview; Tim Phelps, sr., Wilsonville; Samuel Willis, sr., Wilsonville. LB — Rochne Beecham, sr.,

Wilsonville; Nick Cooper, sr., Wilsonville; Caden Lasater, sr., Crater; Gabriel Robles, sr., Redmond; James Toland, sr., Silverton; Waylon Wolfe, sr., Lebanon. DB — Gabe Browning, sr., Pendleton; Connor Green, sr., Wilsonville; Trenton Hughes, sr., Hood River; Luke McNabb, sr., Scappoose. P — Luke McNabb, sr., Scappoose.

Honorable mention defense

DL — Tristan Davis, jr., Wilsonville; Ramie Halbrook, sr., South Albany; Casey Langdale, sr., Canby; Weston Tucker, sr., Corvallis; Alex Whitaker, sr., Hood River. LB — Joey Frazier, sr., Hood River; Brysen Kachel, so., West Albany; Romynn Schaefer, jr., Churchill. DB — Ryles Buckley, sr., Hood River; Miles Jennings, sr., Crater; Tyler Konold, so., Canby; Riley Paxton, sr., West Albany; Matthew Soles, sr., Canby; Danny Womack, sr., Churchill. P — Jeremiah Schwartz, jr., Ridgeview; Carter Steeves, sr., Corvallis; Riley Van Camp, sr., Churchill.

Eight-man football in question after OSAA proposal

By DAVIS CARBAUGH
The Observer

WILSONVILLE — The future of eight-man football in Oregon is up in the air.

The Oregon School Activities Association Football Ad Hoc Committee released its first proposal for the 2022-26 football time block on Tuesday, Dec. 20, which suggested doing away with eight-man football among 2A and 1A schools. The public meeting on Dec. 20 proposed divisions of nine-man and six-man leagues.

"It's a bummer they'd be getting rid of eight-man," Powder Valley head coach Josh Cobb said. "People are really starting to get behind this."

The OSAA Ad Hoc Committee met virtually and conducted a work session to begin the initial stages of reclassification. The committee also took into consideration the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association's small school survey, which took place in the fall and collected trends from the last five years of 11-man, eight-man and six-man football.

After reviewing the information, the committee came away in support of three divisions between 2A and 1A schools. Based on school enrollment, two potential sections of nine-man and one division of six-man teams were drafted.

The proposal to do away with eight-man football raised eyebrows among several local coaches, such as Cobb and the 2021 1A state football runners-up Powder Valley Badgers.

"Eight-man just feels right," he said. "I see six-man as a good thing for schools that truly don't have the student body."

The Badgers would be bumped down to the six-man league, which Cobb is against, although Powder Valley could potentially request to jump up to the higher division. The Badgers are coming off an 11-2 season. There is no deadline for teams to opt up or down in divisions, but the deadline will be determined at the next OSAA meeting in January.

"I don't want to play six-man," Cobb said. "We have 30 kids on the team. There's not a participation issue."

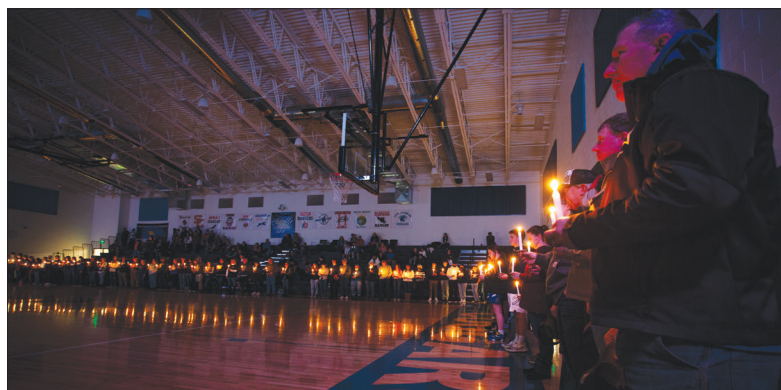
OSAA emphasized in the proposal that participation in football was a key issue. The proposal noted a transition to nine-man would allow easier scheduling between nine-man and 11-man nonleague opponents, while the junior varsity levels likely could avoid cancellations if the roster size is smaller.

"The decreases in average team size over the last 10 years have been significant," the statement read.

The proposals still are in the works but could be a looming issue for local coaches and supporters of eight-man football. The next OSAA Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee meeting is set for 9 a.m. on Jan. 5 at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. The meeting's purpose is to gather public input on the proposed changes to 2A and 1A football.

"High school sports are all about opportunities for young adults. Six-man football takes two to three kids off the field per team — just don't see how that is beneficial," Cobb said. "Creating opportunities for kids to compete, promoting the desire to improve as a team and individually is the concept of high school sports."

Echo's Bouncin' Cancer Tournament raises \$4,000



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

▲ Fans and players have a moment of silence on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, for those affected by cancer during the Bouncin' Cancer basketball tournament in Echo.

◀ Members of the Stanfield basketball team hold candles Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, during a moment of silence for those affected by cancer at the Bouncin' Cancer basketball tournament in Echo. The tournament raised about \$4,000 between auction items, gate receipts and concessions. The money will be donated to Your Friend, Pamela Faye, an organization that helps cancer patients in Umatilla and Morrow counties and surroundings areas cover out-of-pocket expenses such as gas to get to appointments and child care.