

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Local players, coaches named to Shrine game

Annual game now includes 5A players

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian



Browning

Burnette

Davis

Hansell

Hisler

White

EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME

East Roster

Coaches: Erik Davis, Pendleton; Steve Stebbins, South Umpqua; Kenzie Hansell, Weston-McEwen.

Team: Reece Dixon, Powder Valley; Conley Martin, Adrian; Gunner Yates, Coquille; Brock Hisler, Heppner; Gavin Patterson, Lakeview; Justin Hodge, Grant Union; Carter Burnette, Stanfield; Cooper Lang, Bandon; Theo White, Weston-McEwen; Tanner Steele, Vale; Thomas Mentas, Southerlin; Austin Waits, Cascade Christian; Camp Lacouture, Siuslaw; Teagan De Forest, La Pine; Stephen Machin, La Pine; Jackson Risinger, Santiam Christian; Kade

Johnson, South Umpqua; Cole Jorgensen, La Grande; Jazeon Hammick, Gladstone; Gauge Bloomer, Baker; Tulson Higgins, Henley; Jake Behrman, Estacada; Nate Tramp, Mazama; Joey Comyford, North Valley; Trenton Hughes, Hood River Valley; Caden Lasater, Crater; Gabe Robles, Redmond; Gabe Browning, Pendleton; Brycen Thomas, Churchill; Ryan Asplund, Ridgeview.

Local alternates: Conor Brosnan, Heppner; Taylor Rollins, Lone/Arlington; Kason Cimmiyotti, Heppner; Aiden Gunter, Pendleton; Blane Peal, Weston-McEwen; Jace Coe, Heppner.

are here is important. If they buy in, the winning takes care of itself."

The game, set for Aug. 6 at Baker High School, will feature four players from area schools: Brock Hisler from Heppner, Carter Burnette of Stanfield, Theo White from Weston-McEwen and Gabe Browning of Pendleton.

While the Shrine Game has showcased players from the 1A to the 4A level in the past, this year it broadened its horizons to include players from the 5A level.

"Kids from Adrian get to hang out with kids from Pendleton," Davis said. "This allows them to experience things they generally don't get to. The team that comes together at the end, generally wins the game."

Hisler, who earned Blue

Mountain Conference honors at running back and line-backer, also was named the 2A Defensive Back of the Year, which includes linebackers and defensive backs.

Hisler ran for 1,153 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Mustangs, who lost in the 2A state semifinals to Coquille. He also had 97 tackles and three fumble recoveries.

Browning, who was a first team Northwest Oregon Conference East selection at defensive back, earned 5A second team all-state honors. He finished the season with five interceptions to lead all 5A players.

White was a first team BMC receiver and defensive lineman. He also earned 2A all-state honors at both posi-

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NWAC EAST



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Blue Mountain's Chad Napoleon (24) puts up a shot in the first half Feb. 23, 2022, during BMCC's 96-92 victory over Walla Walla Community College in Pendleton.

BMCC's Napoleon earns top honors

Women's team has 3 players garner awards

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Community College freshman Chad Napoleon was selected to the Northwest Athletic Conference East first team, and he was named Freshman of the Year by the region coaches.

"He is very deserving of this award and I am proud and excited for him," BMCC men's basketball coach Doug Baxter said in a news release. "I am really excited to see him develop over the offseason to help get us to the NWAC tournament next season."

Napoleon is the first BMCC men's basketball player to earn an NWAC postseason award since Dedi Seme in 2017-18.

A 6-foot-5 center/forward from Delray Beach, Florida, Napoleon started all 25 games for the Timberwolves. He averaged 25 points and 8.4 rebounds per game. He also shot 57.4% from the floor and 74.3%

from the free-throw line.

"Chad has worked extremely hard to get where he is," Baxter said. "He has a big personality that really carried over into our play this season, and he brings a level of passion and competition that brings out the best in every player. Chad plays with the love and passion for the game that any coach wants to see in a player, and is a great

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GRISWOLD TRACK

Porter takes over

His family has left a lasting legacy at the high school

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HELIX — Doc Porter knew he wanted to work with a high school track program when he left college. Little did he know he would be running his own program a year later.

Porter, a 2016 Pendleton graduate, took the coaching job at Griswold High School this spring, and after a few first-week jitters, he has settled in to teaching everything from sprints to throws.

"I didn't see myself coaching alone this soon," Porter said. "It has definitely been a challenge. A year ago, I was the athlete. It has been fun to take what I learned from high school and college coaches and relay that to the kids, and not make the same missteps that I did."

As with many things in a small town, news gets passed around before it hits the intended party.

"My husband had mentioned to me having Doc come and coach," Griswold Athletic Director Tammie Parker said. "Before I reached out, we checked with his dad (Kevin) to make sure it wouldn't be an issue with the farm. Kevin said it wouldn't be. I reached out to Doc. He has fresh eyes just coming off a successful college track career. I thought he'd be a good fit."

Porter, who ran at Central Washington University, said things have been interesting, but it also has been fun.

"With my mom (Whitney) being a teacher and understanding how to write lesson plans, it's helped me get my feet under me," Porter said. "It has been a lot of fun. I was anxious to start. They seem to be having fun. As long as we keep getting better each day, I don't know if there is much more I can ask for."

The Grizzlies have 12 athletes out, which is twice as many as last year. Porter has sprinters, throwers and a middle distance runner.

"I did the 4x100, 4x400, 200, 400 and 800 in college, and today I taught discus," he said. "The great thing is, we trained along with the throwers in college, now I watch videos and get information. I am getting into the discus now. I am committed."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Doc Porter, the new track coach at Griswold, poses for a portrait Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the school's track in Helix.

Porter said he knows not everyone wants to run or throw in college, but he wants to teach the ones who want to learn.

"I'm really more concerned that the kids are enjoying their season and having a good time," he said.

Parker also has been impressed with how things have been going.

"I have stopped by practice a couple of times," she said. "The kids seem to be enjoying themselves, and his enthusiasm shows. He is knocking it out of the ballpark as far as we are concerned."

The Grizzlies will open their season April 1 at the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater.

"I competed in that in high school," Porter said. "It's a good get-your-feet-wet meet."

Porter won the 400 meters in a time

of 51.49 seconds at the event his senior year. It was the first time he had ever run the distance.

He would later place fifth at the 5A state meet in the event in a time of 50.23. He also was part of the Bucks' 4x400 relay team that finished second (3:21.63).

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

While Porter never went to Griswold, he has pretty impressive family ties to the school.

His dad, Kevin, was a standout basketball and track athlete for the Grizzlies, as was his uncle Tim Porter, who holds the school record in the high jump with a height of 6-9. Tim broke his dad Charlie's record in 1986.

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